

# PRESS RELEASE

## CLPOA NOTICE

CANYON LAKE  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 23, 2023

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### Lake Testing Results

Please be advised that for several years, the Canyon Lake POA and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) have cooperated to test Canyon Lake's recreational water prior to major holidays. On May 8, 2023, water samples from Happy Camp, Sierra Park, Sunset Beach, Indian Beach, and Holiday Harbor were taken and tested. Unfortunately, Happy Camp and Sunset Beach had elevated results for microcystins that were in the "danger" range on that date. That sampling was done prior to the recent Alum Treatment, which may have some effect on the current water conditions. We are aware that Memorial Day weekend is this weekend, and therefore we are currently taking new samples, which will be rushed to a lab in Sacramento for further testing. We currently expect to have those results back by Friday, and we will publish and update this information at that time.

**For now, the State trigger levels tested on May 8, 2023 require that we prohibit all recreational activity in the water at Sunset Beach and Happy Camp, effective immediately. "Danger" level signs (see later in this release) will be posted at those locations today.**

Microcystins are toxins produced by cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are also known as blue-green algae and are ubiquitous in surface water when conditions are favorable for growth and formation of algal blooms. Holiday Harbor tested at the "caution" level. The Canyon Lake POA already has "Caution" signs posted at each launch ramp year-round and has for several years. Note that the current results are from May 8, 2023, and do not necessarily represent conditions anywhere else on the lake, or that the entire waterbody is affected.

Throughout most of the month of March, nearby Lake Elsinore had multiple areas that tested above the danger levels. Those same areas at Lake Elsinore have recently tested at lower "caution levels." Water bodies throughout California and nationwide can be affected by and monitor these conditions. Again, we are retesting these Canyon Lake locations now.

### About Water Quality and Blue Green Algae Blooms:

As with any lake, ocean, or river in the nation, Canyon Lake's aquatic ecosystem cannot be compared to a swimming pool that is treated with chemicals to ensure water quality. If you choose to use the lake for swimming, keep in mind that natural lake processes occur and there may be times that the water quality for recreation may pose a health risk. Recently, the State Department of Water Resources began to test State facilities for the presence of harmful algae. Prior to 2013, there was no way to test for the presence of this naturally occurring algae bloom and it is very likely that

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most reservoirs have experienced this. **Some general best practices guidelines regardless of any elevated test include:**

- Do not drink the water and try not to get water in your mouth
- Do not eat algae or aquatic plants
- Do not let pets enter the water (they are already not allowed in the lake water per Canyon Lake POA Rules & Regulations)
- Do not go swimming if you have open wounds or cuts
- Shower after using the lake

Humans who drink or swim in water that contains high concentrations of cyanobacteria or cyanobacterial toxins may experience gastroenteritis, skin irritation, and allergic responses. In conjunction with the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resources, three levels of color coded advisories have been established so visitors can be informed about the current water condition in a particular area.

- First Level **(Yellow Signs) = CAUTION:** A caution warning indicates that you can swim in the water but you should avoid contact with algae and keep children away from algae. Do not drink the water or use it for cooking. Do not eat shellfish. Do not allow pets to enter the water.
- Second Level **(Orange Signs) = WARNING:** A warning means that you should not swim. Stay away from scum or algae, do not drink or use water for cooking. Do not eat shellfish. Do not allow pets to enter the water.
- Third Level **(Red Signs) = DANGER:** Stay out of the water including wading. Stay away from scum or algae, do not drink or use water for cooking. Do not eat shellfish. Do not allow pets to enter the water.

Bloom conditions can change rapidly, and wind and waves may move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the reservoir. The algal bloom can accumulate into mats, scum, or form foam at the surface and along the shoreline, and range in color from blue, green, white, or brown.

State guidelines on cyanobacteria and harmful algal blooms recommend the following precautions be taken in waters impacted by blue-green algae:

- Do not let pets and livestock drink the water, swim through algal blooms, scum, or mats, or lick their fur after going in the water. Rinse pets in clean water to remove algae from fur.
- Avoid wading, swimming, or water skiing in water containing algae blooms, scum, or mats.
- Do not drink, cook, or wash dishes with untreated surface water from these areas under any circumstances. Common water purification techniques such as camping filters, tablets, and boiling do not remove toxins.
- Do not eat fish or shellfish from this water.
- Get medical treatment immediately if you think that you, a family member, friend, pet, or livestock might have been poisoned by blue-green algae toxins. Be sure to alert medical professionals to the possible contact with blue-green algae. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

Yellow caution signs are posted year-round at the lake. Happy Camp beach and Sunset Beach

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have been raised to “Danger Level” (red). Warning signage will be removed when microcystin levels subside.

Level of Advisory Signs You May See Posted:

<b>CAUTION</b>	<b>WARNING</b>	<b>DANGER</b>
<p><b>Harmful algae may be present in this water. For your family's safety:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> You can swim in this water, but <b>stay away from algae and scum</b> in the water.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum on the shore.</li><li> <b>Keep children away</b> from algae in the water or on the shore.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> drink this water or use it for cooking.</li><li> For fish caught here, <b>throw away guts and clean fillets</b> with tap water or bottled water before cooking.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> eat shellfish from this water.</li></ul> <p><small>Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water. For information on harmful algae, go to <a href="http://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network">mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network</a> For local information, contact: <input type="text"/></small></p>	<p><b>Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> <b>No swimming.</b></li><li> <b>Stay away</b> from scum, and cloudy or discolored water.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> let pets or other animals go into or drink the water, or go near the scum.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> eat shellfish from this water.</li><li> For fish caught here, <b>throw away guts and clean fillets</b> with tap water or bottled water before cooking.</li></ul> <p><small><b>For people, the toxins can cause:</b> • Skin rashes, eye irritation • Diarrhea, vomiting</small>      <small><b>For animals, the toxins can cause:</b> • Diarrhea, vomiting • Convulsions and death</small></p> <p><small>Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water. For information on harmful algae, go to <a href="http://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network">mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network</a> For local information, contact: <input type="text"/></small></p>	<p><b>Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> <b>Stay out of the water until further notice. Do not touch scum in the water or on shore.</b></li><li> <b>Do not</b> let pets or other animals drink or go into the water or go near the scum.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> eat fish or shellfish from this water.</li><li> <b>Do not</b> use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.</li></ul> <p><small><b>For people, the toxins can cause:</b> • Skin rashes, eye irritation • Diarrhea, vomiting</small>      <small><b>For animals, the toxins can cause:</b> • Diarrhea, vomiting • Convulsions and death</small></p> <p><small>Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water. For information on harmful algae, go to <a href="http://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network">mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network</a> For local information, contact: <input type="text"/></small></p>
<p><b>Posted Year Round</b></p>	<p><b>Example Only</b></p>	<p><b>In Effect as of May 23, 2023 at Sunset Beach &amp; Happy Camp</b></p>

For more information, visit:

- Canyon Lake POA Lake Conditions Page [www.canyonlakepoa.com/lakeconditions](http://www.canyonlakepoa.com/lakeconditions)
- California Department of Public Health [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHIB/EAS/Pages/HABs.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHIB/EAS/Pages/HABs.aspx)
- State Water Resources Control Board <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/what/index.html>
- CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment <https://oehha.ca.gov/ecotoxicology/general-info/information-microcystins>
- US Environmental Protection Agency: CyanoHAB website <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/cyanobacteriacyanotoxins>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov/habs/](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/)

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## ABOUT CANYON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION:

The Canyon Lake Property Owners Association (“Canyon Lake POA”), incorporated in 1968, as a California not for profit corporation, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the common areas within Canyon Lake. The purpose of the Canyon Lake POA is to promote the recreation, benefit, and enjoyment of the homeowners within the community. The Canyon Lake POA’s mission is to support the Canyon Lake community with exceptional services and solutions, which make this a premier place in which to live and work.