

November 14, 2016

Dear Pinto Lake Watershed Property Owner:

Can you help us reduce toxic algae blooms in Pinto Lake? The Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the City of Watsonville are currently seeking landowners within the Pinto Lake Watershed to partner on sediment reduction projects to improve water quality in the Lake. Approximately \$40,000 in grant funding is available for construction of one or two projects. Eligible project types include erosion control, stream bank stabilization, road repair and maintenance, and/or sediment basins. If you are interested in completing a project, **please contact the RCD no later than December 1, 2016.** Project will be installed in 2017.

Cyanobacteria (or blue green algae), found in Pinto Lake, are known to cause adverse human and animal health effects including nausea, skin rashes, and even death. The State requires warnings to be posted when levels exceed 5 parts per billion (ppb). Data collected in Pinto Lake in 2009 showed values that averaged 183 ppb. Excess sediment in the lake is one of the major contributors to the algae blooms.

The RCD is a non-regulatory, public agency that works with willing landowners and managers to find win-win solutions that protect and enhance natural resources while supporting working lands and private property owners.

For more information or to request funding for a project, please **contact Lisa Lurie**, Program Manager at the Resource Conservation District at **(831) 464-2950 x27** or llurie@rcdsantacruz.org

Best Regards,

Angela Gruys
Communication Specialist
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County