

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT  
WEEK ENDING February 15, 2008

DATE: February 14, 2008

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending February 15, 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. Review comments are due February 19, 2008, but the deadline may be extended approximately one week in order to allow some reviewers to complete their comments. Several reviewers have already provided substantive comments. Staff continues work on activities associated with Part Two of the Watershed Management Plan; Goals, Policies, and Planning.

#### EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff continues to monitor the status of grant completion reports. The application deadline for the 2008 funding cycle of the District's Education Program Grants is March 7, 2008.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

After reaching consensus from the climate change working group of local water agencies including 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, staff proceeded to plan the first of three forums to address issues of climate change impacts on local water resources. The first forum is scheduled for May 14, 2008, from 1- 5 in the afternoon. Two key speakers have confirmed their availability for that date. Staff is still researching the venue.

With regards to the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) on-line greenhouse gas emissions inventory and tracking system, staff has completed initial entry of the District's 2006 emissions data, and shared a preliminary report with the Environmental Committee on

February 14, 2008. After verifying that CCAR procedures were followed correctly, staff will continue entering the District's 2007 data into the system.

#### WATER CONSERVATION

Staff continues to work with the Water Awareness Committee and the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners to write the judging criteria for the garden contest planned for later this year. The contest will emphasize water-saving gardens. The proposed budget and water agency sponsorships will be discussed at the next meeting of the Water Awareness Committee on February 20, 2008.

#### PROPOSED COUNTY REGULATORY CHANGES RE: SMALL STRUCTURES

The County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider the County Planning Department's most recent changes to these proposed ordinances at its February 26, 2008 meeting. County Planning has requested another meeting with staff and other commenters on February 20, 2008 to discuss the most recent draft. Staff provided the Environmental Committee with a copy of this draft on February 14, 2008, and asked for comments prior to the meeting with County Planning. Further review of the proposed ordinances by the Board of Supervisors will likely be delayed until March, according to County Planning.

#### WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN

Staff is reviewing the draft of the Water Supply Master Plan groundwater chapter.

---

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.  
Environmental Analyst