



# County of Santa Cruz

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## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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**Environmental  
Health**

## Press Release

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**For Release: Immediately**

**Contact: John Ricker**

**Date: October 14, 2015**

**Phone: (831) 454-2022**

### **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA – Pinto Lake Advisory**

Recent testing of various locations around Pinto Lake has indicated the presence of harmful levels of toxins produced by blue-green algae. These areas include City and County parks. Warning signs have been posted.

People and pets should not have contact with or drink the water. Boating is also not recommended due to the risk of contacting the water. Toxins from blue-green algae are known to have caused several deaths in dogs in Humboldt, Alameda and Sacramento Counties. Toxins released by the type of blue-green algae found in Pinto Lake can cause respiratory problems, liver problems, skin rashes, and gastro-intestinal upsets in humans and can cause stumbling, foaming, tremors, and death in animals.

City of Watsonville and County of Santa Cruz staff are conducting further investigations and testing.

For further information, contact John Ricker at Santa Cruz Environmental Health Division at (831) 454-2022.