

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 9, 2001

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HEALTH ADVISORY EXPANDED FOR SOUTH YUBA RIVER

NEVADA CITY – Nevada County health officials today expanded their health advisory to include 15 miles of the South Yuba River, including all of the river area within South Yuba River State Park, a popular swimming area for summer visitors.

The health advisory was expanded to a 15-mile section of the river following further tests by officials with the Nevada County Departments of Environmental Health and Community Health and the California Department of Parks and Recreation that found heightened levels of the bacteria *Enterococcus* in the water. The bacteria can cause illness in humans and animals. The advisory does not prohibit people from entering the water but advises them not to. It also advises people to keep their pets from the water.

According to health officials, *Enterococcus* bacteria is associated with the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals, including humans. It is not known how the bacteria is finding its way into the South Yuba River, but an investigation is currently being conducted by Nevada County health officials, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the South Yuba River Citizens League to determine the source or sources.

Ray Patton, Superintendent of the South Yuba River State Park, said the park will remain open but will be posted with warning signs to inform visitors of the water quality situation. Park rangers also will follow up with personal warnings to visitors, he said. "This is a very popular park in the summer months," Patton said. "People come here from as far away as Sacramento and even the Bay Area. We want them to be aware of the test results and avoid contact with the water."

Today's advisory is the third such warning this month. The first advisory was issued Aug. 1 after tests confirmed elevated levels of *Enterococcus* bacteria in the area of the river known as "China Dam," which is about 1 mile upstream of Purdon Crossing. Further tests conducted on Aug. 2 showed even higher levels of *Enterococcus* bacteria for several hundred yards in the China Dam area. Nevada County health officials then advised river users to exercise caution in the Purdon Crossing area, extending to three miles upstream. Today's advisory expanded the

area to a 15-mile section of the river roughly running from below Edwards Crossing to Bridgeport.

Nevada County officials are updating the situation on their health website, (www.co.nevada.ca.us/ehealth)

South Yuba River State Park is eight miles northwest of Nevada City off of Highway 49.

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