



## COUNTY OF LAKE

Department of Agriculture  
Department of Weights & Measures  
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**Katherine VanDerWall**

Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

### Your Property is next to a Treatment Area Notification of Treatment

Dear Property Owner,

The aquatic noxious weed, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), is present in Clear Lake. Since its discovery in 1994, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has been working in partnership with the Lake County Agricultural Commissioner and Lake County Water Resources to eradicate the weed using survey techniques and aquatic herbicides. Due to the program's diligence, hydrilla populations in the lake have been reduced to near-eradication.

Treatments and comprehensive survey efforts will continue this year to mitigate the tuber banks (seed bank) from which the hydrilla can sprout from annually. The absence of hydrilla finds in recent years have resulted in a significant reduction in treated acreage. Low water levels in 2022 limited the Program's ability to survey and treat some areas of the lake. The acreages treated in 2023 will remain the same as last year. Survey crews will conduct daily surveys along the shoreline, which encompasses 6,229 acres, in addition to surveys of deeper waters and connecting streams.

#### **Fluridone (Sonar) use in Clear Lake**

Treatments of active tuber beds are done with a pelletized fluridone herbicide. Fluridone applications will be made to treatment areas this year and will begin around April 4, 2023. Treatments will occur approximately once a month during the spring and fall. Fluridone levels are actively monitored throughout the year in Clear Lake. Use caution if irrigating seedling or newly seeded landscape, please contact the office for details on local treatment areas. For areas with drinking water intakes, as identified by the Lake County Department of Water Resources, the applications use a reduced amount of fluridone that the U.S. EPA has determined to be safe. It is safe to use water treated with fluridone to irrigate established landscape areas and there are no restrictions for fishing or swimming. Other water plants will commonly continue to grow in areas treated for hydrilla, because they are less impacted by fluridone.

#### **Copper use in Clear Lake**

The Hydrilla Eradication Project may use a copper-based contact herbicides for the treatment of hydrilla this coming season. It is safe to use water treated with copper to irrigate established landscape areas and there are no restrictions for fishing or swimming.

The Lake County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the California Department of Food and Agriculture sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Clear Lake community in helping to keep the lake free of a noxious invasive weed. Should you have any questions or suspect a sighting of hydrilla, please call the Hydrilla Eradication Project, California Department of Food and Agriculture, (707) 263-1649 or email [IPCinfo@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:IPCinfo@cdfa.ca.gov).

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