

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING May 29, 2009

DATE: May 28, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending May 29, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff requested and received an extension of 2008 greenhouse gas inventory reporting and verification deadlines from the California Climate Action Registry, until August 30 and December 15, 2009, respectively.

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff sent out a press release announcing that the District's Watershed Management Plan, Part 1: Existing Conditions Report, approved by your Board on May 7, 2009, is now available on-line on the District website. Staff is researching the most cost-effective methods of printing, as well as the demand for hard copies.

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Staff scheduled a meeting on May 28, 2009 with the Education Advisory Commission to review the seven (7) Education Program Grant applications received by the April 30, 2009 deadline. The Commission recommended grant award funding to your Board, as presented in a staff memo under New Business.

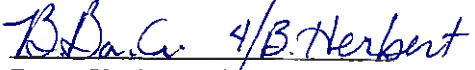
OLYMPIA WATERSHED

Staff has been discussing the administrative details of the joint \$25,000 grant proposal selected for funding by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) earlier this month. Funding will be split between the two proposal applicants, the District and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The District has requested the land trust to take over the administration of the grant, while District staff will focus on scoping out the work plan. 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. Staff will continue to work with USFWS and the land trust to complete the project work plan by July 1, 2009.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff continues to meet with the Water Conservation Coalition to discuss public education and outreach to improve water conservation. Staff is researching, as directed by the Environmental Committee, quantitative information about water-saving devices as potential additions to the District's rebate program.


Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst