

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

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

DATE: December 11, 2008

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending December 12, 2008.

BACKGROUND:**CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION REGISTRY (CCAR)**

Staff has corrected a few errors in the District's GHG emissions report found by verifiers and resubmitted the documents for final verification by December 15, 2008.

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff distributed a draft update of District's goals, objectives and policies for Part II of the Watershed Management Plan to the Environmental Committee. The Committee discussed the format and organization of the report at its December 11, 2008 meeting.

Staff will meet with the Director of Operations and the District Manager to review the content of the goals, objectives and policies for distribution to the Committee before the end of the year for their review and consideration. Staff will also distribute a revised draft of the District's Existing Conditions Report to the Environmental Committee before the end of the year, with known data gaps identified. A future revision to the final draft is planned to address the recently acquired Felton water system and its additional 252 acres of watershed land in Fall Creek. The next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2009 at 9:00 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT LIST

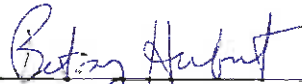
The Environmental Committee directed staff on December 11, 2008 to compile list of watershed infrastructure projects that are ready to go (not in need of environmental review); that may qualify for state and federal infrastructure project funding.

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Staff discussed with the Environmental Committee on December 11, 2008, the idea of offering several potential projects, designed to address some of the data gaps identified in the Existing Conditions Report, for grant applicants to consider in their applications. These projects would not preclude an applicant's project ideas, but rather, would offer applicants additional options. The Committee discussed the idea, and directed staff to refer further discussion to the Education Program Advisory Commission.

OLYMPIA WATERSHED

Volunteer acacia eradication workdays have continued in the past few weeks on the District's Olympia watershed property. The project is overseen by staff and invasive species expert Ken Moore. Staff is working on a grant proposal to the region's Weed Management Area to further fund this project. Staff is meeting with the Santa Cruz County RCD on December 12, 2008 to review the yellow star thistle eradication program status on the Olympia watershed property, and to evaluate the potential for partnering with the RCD in the permit process for other exotic species eradication and control projects. Staff is meeting with consultant Jodi McGraw and the District Operations Manager on December 19, 2008 to consider security and trespass issues at Olympia watershed property.



Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst