

Watsonville library hooks up with new director

By **DAVE BROCKMANN**
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WATSONVILLE — Deborah Barrow couldn't be happier being in Northern California as the new city of Watsonville Library Director.

A Spanish speaker, she likes working in a multicultural community. She welcomes the opportunity and challenge of taking the 100,000-volume library to the next level of services.

Barrow fills the \$64,705 position previously held by Vivian Hurley, who resigned this year to become the Rock Springs, Wyo., librarian. Carol Heitzig served as interim director until Barrow arrived Dec. 4.

Prior to arriving in Watsonville, Barrow was principal librarian at the South Chula Vista Library in San Diego County, a 37,000-square-foot facility that included reference, bilingual and computer lab services. The South Chula Vista Library serves a population of 70,000; the entire Chula Vista library system services a population of 150,000, five times the size of Watsonville.

She said she applied for the job because "I liked that Watsonville is small and this was a plum position. I certainly feel I have something to offer to the staff and community."

She was involved with the development of Chula Vista's library automation systems, the design and construction of the South Chula Vista branch and the development of the public access computer services. Barrow hopes to get the library staff involved with the community to assist in the development of new computer services at the Union Street branch.

"My role is to link into the trends in services, inform the staff and community, so that we can incorporate those trends into our services.

The use of computers will play a big role in future Watsonville library services, Barrow said.

"The computer age is here. It is extremely important that the library stays state of the art. We have to provide the tools for the public that will be commonplace."



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Deborah Barrow, after helping develop computer services for the South Chula Vista Library, plans to focus her on-line library experience on updating Watsonville Public Library.