

**Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals**  
**Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions**

***RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION***  
**(Alternate)**

**Presenter(s): Michael Marzolla, University of California Cooperative Service Extension**

**Title: Agua Pura And Los Pescadores: Engaging Latino Youth And Families In Water Resource Issues**

Abstract: Agua Pura (Pure Water) began in 1999 as a partnership of the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension's Give Water A Hand, Santa Barbara County UCCE 4-H Youth Development Program and Santa Barbara City College. Its goal was better understanding of how community educators and youth leaders can involve Latino youth and the Latino community in watershed protection and adaptation of resources to meet the community's needs and interests.

The Santa Barbara County 4-H Youth Development Program has sustained Agua Pura. It is assisting the county in meeting best practices under NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) guidelines.

Agua Pura has significantly contributed to engaging the Latino community in watershed resource issues:

- A six-week, hands-on after-school watershed education program that has graduated over 560 Latino children.
- Incorporation of watershed education into a nine-week summer day camp for over 1,200 Latino children.
- The local Housing Authority, whose leadership is primarily Latino, has led in development and delivery of the ongoing "Splash to Trash" watershed education program. Sixty-two Latino young people from public housing have graduated from the program.
- Publication of the Agua Pura Leadership Institute Planning Manual

Agua Pura has served as a model for Latino leadership development involving watershed resource issues at national conferences and in professional journal articles.

Working in collaboration with Adopt-A-Watershed, Agua Pura is developing "Los Pescadores" Latino youth component to address watershed issues related to the threatened steelhead and salmon. It is expected that the curriculum from this project will be made available to west coast educators from Mexico to Alaska.

Target Audience(s): Specific ethnic groups-  
 Latino youth and families

Educational Purpose: Education and  
 capacity building

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