

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING June 12, 2009

DATE: June 11, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending June 12, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff met with the Director of Operations to continue updating objectives and policies for Part II of the district watershed plan. Staff is preparing the updated policies and objectives to date for discussion at the June 18, 2009.

EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS

Staff has notified all 2009 Education Program Grant applicants of the Board's funding awards, and has prepared and mailed grant award contracts to three of the four grantees. Staff is scheduling a meeting with the fourth grantee to discuss access to the watershed for her research, and to select the District streams for monitoring.

Staff is preparing information for an additional page on the District website to publicize the Education Program Grant program and its ongoing and new projects.

OLYMPIA WELLFIELD MANAGEMENT

Trespass and trail issues

Staff met with Matt Freeman, Conservation Director, Santa Cruz County Land Trust to discuss fencing, trail and trespass issues at the Olympia wellfield and Geyer properties. Staff contacted the sheriff's office to discuss potential options.

USFWS Partners Grant

Staff is preparing the work plan for the USFWS "Partners Grant" selected for funding last month. Staff worked with Jodi McGraw and Ken Moore to create maps of the District's Olympia wellfield showing sandhills and sand parkland habitats, areas of recent acacia cutting and broom removal,

removal, and areas targeted for removal US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) earlier this month. The work is scheduled to begin in the fall to remove invasive species from sandhills and sand parkland habitat on the District's Olympia wellfield property as well as adjacent land trust property. Staff is working with USFWS and the land trust to complete the project work plan by July 1, 2009.

CalFire shaded fuel break project

Staff organized and attended a site visit with Chief Maxwell of the Zayante Fire Department, Jodi McGraw and Ken Moore to plan treatments and prescriptions along the western boundary of the Olympia Wellfield property. CalFire is scheduled to treat this area beginning June 17, using fire crews from the Ben Lomond Fire Station. Jodi McGraw is drafting prescriptions to protect sandhills and sand parkland habitat. Staff has arranged for Ken Moore to be present on site to work with the CalFire captain heading the project to ensure that Jodi McGraw's prescriptions are implemented.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff met with the Water Conservation Coalition on June 4, 2009 to discuss public education and outreach to improve water conservation, and to provide input to our group's new GardenSoft customized software and Water Saving Tips website <http://www.watersavingtips.org>.

Staff is researching, as directed by the Environmental Committee, quantitative information about water-saving devices as potential additions to the District's rebate program. This information will be discussed at the June 18, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Committee.

Staff is creating a new water conservation flyer to be distributed with customer bills beginning July 15, 2009.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst