



Pinto Lake – A Learning Tool for Local Students

Seventy-five high school students from the Academic Vocational Charter Institute (AVCI) recently participated in real-life, scientific water quality research at Pinto Lake. The lake's blue-green algae problem proved to be the perfect



tool for water quality training. Robert Ketley, Senior Utilities Engineer from the City of Watsonville taught the students how to perform the Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test for cyanobacteria toxins. He described how toxins move through the environment from this 8,000 year-old lake to the Monterey Bay, and how weather and water work together to impact toxicity levels. He also discussed cyanobacteria's link to deaths in sea otters, birds, and pets.

Through projects like these, students learn about the importance of taking care of the local environment.

The project provides real-life scientific research skills and inspires students to pursue higher education in fields that are relevant and meaningful to their own neighborhoods.

This AVCI program is funded by Audobon-Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship, with support from the SeaVibe Foundation, City of Watsonville, and UCSC. **For more information visit www.cityofwatsonville.org.**

Your City Directory

Police/Fire (Non-Emergency)	471-1151
Police (Records)	768-3370
City Manager	768-3010
Library (Main Branch)	768-3400
Parks & Community Services	768-3240
Permits	768-3050

To report or obtain information on graffiti, potholes, garbage pick-up, street light outages and abandoned shopping carts call 768-3133.

New Administrative Services Director Will Lead the City in Budget Process

Last May, the City Manager appointed Ezequiel Vega as the new Administrative Services Director for the City of Watsonville. Mr. Vega comes to the City with extensive experience and education in financial management. He worked for the County of Monterey Health Department as Finance Manager and Assistant Director, and with the City of Soledad as Finance Director and City Treasurer. With a Masters Degree in Business Administration and certification in governmental financial management, his experience and education are an asset to the City.

Like many California cities, Watsonville is faced with financial challenges and difficult decisions to make in the future as we steer through difficult economic times. Given his depth of experience, Mr. Vega understands the importance of continuing to deliver valuable services to the community in a time of continuously decreasing discretionary revenues in the General Fund. He recognizes that City staff have so far demonstrated creativity and resiliency in their efforts to continue delivering services in a challenging environment.

February is an important month for the City in the budget preparation process. The review of the 2012-2013 Mid-Year Financial Report will take place late in February. Preparation of the City's two-year budget for fiscal year 2013-2015 will take place in May of 2013.



We encourage Watsonville residents to get involved in the budget process. Call (831) 768-3470 or visit www.cityofwatsonville.org to learn about the various public hearings scheduled.