STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR
James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

December 10, 2025

Contact: Drew Goretzka, Director of Communications
New Mexico Environment Department
(505) 670-8911 | drew.goretzka@env.nm.gov

State lifts algae bloom advisory at Santa Cruz and Clayton lakes

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department is lifting a harmful algae bloom advisory that was issued in late September for Santa Cruz Lake in Santa Fe County and Clayton Lake in Union County following updated monitoring data showing improved conditions.

Harmful algae blooms (HABs) occur when certain algae rapidly grow in surface waters, creating potential health risks for people and animals. These blooms can appear blue, bright green, brown, or red and may look like scum or floating grass clippings. Some HABs can produce toxins that are dangerous to both humans and animals.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) still recommends visitors do not drink untreated surface water, monitor pets and children, and rinse fish with clean water prior to cooking thoroughly.

NMED and its partners monitor algae conditions at select lakes and reservoirs from July through November, when harmful algae blooms are most likely to occur. The department advises the public to avoid water that smells foul or appears scummy — resembling floating grass clippings, thick paint, or shades of pea-green, blue-green, or brownish red. When in doubt, the public is urged to stay out of the water.

If you suspect an algae-related illness, call the New Mexico Poison Information Center at (800) 222-1222. For illness in animals, call (888) 4426-4435 or the Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 764-7661.

More information about HABs can be found on NMED's HABs Webpage, in New Mexico Department of Health HABs Human Health and Animal Health factsheets, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Fishing During HABs website.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact: Kate Cardenas, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED |1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502 or (505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@env.nm.gov. If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

###