

**21-22 APRIL 2022 BOARD MEETING  
DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM: 17**

**SUBJECT:**

Update on Central Valley Harmful Algal Bloom Efforts

**BOARD ACTION:**

Information Item Only

**BACKGROUND:**

Cyanobacteria naturally occur in most waterbodies and perform many roles that are vital to aquatic communities, as a food source at the base of the food chain and as a key component to chemical cycling and dissolved oxygen concentrations. However, when conditions are favorable for growth, cyanobacteria can rapidly grow causing “blooms.” Cyanobacterial blooms sometimes result in negative impacts to the environment, and can pose health risks to humans, pets, wildlife, and livestock and are thus termed harmful algal blooms (HABs). The harmful mechanisms can be from the production of toxins, called cyanotoxins, taste and odor compounds, or from the accumulation of biomass that causes anoxic or hypoxic conditions. HAB formation can be attributed to many intertwined factors including increased nutrient loads, higher water residence time, and climate change. The negative impacts of HABs compound adverse conditions already disproportionately affecting disadvantaged communities.

HABs are widespread throughout California and increased public awareness of HABs has resulted in increased reporting of human, domestic animal (dogs in particular), and wildlife health impacts to the State Water Board’s Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom Program (FHAB). HABs are also addressed through several Central Valley Water Board programs, including Basin Planning, Non-Point Source, Total Maximum Daily Loads, the Delta Program, and the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. Through all of these programs, water quality assessments, monitoring, and special studies are being conducted to identify management and mitigation approaches for HABs.

This informational item will provide an overview of HABs and efforts within both Central Valley Water Board and State Water Board programs to address HABs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Not applicable

**REVIEWS:**

Management Review:	Meredith Howard
Legal Review:	Jessica Jahr 3/30/2022

**BOARD MEETING LOCATION:**

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1685 E. Street  
Fresno, CA 93706-2020

***AND VIA VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE***