

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT  
WEEK ENDING August 29, 2008

DATE: August 28, 2008

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending August 29, 2008.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff is continuing to monitor 2007 grant completion reports.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has invoiced other participating water agencies for expenses incurred by the May 14 forum entitled "Tools for Addressing Climate Change and Impacts on Local Water Resources." At its August 20, 2008 meeting, the Environmental Committee approved a draft resolution, prepared by staff and pertaining to climate change, for review and consideration by the board at its September 18, 2008 meeting. The resolution was based on a similar one adopted this year by the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

#### WATER CONSERVATION

Staff is drafting a new water conservation flyer to be mailed starting with the September 8, 2008 billing cycle. The flyer once again emphasizes water-smart gardening. Staff attended a Water Conservation Coalition (WCC) meeting at the City of Santa Cruz Water Department on August 25, 2008. The WCC is sponsoring a booth emphasizing water conservation and education at the Santa Cruz County Fair from September 9 – 14, 2008. Staff will help man the booth on September 12, when school children are attending the fair.

#### CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY (CCAR)

Staff has received one quote and is awaiting two more from certifiers to verify the District's 2006 and 2007 carbon emissions inventory reports submitted at the end of July to CCAR.

Staff has scheduled a meeting with the District Manager and the Director of Operations for review and possible revision of the reports prior to beginning the certification process.

#### FELTON WATER SYSTEM

Staff continues to update Felton FLOW about the status of the District takeover of the Felton water system.

#### WATERSHED

Staff attended a Santa Cruz County Weed Management Area group meeting August 19, 2008 and reported on the District's ongoing and planned projects for control and eradication of invasive plant species on its watershed lands.

On August 26 - 27, 2008 NOAA Fisheries conducted the third annual survey of salmonid populations on the District's Zayante Creek property. This is the final year of the agency's three-year regional sampling project.

#### WATERSHED PLAN

Staff is preparing a summary of watershed management goals and objectives of several major water utilities in the region. The summary is intended to assist the Environmental Committee in reviewing and revising the District's 1985 watershed plan goals and objectives, during its next meeting scheduled September 18, 2008. Staff is contacting local fisheries experts to invite them to meet with the committee to discuss the current status of scientific information about local water supply, stream flow, and fisheries habitat.

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Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.  
Environmental Analyst