

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT  
WEEK ENDING MAY 1, 2009

DATE: April 29, 2009

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending May 1, 2009.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff made an invited presentation to the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment, on April 22, 2009 on the subject of water utility mitigation and adaptation to climate change. One of the charges of the Commission is to advise the Board of Supervisors on potential areas of cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations to plan and implement effective environmental policies in Santa Cruz County.

Staff is collecting data for the District's 2008 greenhouse gas inventory to be submitted to the California Climate Action Registry in June 2009.

#### WATERSHED PLAN

Staff printed 10 color copies, including two public review copies, of the Board Review Draft of the District's Watershed Plan, Part I: Existing Conditions Report" for consideration and approval at the May 7, 2009 board meeting.

Staff has tentatively scheduled a meeting of the Environmental Committee for May 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss Part II of the watershed management plan.

#### EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

The deadline for grant proposal applications is May 1, 2009. Upon receipt of the applications, staff will review and organize them for evaluation by the Education Advisory Commission.

## OLYMPIA WATERSHED

On April 23, 2009 staff received a letter of no-take concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in reference to the District's acacia eradication project at the Olympia Wellfield. This letter gives the District official permission to proceed with burning of downed acacia, though it is now likely that, due to windy conditions and to the relatively high moisture content of the downed trees, that burning will be postponed until the next rainy season.

## WATER CONSERVATION

Staff attended a District drought contingency planning meeting on Thursday, April 23, and edited a letter announcing the continuation of Phase II, mandatory water conservation measures. Staff is working on a second letter and a press release to further publicize Phase II.

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Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.  
Environmental Analyst