

Q&A

BASS LAKE WATER QUALITY

Q: IS THERE A WATER QUALITY ISSUE IN BASS LAKE?

A: CURRENTLY, THE WATER IN BASS LAKE IS TESTED ANNUALLY BEFORE SUMMER AND THE COUNTY IS ACTIVELY WORKING ON PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TESTING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS. WATER SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FROM 14 LOCATIONS AROUND THE BASS LAKE AREA. IF STATE MINIMUM STANDARDS ARE NOT MET, THE COUNTY WILL COLLABORATE WITH PG&E TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE POSTING AT THE AFFECTED LOCATIONS. BASS LAKE IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY PG&E.

Q: IS THERE A SEWER LINE UNDER BASS LAKE AND IS IT FREQUENTLY CHECKED?

A: THERE ARE SEWER LINES THAT RUN ALONG THE BASS LAKE SHORELINE FROM BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES, FEEDING INTO A LIFT STATION THAT PUMPS THE SEWAGE TO THE BASS LAKE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. ANY KNOWN DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE INTO THE WATERWAYS ARE REPORTED TO THE MADERA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION AND THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICE (CALOES) STATE WARNING CENTER.

Q: ARE THERE LEACH LINES FROM SURROUNDING HOMES CLOSE TO BASS LAKE?

A: ALL PRIVATE HOMES WITHIN THE BASS LAKE AREA THAT ARE SERVED BY A PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (SEPTIC SYSTEM) MUST MEET MINIMUM STATE AND LOCAL SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FROM THE LAKE.

Q: WHAT STEPS ARE TAKEN BY MADERA COUNTY IN THE EVENT OF A SEWAGE SPILL INTO BASS LAKE?

A: IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE REGULATIONS, ANY UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE AS DEFINED IN 23 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR) 2250 (B) INTO OR ONTO STATE WATERS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICE (CALOES). CALOES WILL THEN IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD AND LOCAL OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WILL WORK WITH PG&E AND THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY TO INITIATE A CLEAN-UP AND APPLY POSTINGS WHERE NECESSARY.

Q: WHO WOULD I CONTACT AT MADERA COUNTY WITH WATER QUALITY CONCERNS?

A: FOR ANY UPDATES ON WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN BASS LAKE, PLEASE VISIT THE MADERA COUNTY WEBSITE WWW.MADERACOUNTY.COM AND CLICK ON THE BASS LAKE WATER ADVISORY LINK OR CONTACT MADERA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AT (559) 675-7823 OR VIA EMAIL AT ENVHEALTH@MADERACOUNTY.COM