

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2019.09.16**

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 2019.09.06), 208.7 ft. (70.67% to High).**

### **Related link:**

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

## **California Natural Resources Agency**

### **California Celebrates Biodiversity Day with BioBlitz Events Across the State**

September 6, 2019

SACRAMENTO – September 7th marks the first official celebration of California Biodiversity Day, an annual event created last year to celebrate the state’s exceptional biodiversity and encourage actions to protect it.

Simply put, biodiversity is the variety of all living things in a given place. California is the nation’s most populous state and home to more diverse species and ecosystems than anywhere in the U.S. It’s a global biodiversity hot spot, but that biodiversity is also disappearing at one of the highest rates. Direct action by all Californians can help reverse this trend.

“California’s exceptional biodiversity is our natural heritage, but it’s being lost at a rapid rate,” said California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. “We are committed to changing this trajectory, and there is a role for every Californian.”

This Saturday, the California Natural Resources Agency, State Parks and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are teaming up to encourage all Californians to get out and explore nature – including state parks, wildlife areas and ecological reserves – as part of a biodiversity open house on September 7-8, 2019.

During this weekend’s biodiversity open house event, ten separate state lands across the state will be hosting events including a bioblitz, that will take place in partnership with the California Academy of Sciences and iNaturalist, a popular nature app that helps identify plants and animals around you. iNaturalist is a collaboration between National Geographic and the California Academy of Sciences. Please visit [www.wildlife.ca.gov/biodiversity](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/biodiversity) to view a list of participating state parks, wildlife areas and ecological reserves.

You can participate in the bioblitz even if you can’t make it to one of these events. Bioblitzes are events that allow you and other citizen scientists to collect information about the biodiversity in a given area, and anyone can be a citizen scientist with the right tools. To take part in the bioblitz, download the iNaturalist app on your smart device, visit any open, natural space near you and use the iNaturalist app to take photos and identify the organisms that you find on Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Even your backyard can be habitat!

“We invite all Californians to learn about our state’s incredible diversity of plants and animals by participating in this year’s biodiversity day activities,” said State Parks Director Lisa Mangat. “With your help, we can better understand our natural resources and conserve them for future generations.”

Because California has such a diverse landscape, from deserts to mountain ranges to coastal wetlands and everything in between, our ecosystems are host to a vast array of plant and animal species. Conserving these ecosystems requires gathering information on what biodiversity is found where, just like the data collected through iNaturalist. This information is also important to the people of California, since a large part of our successful economy depends on California’s biodiversity and the services that it supports, such as pollination, clean water, open space, recreation, scenic beauty and tourism.

“Human beings and nature are interconnected,” said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. “Saving nature and protecting biodiversity is good for many reasons. It’s good for people, for the economy and for our kids. It’s also our job to save nature, and we can do it.

**Related link:**

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/biodiversity](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/biodiversity).

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

### **Water Boards Ramp Up Testing For Harmful Algal Blooms**

#### **Waterways Targeted Statewide Ahead of Busy Labor Day Weekend**

Thursday August 28, 2019

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Board and nine regional water boards have ramped up testing for harmful algal blooms at popular lakes and streams throughout the state in time for the latest data to be posted ahead of the busy Labor Day weekend, when many Californians will be seeking guidance about which waterways offer safe and healthy recreation options.

With awareness of this emerging trend at an all-time high in 2019, the heightened scrutiny comes as harmful algal blooms, or HABs, have made news statewide and throughout the nation with reports of dogs falling ill or even dying shortly after swimming in waters with suspected blooms.

In 2018, 190 reports of potential blooms were received, and state and local agencies posted approximately 145 public health alerts at waterbodies throughout California. The interagency HAB-related Illness Working Group received 44 reports of potential HAB-related human and animal illnesses in 2018. Following further evaluation of the available environmental and health related information, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reported 19 cases to the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS) as suspected, probable, or confirmed link to HAB exposure. These reported cases included 8 human, 4 domestic animal, and 7 fish or wildlife incidents.

Best identified by its blue-green, streaky appearance in water but sometimes not readily detected visually, HABs can be a danger to humans and animals. Cyanotoxins in the algal blooms can trigger a range of health concerns, including irritation to the respiratory system, as well as skin, nose, eye, and throat discomfort.

Dogs and children are most vulnerable, as they tend to spend more time playing in the water and are more likely to swallow it.

Last week, the Water Boards gathered testing samples at many of the state's most visited lakes and streams with a history of HABs, part of an annual collaborative effort with state and local agencies to gather data and share it with the public. This is the third consecutive year of heightened testing prior to Labor Day. The Water Boards, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and California Department of Public Health, along with water managers and county and state health officials, have teamed up to investigate reported cases of health impacts linked to freshwater blooms.

The results of the targeted sampling for about 40 waterbodies are summarized in an interactive map showing which sites were tested at each waterbody. The map also indicates the specific public advisory level – Caution, Warning or Danger -- based on cyanotoxin testing results and/or visual indicators confirming the presence of a HAB.

Red and orange dots indicate waterbodies with limited water recreation (i.e., no swimming) due to elevated levels of cyanotoxins, though it is important to understand that HAB location and toxicity can change quickly and, as a result, the data in this map are subject to revisions as new information becomes available. The interactive map will go public August 29 and can be viewed at the HABs portal.

While harmful algal blooms may be a new health hazard to many in the general public, algae and cyanobacteria have existed for billions of years as essential components of freshwater ecosystems. Only when certain conditions trigger their growth – hot weather, slow-moving or stagnant water and excessive nutrient input – do they multiply rapidly and become a health threat.

It is important to distinguish cyanobacteria/HABs from green algae and other non-toxic water plants. HABs can be a variety of colors such as green, white, red or brown and may look like thick paint floating on the water. Cyanobacteria blooms have a grainy, sawdust-like appearance of individual colonies. For help identifying a HAB, check out this visual guide fact sheet available on the HABs 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)

**State Water Board Updates Guidelines for Testing and Reporting PFOA and PFOS As It Assesses Scope of Problem**

**Process Begun for Establishing Regulatory Standards**

August 23, 2019

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today announced updated guidelines for local water agencies to follow in detecting and reporting the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in drinking water. The Board also announced it has begun the process of establishing regulatory standards for these chemicals.

The updated guidelines are part of the Board's comprehensive effort to assess the scope of contamination of drinking water supplies by PFOA and PFOS, chemicals that have been widely used in grease and stain-resistant coatings for consumer products and in firefighting foams. Because of their

potential adverse health effects, these chemicals pose an emerging risk to drinking water sources nationwide.

The updated state guidelines lower the current notification levels from 14 parts per trillion (ppt) to 5.1 ppt for PFOA and from 13 ppt to 6.5 ppt for PFOS. The 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, and in some circumstance may be ordered to test. If the systems do test, they are required to report exceedances to their governing boards and the State Water Board and are urged to report this information to customers.

In addition to the updated notification levels, the State Water Board announced today it has 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. Other chemicals in the broader group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) may be considered later, either individually or grouped, as data permits.

The State Water Board is currently conducting a statewide assessment to determine the scope of contamination by PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, in water systems and groundwater. In the first phase, public water systems were ordered earlier this year to sample about 600 drinking water supply wells located near airports and landfills, where contamination is more likely, and near locations where PFAS was previously found. These chemicals have been used in fire-fighting foams at airports for fire training and response and have also been used in many consumer products that end up in landfills.

Following this initial phase, the assessment will likely focus on sampling water sources near industrial sites and at wastewater treatment facilities. Data collected from the assessment will be made publicly available on the State Water Board's website and used to inform future actions.

While the State Water Board continues to assess the scope of contamination based on initial data reporting from the statewide assessment, the response levels for PFOA and PFOS remain at 70 parts per trillion for the total combined concentration of both contaminants, consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory level. The response levels will be updated in the fall.

Response levels are nonregulatory, precautionary health-based measures that are set higher than notification levels and represent a recommended level that water systems consider taking a water source out of service or provide treatment if that option is available to them.

AB 756, signed by Governor Newsom on July 31, authorizes the State Water Board to more broadly order water systems to monitor for PFAS and report their detections. Additionally, 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.

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS can cause adverse health effects, including harmful effects to a developing fetus or infant, immune system and liver effects, and cancer. While consumer products are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water has become an increasing concern due to the persistence and tendency of these chemicals to accumulate in groundwater.

For more information about PFOA and PFOS, the updated guidelines, and the work the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water is doing to assess the presence of these contaminants in drinking water, please visit our resources page on these contaminants.

**Related link:**

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

Report by ***Ted Chang***

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