


WASHOE COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT
ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

DATE: June 27, 2018

TO: Dave Solaro, Recovery Director: North Valleys Flood 2017

FROM: James English, Environmental Health Supervisor 

SUBJECT: Review of analytical results for surface water testing of Swan and Silver Lakes

The Washoe County Health District was requested to conduct surface water sampling of Swan and Silver Lakes as a part of the ongoing recovery efforts of the 2017 North Valleys Flooding by the Washoe County North Valleys Incident Command. Two surface water samples were pulled from Swan Lake and one Surface water sample was pulled from Silver Lake on May 7, 2018. Samples were submitted to the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory requesting testing for quantitative E. coli and total coliforms. Results were provided to you on May 8, 2018.

On June 26, 2018 WCHD was asked to analyze the results to determine if bacterial contamination exceeded limits for lakes which are used for recreation. A review of the data shows both Swan and Silver Lake are well below the limits for bacterial contamination to close a body of water to recreational use. The highest result was 18.9 colony forming units per 100mL (cfu/100ml) whereas the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recommended guidance for the geometric mean (GM) and statistical threshold value (STV) should not exceed 126 and 410 cfu/100mL respectively.

If you have any questions regarding the interpretation of this analytical data, please contact me at jenglish@washoecounty.us.

