

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING MAY 15, 2009

DATE: May 15, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending May 15, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff presented an overview of the District's greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2006 and 2007 for discussion to the Environmental Committee May 14, 2009

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff completed minor requested changes to Part I: Existing Conditions Report approved by the Board on May 7, 2009, and posted the approved version to the District website. The Environmental Committee directed staff on May 14, 2009 to determine the number of printed color copies for distribution, investigate different methods of printing the document, and proceed with the most cost-effective method. The Environmental Committee also directed staff to write a press release to publicize the release of the final version of Part I.

Staff reviewed the status of the District's Watershed Plan, Part II: Goals, Policies, and Practices with the Environmental Committee on May 14, 2009.

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Staff mailed evaluation packets for the 2009 applications to Education Advisory Commission, and comments are due back May 22, 2009. A meeting of the Education Advisory Commission has been scheduled for May 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the applications and recommend funding levels to the Board.

OLYMPIA WATERSHED

On May 11, 2009 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) selected for funding a grant proposal submitted jointly by the District and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County in the amount of \$25,000. The work will begin next fall to remove invasive species from sandhills and sand parkland habitat on the District's newly acquired Olympia wellfield property as well as adjacent land trust property. The funding will be split between the two organizations. Staff will continue to work with USFWS and the land trust to complete the project work plan by July 1, 2009.

WATER CONSERVATION

The Environmental Committee directed staff to research the cost-effectiveness of four water-saving devices for discussion by the committee in terms of potential inclusion under the District's rebate program. The devices included turf replacement, tankless water heaters, drip irrigation conversions, and adjustable volume toilet flush retrofit kits.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Staff attended the first meeting of the District's Public Communications Committee on May 15, 2009.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst