



# News Advisory

## Improving First Response to Harmful Algal Blooms Focus of Lahontan Water Board Workshop

For Immediate Release:  
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**What:** The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is hosting a workshop to improve efficiency and coordination by local agencies, water body managers and local partners in responding to harmful algal blooms (HABs) that occur throughout the Lahontan Region. The workshop will provide local partners with the technical understanding needed to effectively collect water samples for HAB analysis, and post health advisories if harmful levels of cyanotoxins are present.

**When:** June 27, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center  
2300 West Line Street, Bishop, CA

**Who:** Lahontan Regional Water Board, local and state government agencies, tribes, and other organizations responsible for drinking water, public health, and recreational water safety throughout the Lahontan Region are invited to participate in this workshop.

**About harmful algal blooms:** Algae and cyanobacteria, the organisms that cause HABs, have existed for billions of years as essential components of freshwater ecosystems. But when certain conditions favor their growth – warm temperatures, stagnant water flows, excessive nutrient inputs - they can multiply very rapidly creating “blooms.” These blooms can produce toxins, and taste and odor compounds, that pose health risks to humans and animals. When blooms pose a risk, they are referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs). In recent years, there has been an increased frequency and severity of cyanoHABs.

CyanoHABs are of special concern because of their potential impacts to drinking water, recreation in lakes and rivers, and effects on fish, domesticated animals and wildlife. 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 additional information please contact [mary.fiore-wagner@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mary.fiore-wagner@waterboards.ca.gov) or (530) 542-5425.

For more information visit the California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal at <http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs>

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