

## M E M O

To: Board of Directors

From: Environmental Analyst

Subject: RECOMMENDATIONS OF EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORY  
COMMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED EDUCATION PROGRAM  
GRANTS

Date: MAY 8, 2008

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board receive and consider the recommendations of the Education Program Advisory Commission regarding the current proposed Education Program Grants and provide direction to staff regarding the Board's award of said proposed grants.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On June 5, 2003 your Board approved District Ordinance No. 100, which established the San Lorenzo Valley Water District Education Program Advisory Commission. The purpose of the Education Program Advisory Commission is to advise the Board of Directors regarding the selection and allocation of education program grants.

At the April 5, 2006 Education Program Advisory Commission meeting, the Commission recommended that staff develop and notice a separate application process for Science Fair Projects. The Science Fair Project Education Grant Program encourages grant applications with funding levels at or less than \$200.00. Staff developed a simplified application process for the Science Fair Project Education Grant Program.

At the November 8, 2007 Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Education Program Advisory Commission, your Board and the Commission reviewed and assessed the Education Grant Program. The board directed staff to provide earlier and wider noticing for the Science Fair Grant Program. Your Board and the Commission also discussed the value of more individual meetings between Commissioners and potential grant applicants.

### **Noticing for the 2008 funding cycle:**

On September 8, 2007 staff noticed the availability of Science Fair Project Education Grant funding to local schools and on the District website. Staff also coordinated with the Santa Cruz County School District to include notices of availability to all teachers in the county. The deadline for submittal of Science Fair grant proposals was January 25, 2008.

On February 7, 2008 staff noticed the availability of Educational Grant Program Proposal funding by direct mail to interested citizens, community groups and local schools, and on the District website. The deadline for submittal of Education Grant Program proposals was March 7, 2007.

**SCIENCE FAIR GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS:**

This year, despite the earlier and wider noticing, the District received no Science Fair Project Grant Proposal Applications.

**EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATIONS, EVALUATION, AND RECOMMENDED FUNDING:**

In response to the Notice of Availability for Education Grant Program Funding, the District received seven (7) Grant Proposals, summarized in Attachment 1. The aggregate dollar amount of education grant proposals received for the March 7, 2008 funding cycle was \$14,187.00.

**Evaluation Procedure**

To evaluate and score the Education Grant Proposals, the Commission used the procedure that it established in 2006. According to this procedure, each Commissioner independently evaluates and scores each Grant Proposal, using a scoring matrix. Each Commissioner returns, anonymously, the scored Grant Proposal Applications to District staff. Staff then compiles the aggregate scores for review by the Commission.

**Recommended Funding**

The Commission recommended the funding and allocation of Education Program Grants to five (5) applications in the aggregate amount of \$8,761.00. Two (2) of the seven (7) proposals were not recommended for funding, because the Commission found that they did not meet the grant proposal guidelines specified in the grant application. The Commission recommended funding for the following grant proposals, as follows:

1. Distribution & Nesting Ecology of Yellow Warblers on the Central Coast of California; Matthew Strusis-Timmer, graduate student, San Jose State University.

Grant amount requested:	\$ 850.00
Additional funding recommended:	610.00
Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$1,460.00

The Commission recommended increasing the award by \$610.00 for the above proposal to \$1,460. The requested amount of \$850 was based on the San Lorenzo River watershed being only 1/3 of the project area. The Commission agreed that the entire region was necessary to gather the information about the San Lorenzo River watershed. The Commission recommended requesting from grantee a digital copy of the final thesis to make available to educational institutions. The Commission recommended requesting grantee to write a newspaper article about the project.

2. Water quality study of feeder streams leading into the San Lorenzo River; Carl Reuter, kayaker.

Grant amount requested:	\$ 936.00
Additional funding recommended	64.00
Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$1,000.00

The Commission recommended increasing the award by \$64.00 for the above proposal to \$1,000. This additional \$64.00 will be used to fund additional safety equipment.

3. Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Anadromous Fish Education Program; Jeannie Kegebein; Mountain Parks Foundation.

Grant amount requested:	\$2,401.00
Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$2,401.00

4. Smart Gardening Faire; Sheryl McEwan, Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, Inc..

Grant amount requested:	\$2,500.00
Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$1,400.00

The Commission interpreted this proposal as a request for sponsorship of the event, which is not the stated purpose of the educational grants. The Commission recommended that, in future, the applicant be encouraged to apply directly to the Board for event sponsorships. The Commission recommended an award of \$1,400 to guarantee the District an educational booth.

5. Healthy Salmonid Habitats; Tammy Osharow, teacher; Boulder Creek Elementary.

Grant amount requested:	\$2,500.00
Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$2,500.00

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM SUBTOTAL	\$8,761.00
SCIENCE FAIR GRANT PROGRAM SUBTOTAL	<u>0.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$8,761.00

### **Other recommendations**

The Commissioners recommended that the District add language to its standard grant award agreement, as suggested by District counsel, stating that the grantee is not an agent or employee of the District, and a release of the District by the grantee from any liability.

Several Commissioners commented that they would like to increase the number and quality of grant proposals that the District receives. The Commissioners recommended that staff create a brochure highlighting the Education Grant Program, including science fair grants, to be used to publicize the program.

The Commission recommended that, following the Board's approval of the 2008 grant awards and completion of grant award agreements, an awards ceremony be scheduled.

Said awards ceremony would be scheduled during a subsequent Board meeting, when the Board would present checks and/or certificates to each of the grantees.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and provide direction to staff regarding the Board's award of said proposed grants.

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Betsy Herbert  
Environmental analyst

Attachment 1: EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS MARCH 7, 2008

Project title	Project description	Funds to be used for:	Grant applicant	Institution	Amount requested	Award recommended
Distribution & Nesting Ecology of Yellow Warblers ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> ) on the Central Coast of California	Study of the distribution and nesting ecology of yellow warblers in the region, including the SLR watershed, to help conserve the species	1/3 of total project funds including travel, a computer, GIS & statistical software, hip waders, GPS unit, misc. supplies	Matthew Strusis-Timmer, graduate student	San Jose State University	850.00	1,460.00
Water Conservation & Education for Glen Arbor School Preschoolers through Rainwater Harvesting & Drip Irrigation	Install a 2,500 gal. rain water collection tank to collect water from classroom roof to supply water to fruit & vegetable garden; install drip irrigation system; teach water conservation curriculum	2,500 gallon rainwater tank; water curriculum; garden drip system	Ingrid Stevenson, teacher	Glen Arbor School	2,500.00	Not recommended for funding
Water quality study of feeder streams leading into the San Lorenzo River	Experienced kayaker to visit, document & test various tributaries of the SLR, not normally accessible, for water quality.	Garmin 60CSX GPS unit, mapping software, water quality test kits	Carl Reuter, kayaker		936.00	1,000.00
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Anadromous Fish Education Program	Create an anadromous fish exhibit & school curriculum to educate a wide spectrum of park visitors; hands-on curriculum specific to the SLR focused on ecosystem connections & demo of practical preservation methods	Water quality test kit, macro invertebrate stream ecology kit, 4 macro invertebrate traps, clipboards, digital field thermometers; partial funding of anadromous fish interpretive display & staff time	Jeannie Kegebein, Executive Director	Mountain Parks Foundation	2,401.00	2,401.00

Smart Gardening Faire	3rd annual fair in Skypark, public education promoting gardening & landscaping practices to conserve water thru use of native plants & water-saving technologies	Water agency sponsorship: Entitles SLVWD with a booth at the Faire to exhibit our efforts to conserve water	Sheryl McKewan, master gardener	Monterey Bay Master Gardeners	2,500.00	1,400.00
Healthy Salmonid Habitats	Hands-on project for 4th & 5th graders to learn about life-cycle & habitat requirements of steelhead, and to assess health of watershed for salmon thru water quality testing.	Water quality test kits, digital microscope, Flexcam Teachcam (a special video camera made for the classroom), aquarium chiller for trout incubators	Tammy Osharow, teacher	Boulder Creek Elementary	2,500.00	2,500.00
School-based Education/Outreach Support of Citizen Water Quality Monitoring	Provide equipment, training & oversight to school teachers & students to facilitate citizen collection of water quality monitoring information in the SLR watershed	Staff time, mileage, lab fees, equipment and materials	Armand Ruby, Executive Director	Coastal Watershed Council	2,500.00	Not recommended for funding
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,187.00</b>	<b>\$8,761.00</b>

**SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM  
GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION SCORING FORM  
April 2008**

**HEALTHY SALMONID HABITATS**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		10	5	5	20
2	X		10	5	5	20
3	X		10	5	5	20
4	X		10	5	5	20
5	X		<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>49</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>97</b>

**HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK ANADROMOUS FISH EDUCATION PROGRAM**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		10	5	5	20
2	X		10	5	5	20
3	X		10	5	5	20
4	X		10	5	5	20
5	X		10	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>16</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>96</b>

**SCHOOL BASED EDUCATION/OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF CITIZEN WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		9	5	4	18
2	X		10	5	5	20
3	X		10	4	5	19
4	X		8	4	3	15
5	X		<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>83</b>

**WATER QUALITY STUDY OF FEEDER STREAMS LEADING INTO THE SAN LORENZO RIVER**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		8	4	5	17
2	X		8	5	5	18
3	X		10	3	5	18
4	X		8	3	4	15
5	X		<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>82</b>

**SMART GARDENING FAIRE**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		5	4	4	13
2	X		10	5	5	20
3	X		9	5	4	18
4	X		8	5	3	16
5	X		6	5	4	15
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>82</b>

**WATER CONSERVATION & EDUCATION FOR GLEN ARBOR SCHOOL PRESCHOOLERS THROUGH RAINWATER HARVESTING & DRIP IRRIGATION**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		7	2	3	12
2	X		8	5	4	17
3	X		10	4	4	18
4	X		7	5	4	16
5	X	X	7	3	3	13
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>76</b>

**DISTRIBUTION AND NESTING ECOLOGY OF YELLOW WARBLERS ON THE CENTRAL COAST OF CALIF**

	<u>Responsive</u>	<u>Non-Responsive</u>	<u>Educational Outreach</u>	<u>Viability of Project</u>	<u>Creativity of Project</u>	<u>Total Aggregate Score</u>
1	X		9	4	5	18
2	X		4	4	5	13
3	X		10	5	5	20
4	X		5	3	4	12
5	X		5	4	3	12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>75</b>