

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING July 11, 2008

DATE: July 10, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending July 11, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff is continuing to monitor 2007 grant completion reports.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has ordered 50 copies of the DVD of the May 14 forum entitled “Tools for Addressing Climate Change and Impacts on Local Water Resources.” Staff has received more than 30 requests for the DVD. The program is also being aired during the summer on Community TV of Santa Cruz County.

Staff is preparing a draft resolution pertaining to climate change for review by the Environmental Committee. The draft is based on a resolution adopted earlier this year by the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

WATER CONSERVATION

The drought tolerant demonstration garden at the side of the Administration building is doing well despite the heat wave. The District Secretary is running the irrigation system as needed manually early in the morning.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY (CCAR)

Staff requested and received an extension until July 31, 2008 to submit the District’s 2006 and 2007 inventory of greenhouse gases to CCAR. Staff also requested a received an extension until December 15 for verification of the District’s inventory.

FELTON WATER SYSTEM

Staff is working with Felton FLOW's Steering Committee on the program for Water Independence Day Community Celebration on Saturday, July 26 at the Felton fire house on Gushee St. The event is open to the public and celebrates the public acquisition of the Felton water system.

WATERSHED

Staff attended three field trips to Olympia watershed. The first trip was to assess the area along the railroad tracks which has been proposed by a neighboring landowner as a shaded fuel break. The second trip was to assess trespass issues. The third trip was to document the existence of a recently introduced invasive exotic plant species.

Staff documented a small patch of yellow star thistle on the Olympia watershed property, and is requesting funding for eradication of this weed before it becomes established. Funding is through the Santa Cruz County Weed Management Area group. Funding for projects for 2009 is available from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to coordinate county-wide efforts and expertise against common invasive weed species.

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff is preparing for an initial discussion of the District's watershed policies by the Environmental Committee scheduled for August 13, 2008.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst