

March 22, 2017

Desert Shores Community Association Official Statement about Channel 13 news article that aired March 20, 2017, titled “Desert Shores lake left yellow, smelly and slimy after pollen storm”, by Gina Lazara. In this news article there were several mistakes that the Board of Desert Shores would like to correct for the record.

The yellow pollen accumulated in the lakes comes from our own pine trees and didn't get blown in from the valley. This happens in various degrees every year and may be especially heavy this year due in part to the wet winter, quick change in temperatures, and higher than normal March temperatures. You will see this yellow/green pollen on the roads, over our cars and of course in our lakes. The pollen will usually last several weeks before disappearing as quickly as it appeared. If you look across our lakes you generally won't see the pollen except in concentrated areas depending on which way the wind blows. Currently it's collecting on the north end and primarily in and around the boat ramps as that becomes a trap for any debris floating on the lakes.

Most importantly, this pollen is not hazardous or harmful, it's not slime and will be consumed as food by our fish. The lakes are not dirty and this is what happens in natural lakes, provided by Mother Nature. They are not swimming pools so they can't be cleaned and sanitized. Because pollen is microscopic in size, there is no realistic way to clean it from a lake. Every year when this occurs we get several calls to the office that yellow paint has been put in our lakes, so I assure you this is not paint or slime but simply pine tree pollen that will eventually get eaten or dissipate and no longer be a visual problem.

Finally, the lakes are frequently tested for nutrients, algae, dissolved oxygen and many other components and when necessary are treated accordingly to maintain the health of each lake. The results of these tests are posted on the website. Please contact the office with any questions or concerns and remember that any inaccurate and or negative news reports are a reflection on the whole community and could have an impact on home values in our beautiful community.

Board of Directors
Desert Shores Community Association