

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2019.10.21**

### **Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:**

**\*\* Historic Low: 169.4 ft. (on 2018.11.21)**

**Historic High: 295.30 ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)**

**Current: (As of 2019.10.11), 210.9 ft. (71.42% to High).**

### **Related link:**

<http://www.watermaster.org/>

### **San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District**

Local Groundwater Level: **58% of Capacity**

Major Reservoir Conditions in CA: **76% of Capacity**

Local Rainfall: **100% of Season Normal**

CA Snowpack level: **0% of Normal to Date**

### **Related link:**

[www.SGVMWD.org](http://www.SGVMWD.org)

## **CA State Water Boards Press Releases**

### **Harmful Algal Bloom Update: Use Caution at Big Bear Lake**

#### **Cyanobacteria Can Cause Illness in Humans and Pets**

October 15, 2019

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board urge boaters, recreational water users, and dog owners to use caution while visiting Big Bear Lake due to a harmful algal bloom (HAB) that could cause serious illness.

Lab results of water samples collected on Sept. 19 at several locations on the lake show HABs were detected near the shoreline.

A popular fishing destination, Big Bear Lake is in San Bernardino County off Highway 18 and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. Visit the State Water Board Twitter page to see a map and pictures of the cyanobacteria bloom.

Until further notice, the recommendation is for swimmers to stay away from algae and scum in the water, and to keep children away from algae in the water or on the shore. Do not let dogs go into the water and avoid contact with floating algal material and scum in the water or along the shore. Before consuming fish caught at the lake, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water. This is based on the potential health risks posed by the algal organisms called cyanobacteria and the level of toxins measured in water samples collected in September. The harmful algal bloom appears as bright to dull-green material near the water surface or floating, sometimes resembling spilled paint.

Cyanobacteria may form thick algal mats or scum on the water surface and accumulate on the shore. Bloom conditions in the lake can change rapidly, as the flow of surface water and wind may mix, move, or concentrate the bloom into different areas of the lake. The bloom is being monitored by the Santa

Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and partner organizations to inform users when the bloom dissipates.

To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the CA HABs Portal. Follow us on twitter: [@CaWaterBoards](#)

**Related link:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2019.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2019.html)

**Statewide Well Test Results for Contaminants PFOA and PFOS Now Available Through Web-based Maps**

**Comprehensive Assessment to Continue with Updated Data**

October 14, 2019

SACRAMENTO - The State Water Resources Control Board today posted the first results of testing for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) for nearly 600 drinking water supply wells, part of a comprehensive effort to assess the presence of these contaminants in water systems and groundwater statewide.

The results can be viewed on interactive maps on a user-friendly online portal that the State Water Board created for public reporting of the testing data.

In this first phase of testing, public water systems were ordered to sample drinking water supply wells near landfills or airports, locations where these chemicals are believed to be especially prevalent. They were also ordered to test wells near where the contaminants had been found previously.

PFOA and PFOS are chemicals that have been used in numerous industrial and consumer applications, from flame retardant foams commonly used at airports to water-repellent coatings for outdoor apparel, many of which were likely to have been discarded in landfills. These chemicals are particularly concerning because they don't readily break down in the environment and have been found to accumulate over time in the human body.

In August, as the sampling was underway but complete results from the initial testing had yet to come in, the State Water Board lowered the notification level (NL) – the non-regulatory standard for requiring notification and further monitoring – from 14 parts per trillion (ppt) to 5.1 ppt for PFOA and from 13 ppt to 6.5 ppt for PFOS.

The new guidelines are based on updated health recommendations by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). Notification levels are a nonregulatory, precautionary health-based measure for concentrations in drinking water that warrant notification and further monitoring and assessment.

Public water systems are encouraged to test their water for contaminants with notification levels. In some circumstance, they may be ordered to test. If the systems do test voluntarily, they are required to report exceedances of the NL to their governing boards and the State Water Board. They are also urged to report this information to customers.

While results from the initial testing were coming in, the State Water Board has kept the response level (RL) – the non-regulatory standard for recommending that a drinking water supply well be taken out of service – at 70 ppt for the combined concentration of both contaminants. An updated response level will be announced this fall.

Water systems have several options for reducing levels of contaminants in water supplies to below the notification or response levels: they can treat the water, blend it with water from another source, or take the supply well out of service. The State Water Board’s online maps show whether a water system is taking any of these actions to reduce levels of PFOA and PFOS.

While water consumers may find the test results daunting or confusing in some cases, the public is cautioned to put the findings in perspective. The notification level is set very conservatively – in the parts per trillion – as the State Water Board assesses the extent of these contaminants in drinking water and the degree to which they may cause adverse health effects.

To that end, the State Water Board has already requested that OEHHA develop public health goals (PHGs) for both PFOA and PFOS, the next step in the process of establishing regulatory standards, known as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), in drinking water.

Meanwhile, the State Water Board will gather more test data in the weeks and months to come, presenting it on the same web interface unveiled today to the public. The order requires ongoing, quarterly testing of these 600-plus supply wells and that data will be compiled on the web portal and presented on the interactive maps in the coming months. Subsequent phases of this comprehensive look into PFOA and PFAS will include groundwater testing as well as incorporating existing test data acquired from numerous federal facilities – particularly military bases throughout California.

This new tool, created over several months by a team of engineers, scientists and other staffers within the Division of Drinking Water, gives stakeholders, the media and the general public an opportunity to view the findings on four maps offering an escalating degree of detail and complexity. It’s all part of the State Water Board’s commitment to be thorough and transparent during this process.

Assembly Bill 756 (Cristina Garcia, Chapter 162, Statutes of 2019) authorizes the State Water Board to more broadly order water systems to monitor for PFAS and report their detections. Additionally, the law requires that drinking water sources with PFAS levels that exceed the response level are either to be taken out of service or the water system must provide public notice of the exceedance level. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

For more information, please visit our resources page on these contaminants. Readers can find a frequently asked questions document, as well as a fact sheet that discusses ongoing efforts to add additional data to the interactive, dynamic web portal.

**Related link:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2019.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2019.html)

**Study Indicates Oilfield Activities Have Increased Groundwater Salinity in Western Kern County**

Sept. 23, 2019

SACRAMENTO – A study performed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as part of a State Water Resources Control Board program that monitors regional groundwater quality in oil production areas has revealed higher than normal salinity levels in groundwater near three oil fields in western Kern County.

The results of the study released this month in a technical publication of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, showed increased salinity above natural levels in groundwater near current and historic oilfield produced-water disposal areas in the Lost Hills, North Belridge, and South Belridge oil fields.

“These regional monitoring findings are essential in helping us gain a better understanding of how groundwater could be affected in areas of oil and gas production,” said Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director of the State Water Board. “This study provides us new information that the agencies will use to evaluate if additional groundwater investigations are warranted.”

Based on data collected from oil production wells, underground injection wells, and groundwater monitoring wells, the study found that the salinity increases are related to the mixing of native groundwater with saline oilfield produced-water discharged to surface disposal ponds and underground injection wells.

While the groundwater near these oil fields currently is not a source of drinking water because it is naturally brackish (salty), some farmers use it for irrigation.

"This is the first time in this study we've seen direct evidence of disposed water migrating outwards from oilfield underground injection disposal wells in California," says USGS geologist and study author Janice Gillespie. "Mapping the natural groundwater salinity near the injection sites was the key to figuring out where changes had occurred."

The USGS initiated the mapping in 2016 to document the salinity gradients within the aquifer system and record changes near produced water disposal ponds and injection wells. The USGS is conducting this research under contract with State Water Board, in accordance with Senate Bill 4 (Pavley, 2013), which requires the Board to develop and implement a regional groundwater monitoring program.

A follow-up publication is expected to be released in 2020 and will address salinity in shallow groundwater near oil fields and agricultural areas using different methods. The publication can be found through USGS study publication (AAPG Environmental Geosciences, v. 26, no. 3, pp. 1–23).

Visit the State Water Board regional groundwater monitoring program webpage and the USGS California Oil, Gas, and Groundwater websites for more information.

**Related link:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2019.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2019.html)

**Southern California Edison**

**\$1.2 Million Edison Scholars Program 2020 Application Period Begins**

October 01, 2019

Media Contacts: Susan Cox, Sally Jeun (626) 302-2255

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Oct. 1, 2019 — High school seniors whose dreams are to power the future and make a difference through the study of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) are invited to apply for Edison International’s \$1.2 million Edison Scholars Program.

Each year, Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, awards \$40,000 scholarships, paid over four years, to 30 high school students who plan to major in designated STEM fields at a four-year accredited U.S. college or university. See the list of eligible STEM majors.

Scholarship applications are now being accepted through Dec. 16. To apply and obtain additional eligibility information, visit: [edisonscholars.com](https://edisonscholars.com).

Applicants must live in SCE’s service area and plan to be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in a STEM field. Eligible students also must be a high school senior, have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Students from underserved communities and ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply. Dependents of Edison International and SCE employees and retirees are not eligible for the Edison Scholars Program.

“These future leaders have the opportunity to change lives, communities and perhaps even the world,” said Pedro Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International. “We are proud to help talented students realize their academic dreams and support these important STEM programs.”

Scholarship recipients will be announced next spring. They may also be eligible for summer internships at SCE after completing their second year of college.

Since 2006, Edison International has awarded an estimated \$9.9 million in scholarships to 640 students through the Edison Scholars Program.

Edison International’s support of charitable causes, including the Edison Scholars Program, is funded entirely by Edison International shareholders. SCE customers’ utility bill payments do not fund company donations.

**Related link:**

<https://newsroom.edison.com/releases/1-2-million-edison-scholars-program-2020-application-period-begins>

Report by *Ted Chang*  
HHIA Board, Utility Director