

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT  
WEEK ENDING February 29, 2008

DATE: February 28, 2008

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending February 29, 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, 2007 meeting. Review comments were due February 19, 2008, but the deadline was extended until February 29, 2008 in order to allow 2 reviewers to complete their comments. Of the 29 invited peer-reviewers, 13 agreed to review the document, and 11 have provided substantive comments to date. In addition, staff received substantive comments from three members of the public. 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. The three key speakers have confirmed their availability for that date. At the last meeting of the working group on February 27, 2008, the group decided agreed to reserve

the University Inn and to proceed with the forum as planned. Staff is coordinating continued discussions with speakers and the working group to more closely define the topics.

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. Staff met on February 26, 2008 to review the District's emissions tracking procedures. 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 was discussed at the last meeting of the Water Awareness Committee on February 20, 2008.

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

Staff attended a County Planning meeting on February 20, 2008 to discuss the most recent draft ordinances. Those ordinances requiring CEQA review were deferred until a later date. Further review of the proposed ordinances by the Board of Supervisors on March, 18, 2008 according to County Planning.

#### WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN

Staff has reviewed the draft of the Water Supply Master Plan groundwater chapter.

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Environmental Analyst