

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING September 12, 2008

DATE: September 10, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending September 12, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff continues to monitor the 2007 and 2008 Education Program grants. On September 2, 2008 staff received the final completion report for the 2007 grant, "Water Quality Testing for Watershed Studies." The report has been agendaized for the Board's review and acceptance at its September 18, 2008 meeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Environmental Committee reviewed a draft resolution prepared by staff addressing climate change, at its August 20, 2008 meeting. The draft was based on a resolution adopted earlier this year by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The Environmental Committee approved the draft resolution for consideration and possible action by the board at its September 18, 2008 meeting.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY (CCAR)

Staff has selected a verifier for the District's greenhouse gas emissions reporting to the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) for the years 2006 and 2007. The verifier is E.H. Pechan, which is accredited by CCAR. The verification contract and schedule are being finalized.

After reviewing the initial CCAR reports with the District Manager and the Operations Manager, staff is drafting minor revisions to the CCAR report since it was submitted to CCAR on July 31. Primarily, revisions involve the addition of the optional reporting of annual greenhouse gas emissions from the daily commutes of District's employees.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff prepared a new water conservation flyer to be mailed starting with the September 8, 2008 billing cycle.

Staff is working with the Water Conservation Coalition to prepare and man the booth at the Santa Cruz County Fair in Watsonville. The booth will display water agency literature, give away water saving devices, and raffle off a free water-efficient washing machine.

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff is identifying a roundtable of experts to participate in a panel to inform the Environmental Committee at a future special meeting, which will be dedicated to the topic of water supply and aquatic habitat.

Staff is preparing a summary of the region's major public water agency management plans, including goals, objectives and policies for addressing fire. The District may be able to incorporate wording from these plans into its own plan.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst