

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING April 25, 2008

DATE: April 24, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending April 25, 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. Staff sent the Commissioners compiled scoring forms and comments for their consideration prior to the meeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has coordinated public agency sponsors to plan and publicize the first of three forums to inform water resource planners on climate change impacts on local water. The first forum, entitled "Tools for Addressing Climate Change and Impacts on Local Water Resources," will be held May 14, 2008, from 1- 4 p.m. at the University Inn, 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz. Dr. Peter Gleick (Pacific Institute), Dr. Lisa Sloan (UCSC), Jim Crowley (Santa Clara Valley Water District), and John Ricker (County) will speak. Staff and Director Rapoza will emcee the event. Sponsors include the District, City of Santa Cruz Water Department, Scotts Valley Water District, County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health, Soquel Creek Water District, Lompico County Water District, and Central Water District.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff participated in planning and implementing the continuation of the Phase 2 Drought Contingency Plan. The District has become a gold sponsor, along with three other water agencies, of the Monterey Bay Area Water-Smart Garden Contest and Tour, which emphasizes water-saving irrigation systems and drought-tolerant plants. Garden contest applications are available on the District website.

STREAM HABITAT & SALMONID MONITORING PROGRAM

Staff attended an inter-agency meeting to discuss the 2007 draft reports and plans for the 2008 Santa Cruz County Stream Habitat and Juvenile Salmonid Sampling Program.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst