

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING October 10, 2008

DATE: October 9, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending October 10, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff attended a workshop entitled “Carbon Sequestration in Forests,” at Oregon State University from September 29 – October 2. The workshop addressed science, economics and policy relating to forest carbon sequestration. Field work involved carbon storage measurement techniques at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Oregon. Discussions in the workshop strongly indicated that the District’s forested property would be a model carbon sequestration project in terms of offsetting the District’s greenhouse gas emissions and qualifying for carbon credits under the California Climate Action Registry. Staff is proceeding to gather relevant documentation of the District’s watershed lands to evaluate the potential of such a project.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY (CCAR)

Staff is communicating with consultants E.H. Pechan to schedule a site visit to begin the verification process of District’s greenhouse gas emissions reporting for 2006 and 2007. Verification must be completed by December 15, 2008.

Staff is working on minor revisions to the CCAR report involving optional reporting of annual greenhouse gas emissions from the daily commutes of District’s employees.

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff is preparing a draft update of District’s goals, objectives and policies for Part II of the Watershed Management Plan. The draft will be presented at the next Environmental Committee meeting, scheduled for November 13, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. The update is based on the region’s major public water agency management plans.

Staff is reviewing a document prepared by consultant Steve Butler regarding the condition of the District's watershed road system, including roads on the newly acquired Fall Creek property.

Staff continues to update the Administrative Draft of the District's Existing Conditions Report to reflect comments submitted by the public. Staff expects to complete the final draft and have it ready for proofing by December 31, 2008. A future revision is planned to the final draft to address the recently acquired Felton water system, along with the additional 252 acres of watershed land in Fall Creek.

MANANA WOODS HCP

Staff completed proofing the HCP documents prepared by consultant Jodi McGraw to expedite their submittal to USFWS.

OLYMPIA WATERSHED SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT

Staff prepared and distributed a project outline with input from the District Manager, Operations Manager, Jodi McGraw and the chief of the Zayante Fire Department. Staff has also requested comments from invasive species eradication expert Ken Moore. The project is under consideration by the District in partnership with the Zayante Fire Department, the Zayante Equestrian Center and others. The purpose of the project is to reduce the fuel load and reduce exotic invasive vegetation at the southwest edge of the District's Olympia watershed property.

PROPOSED FELTON MEADOWS HOUSING PROJECT

On October 9, 2008 staff and the District Manager met with a group of citizens, at their request, to discuss their concerns relative to water issues and the proposed high-density housing project in Felton.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst