

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 30, 2009

DATE: October 29, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending October 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff has prepared an errata sheet to Part I: Existing Conditions Report for distribution with revised acknowledgments sections to the document. Staff is researching recreation policies from other public entities for consideration and discussion at the November 19, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Committee.

DISTRICT'S 2008 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Staff has contracted with E.H. Pechan to verify the District's 2008 greenhouse gas emissions report, which staff submitted to the California Climate Action Registry last month. The verification deadline is December 15, 2009.

OLYMPIA WELLFIELD MANAGEMENT

Staff is coordinating with USFWS to plan and prepare for burning of downed acacia and broom for the coming wet season.

Staff continues to work with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, local consultants, and the District Operations Manager to discuss the work plan for this fall as described in the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife grant agreement. The project involves control of invasive exotic plant species on the District's recently acquired parcels of the Olympia Wellfield property and the land trust's Geyer property.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Staff is scheduled to meet with the inter-agency Water Conservation Coalition on November 2, 2009 to continue designing the local version of the GardenSoft software. The software provides on-line information to local residents to encourage water-saving gardening through

the use of drought-tolerant and native plants. Staff is reviewing and selecting photographs illustrating plantings on hillsides.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CONSERVATION BLUE PRINT

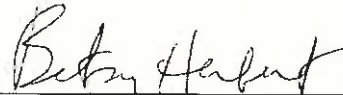
On October 27, 2009 staff attended the fourth technical advisory workshop of the Conservation Blue Print effort led by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The workshop addressed the role of conservation in protecting watershed integrity, water recharge areas, and water supply.

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Staff participated in a joint public meeting of the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment and the County Water Advisory Commission on October 28, 2009. The meeting included a two hour study session addressing climate change and local water supply. Presenters included John Ricker, County Environmental Health, Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District, and Toby Goddard and Heidi Luckenbach, City of Santa Cruz Water Department.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff is reviewing two 2009 Education Grant completion reports.



Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst