

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8-9, 2016

Prepared on October 20, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 18

SUBJECT: Pinto Lake Water Quality Conditions, Watershed Improvement Activities, and Stormwater Management Practices

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LOCATION: Watsonville, Santa Cruz County

THIS ACTION: Informational

SUMMARY

This is an informational item on Pinto Lake water quality conditions, watershed improvement activities, and stormwater management practices. Jackie McCloud, an Environmental Projects Manager for the City of Watsonville, will be presenting information to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) on sediment control practices in the Pinto Lake watershed and the City's stormwater program.

Pinto Lake is listed on the Clean Water Act [303\(d\) list of impaired waterbodies](#) due to cyanobacteria blooms. This type of water quality impairment is a biological response to watershed environmental conditions, such as excessive loading of nutrients to the lake. The Central Coast Water Board is currently developing a [total maximum daily load](#) (TMDL) addressing the water quality impairment at Pinto Lake. Central Coast Water Board staff Peter Osmolovsky is the TMDL project lead.

The City of Watsonville was the recipient of a federal Clean Water Act section 319(h) grant for \$750,000 in 2015. The purpose of the grant is to support projects that will reduce nutrient loading to Pinto Lake. In October 2016, the Grantee installed sediment management measures in an area that drains to Amesti Creek in order to reduce the amount of nutrient-rich sediment entering this tributary to Pinto Lake. Aluminum sulfate (alum) application to Pinto Lake will take place in the spring of 2017. Additionally, another nutrient reduction management practice yet to be selected will be implemented through funds from this grant. Central Coast Water Board staff Shanta Keeling is the grant manager.

The City of Watsonville has also been coordinating with the Resources Conservation District of Santa Cruz County on a Proposition 84 Agricultural Water Quality Irrigation and Nutrient Management grant to reduce nutrient-rich sediments from entering Pinto Lake. Central Coast Water Board staff Katie McNeill is the grant manager.

Ms. McCloud will also highlight water quality improvement resulting from their stormwater program.

ATTACHMENT

1. Outreach brochure created by the City of Watsonville with funds from the 319(h) grant.