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Published: July 14, 2010 Updated: July 16, 2010 1:37 p.m.

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Fix means reservoir lake shouldn't stink again

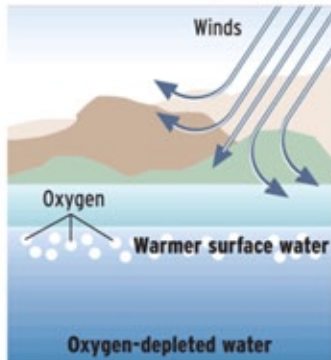
Story Highlights: Oxygenation equipment being installed in reservoir meant to ensure algae bloom that caused last year's foul odor doesn't reappear this fall. [Explainer graphic.](#)

Preventing the stink

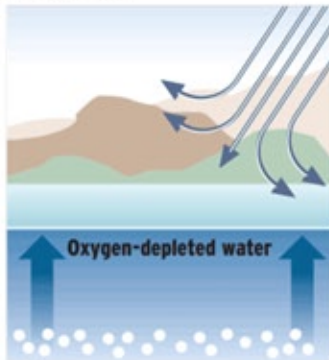
Crews are installing an 18-foot-high cone as part of a system to add oxygen to deep water in the Upper Oso Reservoir. The effort is meant to prevent formation of an algae bloom similar to one that developed last year and led to a rotten egg-like stench affecting local neighborhoods.



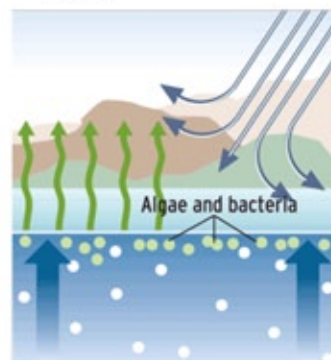
How algae bloom formed



❶ Cold spells and strong winds cooled the warmer layer of water on the reservoir's surface, quickly turning it cold.

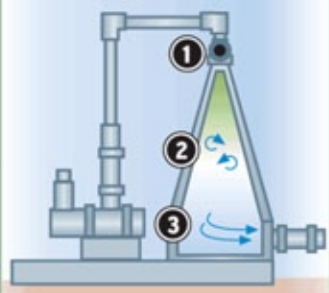


❷ Rapid cooling made that layer of water heavier, which brought the oxygen-depleted water from reservoir's bottom to the surface.



❸ The wind mixed the two layers of water, reducing the amount of oxygenated water in the lake. The types of algae and bacteria that thrive in poorly-oxygenated water release an unpleasant odor during their organic processes.

Averting another bloom



❶ Poorly-oxygenated water enters the cone.
 ❷ The water mixes with the cone's supply of oxygen.
 ❸ The reoxygenated water is released back into the reservoir.

Sources: Santa Margarita Water

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