



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Environmental
Health

Press Release

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – Lower San Lorenzo River Lagoon Health Advisory

Recent testing of the lower San Lorenzo River Lagoon at the railroad trestle has indicated the presence of harmful levels of toxins produced by algae and blue-green algae in the water.

People and pets should not have contact with or drink the water. Toxins from blue-green algae are known to have caused several deaths in dogs in Humboldt and Alameda Counties. Toxins released by the type of blue-green algae found in the San Lorenzo River Lagoon can cause respiratory problems, liver problems, skin rashes, and gastro-intestinal upsets in humans and can cause stumbling, foaming, tremors, and death in animals.

City of Santa Cruz and County of Santa Cruz staff are conducting further investigations and testing.

This situation is only occurring in the lower River and does not affect the River upstream or at water supply intakes.

For further information, contact John Ricker at Santa Cruz Environmental Health Division at (831) 454-2022.