

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING MARCH 13, 2009

DATE: March 12, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending March 13, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff is beginning the District's 2008 greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the California Climate Action Registry.

SALMONID RESTORATION CONFERENCE

Staff attended a North Coast salmon restoration field tour on March 4 as part of the Salmonid Restoration Conference, March 4-7, 2009 which the District co-sponsored. During the field tour, staff observed a spawning coho salmon in San Vicente Creek near Davenport. Staff attended the plenary sessions March 6 and 7, and hosted the District's poster session the evening of March 6 (See Attachment 1). The District will be receiving the proceedings of the conference. Presentations addressed several issues of concern to the District, including the status of local salmonids and their habitats, redwood fire ecology, and updates on the aftermath of the 2008 fires in Santa Cruz County.

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff is completing minor changes to the Final Draft of Part I: Existing Conditions Report, as requested by the Environmental Committee and will present the final draft at the March 19, 2009 Environmental Committee meeting.

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Staff attended a meeting March 4, 2009 with the Education Program Advisory Commission to discuss the 2009 funding cycle of the District's education grant program. Staff presented a list of potential projects, designed to address some of the data gaps identified in the Existing Conditions Report, for grant applicants to consider in their applications. The Commissioners directed staff to draft a re-write of the 2009 grant notification to include five new potential projects. The 2009 grant notification is scheduled for March 30, 2009.

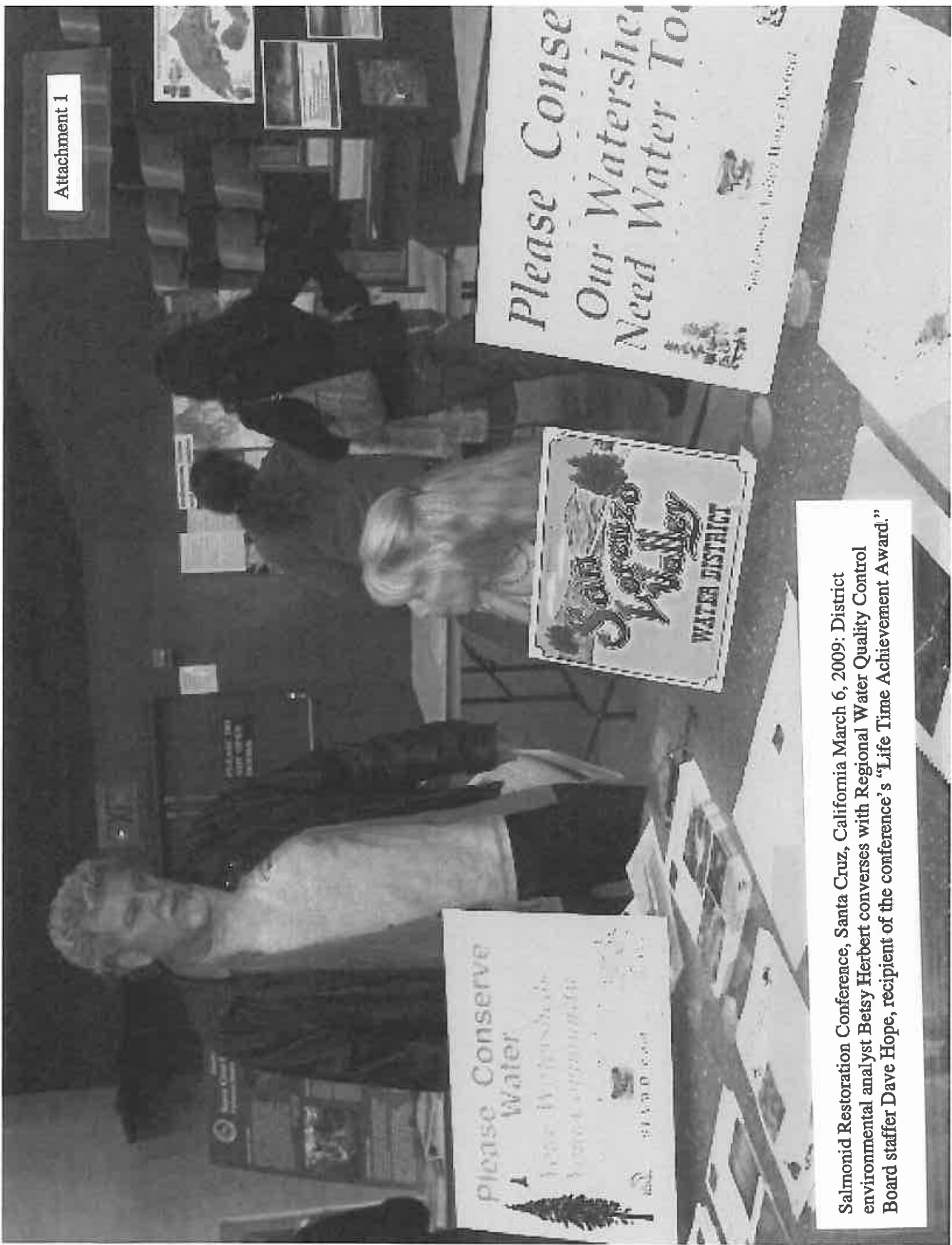
OLYMPIA WATERSHED

Volunteer invasive plant species eradication workdays have continued on the District's Olympia watershed property. The project is overseen by staff and invasive species expert Ken Moore. Staff received a small grant from the local Weed Management Area administered by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCCRCD) to reimburse the District for work on these projects. Another grant application submitted by staff is pending with the Weed Management Area. Staff is working on another grant in partnership with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to coordinate efforts and seek funding for recovery work for sandhills habitat on the District's Olympia property and the Land Trust's adjacent Geyer property.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff is attending a Water Conservation Committee meeting on March 13, 2009 to discuss the GardenSoft Project, in partnership with other local water agencies. The project would tailor computer software that displays use of drought tolerant plants that are successfully used in this area.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst



Salmonid Restoration Conference, Santa Cruz, California March 6, 2009: District environmental analyst Betsy Herbert converses with Regional Water Quality Control Board staffer Dave Hope, recipient of the conference's "Life Time Achievement Award."