Green to Clean: Restoring Pinto Lake

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April 26, 2017
Pinto Lake Provides Water-Based Recreational Activities To Thousands of Visitors Every Year
Every Summer and Fall, Pinto Lake Develops Blue-Green Algal Blooms. These Blooms Can Produce Toxins
What Causes These Blooms?

- Warm Water
- Sunlight
- Excess Nutrients
Massive cyanobacteria blooms occur in spring, summer and fall.

- Predominantly aphanizomenon, dolicospermum and microcystis.

OEHHA and WHO Public Health Goal of 0.8ppb.

Multi agency effort to coordinate monitoring, notifications and solutions.

*Partners include: UCSC, CSUMB, RCD, County of Santa Cruz, Central Coast Regional Board Staff*
In-Lake Activities

Multiple management measures implemented pretreatment:

- Carp removal
- Outreach and stakeholder involvement
- Sediment Cores to determine amount of internal nutrient loading
Alum Treatment April 2017

City staff researched:
• Floating wetlands
• Aeration
• Alum treatment
• Other types of chemical and biological treatment

Alum proved to be the best solution for Pinto Lake
Water Quality Testing

Photos courtesy of Catherine Bosley, HAB Aquatics, LLC
Pinto Lake Jar Testing

Photos courtesy of Catherine Bosley, HAB Aquatics, LLC
Next steps for Pinto Lake

Photos courtesy of Catherine Bosley, HAB Aquatics, LLC
Watershed Activities and Improvements

Amesti Creek

BEFORE

AFTER

CCC Creek

BEFORE

AFTER
Thank you for your time!

For additional information on the Pinto Lake Restoration Project:
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