

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING March 14, 2008

DATE: March 13, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending March 14, 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. Staff compiled and summarized review comments from 16 reviewers, and presented the results to the Environmental Committee on March 6, 2008. Staff sent a letter to all reviewers thanking them for their input, and explaining how their comments would be evaluated and considered for the final draft of Part I. Staff is continuing to research the reviewer comments and to edit the final draft of Part I.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff received seven grant proposals before the March 7, 2008 application deadline for the 2008 funding cycle of the District's Education Program Grants. The total grant funding requested is \$14,187.00. Staff has reviewed and summarized information from the proposals, and is arranging for proposal review by the Education Program Advisory Commission.

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. The University Inn has been reserved, and additional planning efforts are underway. 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 is now 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 agree on a budget for participating Santa Cruz County water agencies for the garden tour and contest planned for later this year. The contest will emphasize water-saving irrigation systems and drought-tolerant plants.

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 an undisclosed later date. The remaining proposed ordinances will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on March, 18, 2008. Staff is scheduled to meet with Supervisor Mark Stone on March 17, 2008 to discuss the proposed ordinances and their revised enforcement procedures.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst