

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING February 1, 2008

DATE: January 30, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending February 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This project consists of a complete review and update of the District's Watershed Protection Plan adopted November 4, 1985. Your Board reviewed and accepted the Administrative Draft of Part 1: Existing Conditions Report, Rev. 1.3 for public and peer-review at your regularly scheduled December 6 meeting. Your board also approved the review process and the amended list of invited peer-reviewers recommended by the Environmental Committee, and directed staff to proceed with the review process. The document was posted on the District website on December 12, 2007. Review copies were placed in local libraries, and at the front desk at the District's office. All of the invited peer-reviewers were contacted by email or telephone on that same date. This week, staff emailed a reminder to potential peer-reviewers that comments are due by February 19, 2008. Staff is scheduled to meet with representatives of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department on February 5, 2008 to discuss their review of the Administrative Draft. Staff continues work on activities associated with Part Two of the Watershed Management Plan: Policies, Practices and Recommendations.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff continues to monitor the status of grant completion reports. The application deadline for Science Fair Grants was January 25, 2008, but the District received no applications. Staff is preparing notification of the 2008 funding cycle of the District's Education Program Grants. The mailing list has been updated. The application filing period for the 2008 funding cycle will be February 7, 2008 through March 7, 2008.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has scheduled and attended three meetings of the inter-agency climate change working group on November 14, 2007, December 19, 2007, and January 16, 2007 at the Scotts Valley Water District. Represented agencies included the City of Santa Cruz Water Department,

Scotts Valley Water District, County of Santa Cruz, Soquel Creek Water District, Lompico County Water District, and Central Water District. The group reached consensus on planning for the first of three forums to address issues of climate change impacts on local water resources. The first forum is tentatively scheduled for early May 2008, to be held at the Scotts Valley Community Building on a weekday afternoon. Dates, topics and speakers are yet to be arranged. Staff will present a detailed report to the Environmental Committee on February 14, 2008.

With regards to the California Climate Action Registry's on-line carbon emissions inventory and tracking system, staff has entered the District's 2006 data for purchased electricity and mobile fuels. Staff is collecting stationery fuel and mileage data, necessary to complete entry of 2006 and 2007 data.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff is working with the inter-agency Water Awareness Committee and representatives from the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners to plan for the 2008 garden tour and contest emphasizing water-saving gardens. They are seeking water agency sponsorships, and will come back with a budget.

PROPOSED COUNTY REGULATORY CHANGES RE: SMALL STRUCTURES

On February 26, 2008, the County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider the County Planning Department's revisions to proposed ordinances regulating accessory structures. The Board requested these revisions to address enforcement and other issues identified by the SLVWD Board of Directors and others. Staff will present a detailed report to the Environmental Committee on February 14, 2008.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst