

UC Center Sacramento

"Climate Change and Health: The Threat of Harmful Algal Blooms to Tribes and Communities"

Dr. Gina Solomon, UC San Francisco and Ms. Sarah Ryan, Big Valley Rancheria Environmental Protection Agency

Wednesday, April 10th

12:00—1:00pm In person attendance or by Zoom webinar

Please note our new location: 1115 11th St, Sacramento, CA 95814

For catering purposes, please RSVP by April 3rd (uccs.ucdavis.edu) to ensure that we have a lunch for you.

Clear Lake, the largest freshwater lake in California, has been repeatedly impacted by harmful algal blooms, with toxin concentrations in parts of the lake well above the California recreational "Danger" level many months of the year. Thousands of tribal citizens from seven federally recognized tribes live in the area and use the lake. The region has among the highest poverty rates in California, and the lake is an important economic, cultural, fishing, and recreational resource.

The California Water: Assessment of Toxins for Community Health (Cal-WATCH) project is a partnership between a local tribe, two state agencies, and a non-profit public health organization. Cal-WATCH gathered information from residents to assess local awareness, offered free water testing to residents who rely on lake intakes for drinking water, and is working across agencies to address health risks to local residents. As harmful algal blooms affect more freshwater and saltwater resources in California, broad and effective strategies will be needed to identify and confirm hazards, inform the public, and reduce risk.

Dr. Gina Solomon, M.D., M.P.H., is the Chief of the Division of Occupational, Environmental, & Climate Medicine at UCSF, where she oversees clinical occupational health activities at three hospital sites, leads research efforts in environmental health, and directs the Occupational and Environmental residency program. Previously, Dr. Solomon was a program director at the Public Health Institute in Oakland, where she established and led the Achieving Resilient Communities project to identify, test, and expand interventions to reduce climate change impacts in farmworker communities. From 2012-2018, she served as the Deputy Secretary for Science and Health at the California Environmental Protection Agency.





