



Stay Informed and Aware During Possible Flooding Situations

Public Works and Utilities staff have been busy preparing for and managing heavy storms in our community. This includes monitoring river and creek levels day and night with our monitoring system and field patrols.

With all the recent rain, it's important for citizens and business owners to be prepared for a flood before it happens by preparing emergency kits, identifying emergency contacts, creating a plan and staying informed. There is a lot of confusion around the meanings of "Advisory", "Watch", and "Warning". Each of these statements has different meanings, and as such you and your family should react differently to each:

Advisory, Watch, Warning...What's the Difference?

Flash Flood Warning: Take Action! A Flash Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground.

A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

What's the Difference?

WARNING	WATCH	ADVISORY
Flash Flood Warning: Take Action! Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely. Proposes a threat to life/property. Take protective action!	Flash Flood Watch: Be Prepared Conditions are favorable for flooding. Could pose a threat to life/property. Have a plan of action ready!	Flood Advisory: Be Aware Possible flooding may occur. Could cause a significant inconvenience. Use caution!

Flood Watch: Be Prepared: A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding that could pose a threat to life/property.

Flood Advisory: Be Aware: A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

Understanding the City's alerts are part of being prepared and will help you take the right action to protect yourself and those around you. Communication is crucial to the safety of all residents and businesses and regular updates to a storm event and flooding

will be posted on:

Nixle Alerts: Text your Zipcode to 888777 to  receive emergency alerts;

- Website: www.cityofwatsonville.org
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watsonvillecity/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WatsonvilleCity>
- Sandbag locations: Fire Station 1, 115 Second Street & Home Depot, 355 S. Green Valley Rd.

For more safety tips, resources and tools please visit our website at: <http://cityofwatsonville.org/public-works-utilities/emergency-preparedness/what-to-do-before-and-after-a-flood>.

Struve Slough Restoration



The City and Watsonville Wetlands Watch are working together to restore portions of Struve Slough just upstream and downstream of Main Street. The project involves removing non-native plants and replacing them with native plants, which

will benefit the birds and wildlife that live within the slough. The restoration efforts will also provide amazing views from the slough trails and allow community members to volunteer and learn more about the unique freshwater wetlands.

The restoration is being done over a period of three years with labor, equipment and services provided by Watsonville Wetlands Watch, the City of Watsonville, California Conservation Corps workers and community volunteers. Funding was received from two State grants and contributions by the City and Watsonville Wetlands Watch.

Over the years, the project area has changed from wetland to ranchland to residential

with some areas now turning back to wetlands and natural habitat along the City's trails. The restoration work began in 2015 with clearing of debris and removal of non-native plants. Biodegradable wood chips and straw were placed over the cleared area to suppress weeds and prepare the soil. Initial planting was done in 2016, using plants grown in a nursery operated by Watsonville Wetlands Watch at the Pajaro Valley High School campus. Work will continue in 2017 with over 4,000 new native plants being planted in the coming winter. Several public volunteer events will be held to help with this important project.

For additional information, please contact Jonathan Pilch, Executive Director of Wetlands Watch at 768-3117.

Call Elizabeth Padilla, Editor at 768-3018 with questions or comments.

