

# California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network 2016 Workgroup Summary

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## 2016 Accomplishments

CCHABs created a charter that includes the following: the mission statement, need for the CCHAB network, objectives, membership responsibilities, relationship to the Monitoring Council, establishment of a new organizational structure with three Co-Chairs leading the network, establishment of subcommittees and objectives and responsibilities for each, CCHAB meeting logistics and procedures, communication, decision making process and voting process. CCHABs set up a regular quarterly meeting schedule with dates throughout 2017 and the agendas are posted online beforehand, while the presentations and meeting notes are posted online after the meetings. Subcommittees were identified based on current needs and future directions, and were established in 2016. Current subcommittees include the following: Statewide guidance, charter and governance, web portal, education and factsheets, monitoring and assessment, data, mitigation and wildlife impacts.

Portions of the outdated [Voluntary Guidance Document \(2010\) were updated](#) in order to ensure these sections were available before the 2016 bloom season. The sections that were updated include the following: trigger levels (updated to 3 distinct trigger levels instead of one), explanation of these levels, decision tree, narrative to walk people through the decision tree, and signage for each trigger level to assist with posting notices. The final signage was developed through evidence based community input and signage testing process.

The HABs web portal was created in 2016 titled "[Are harmful algal blooms affecting our waters?](#)" that includes an interactive map showing the location and dates of when blooms have been reported. There is also a toolbox that helps with reporting a bloom, posting signage, field guides and laboratory resources. There is a questions answered section that covers what harmful algae are, why they are important, why we should be concerned and what the impacts are for swimming and recreation, drinking water, fish and shellfish harvesting, domestic animals, and wildlife.

## 2017 Plans

The focus of early 2017 has been to discuss the "lessons learned" from the 2016 season and to identify and prioritize aspects of the website and reporting process that should be changed to improve event response and communications. Additional aspirations for 2017 include the following goals:

1. Finish updating the Guidance Document
2. Develop guidance on mitigation strategies, including permitting processes for mitigation products.
3. Determine HAB research needs and data gaps that need to be addressed in order to effectively manage and mitigate HABs.
4. Improve the HAB portal data distribution on blooms, event information and response.
5. Educate veterinarians and pet owners on HABs and how to report possible HAB illness and mortality events.

These goals will be accomplished through the subcommittees.