

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING October 31, 2008

DATE: October 29, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending October 31, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Staff received a completion report from the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners for their 2008 education program grant of \$1,400.00 for the Smart Gardening Faire. Staff is preparing for the 2009 Education Program Grant funding cycle.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has ordered an additional 25 copies of the DVD of May 14, 2008 climate change forum sponsored by the District and other water agencies. Staff will supply copies to all libraries in the county. Staff presented the District's updates on activities to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions at the Santa Margarita Ground Water Advisory Commission meeting on October 23, 2008.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY (CCAR)

Staff has scheduled a site visit with consultants E.H. Pechan on November 12, 2008 as part of the verification process of District's greenhouse gas emissions reporting for 2006 and 2007. Verification is scheduled for completion by December 15, 2008.

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 has reviewed 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 is participating in a hike through the Fall Creek property with Butler on November 7, 2008.

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.

OLYMPIA WATERSHED

Staff led a site visit to the District's property with sandhills ecologist Jodi McGraw and invasive species eradication expert Ken Moore. Staff is preparing to implement several invasive species eradication projects this fall, none of which involve fire. Targeted invasive plant species are primarily acacia and eucalyptus.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff prepared the final water conservation mailer of the year, to be distributed with water bills to all District customers. The mailer emphasized fall lawn replacement with winning ideas from the 2008 Water-Smart Garden Contest and Tour, which the District sponsored.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst