

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING March 28, 2008

DATE: March 27, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending March 28, 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 is continuing to research the comments received from 16 reviewers and to edit the final draft of Part I.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff has scheduled a meeting for April 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the District for the Education Advisory Commission to evaluate the seven grant applications received by staff.

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 p.m. 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, and is reworking some of that data. Staff is also entering the District's 2007 data. The deadline for submitting 2006 and 2007 data to the CCAR is June 30, 2008.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff attended a District drought planning meeting on March 25, 2008. 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 met with Supervisor Mark Stone on March 17, 2008 to discuss the planning department's proposed ordinances and their revised enforcement procedures. Staff attended a public hearing on March, 18, 2008 after which the County Board of Supervisors tentatively approved the proposed draft ordinances and procedures. Final consideration by the Supervisors is scheduled for April 15, 2008.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst