

Water Quality Objectives for Harmful Algal Blooms & Cyanotoxins

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Presentation Goals

1. To share a high-level overview of the project.
2. To share future opportunities for engagement.

Goal of the Project

To help **protect** and **restore** beneficial uses impacted by HABs in California's inland waters, estuaries, lagoons, and enclosed bays by establishing a statewide water quality control plan and associated state policy for water quality control.



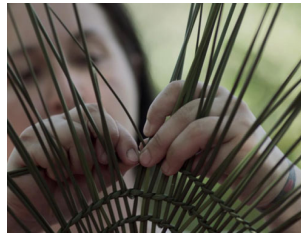
Project Scope

The project scope includes three key components:

- A. Statewide numeric objectives for cyanotoxins
- B. Statewide narrative objective for HABs
- C. Program of implementation and a monitoring plan

What are Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)?

- HABs are algal blooms that become harmful by producing excessive biomass or compounds that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.
- **HABs can impair drinking water, recreation, tribal cultural uses, wildlife and dogs, aquatic life, and aesthetics.**



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A. Statewide Numeric Objectives for Cyanotoxins

- Currently researching **four water column cyanotoxins**:
 - **Microcystins**
 - **Anatoxin-a**
 - **Cylindrospermopsin**
 - **Saxitoxins**
- To protect human health for **water contact recreation (REC-1)** and **drinking water (MUN)** beneficial uses.

B. Statewide Narrative Objective for HABs

- To protect against HABs that produce other cyanotoxins besides the four cyanotoxins previously mentioned.
- To protect beneficial uses other than REC-1 and MUN.

C. Program of Implementation and a Monitoring Plan

- Will rely upon existing tools and Water Board authorities.
- Will likely include tools to help identify causes, sources, and effective control actions.
- Monitoring HABs and public health postings will continue to be critical for understanding and tracking HABs and public safety.

Multi-Year Project Schedule

Timeframe	Milestone
2027	Public Workshop
2027	AB52 Tribal Consultation
2027/2028	CEQA Scoping
2028	Peer Review
2028/2029	Public Comment Period
2029	Board Hearing
2030	Board Consideration of Adoption
Available at Anytime	1:1 Meetings

Thank you!

Contact Information:

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Program Webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/habs-objectives/index.html