

MEMO

TO: District Manager

FROM: Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2010

DATE: April 8, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the District Manager review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending April 9, 2010.

BACKGROUND:

OLYMPIA WELLFIELD MANAGEMENT

Two additional grants that staff applied for earlier this year have been funded. On April 7, 2010 the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) awarded the District \$28,372 in funding for the continued removal of invasive acacia and broom at the Olympia Wellfield. This "Supplemental" grant was one of only ten in the state to receive funding. The application was a joint effort of District staff and the local Weed Management Agency. The local Weed Management Agency awarded the District an additional \$2,500, also for acacia removal, as part of a block grant from the CDFA.

Burning of acacia felled this past year at Olympia wellfield is still underway. Broom pulling, funded under the ongoing USFWS Partners Grant, has begun. Staff has organized a volunteer broom pull at the Olympia Wellfield on Sunday, April 18, 2010. Volunteers were recruited by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County through a Disney program that awards community volunteers with free passes to Disneyland.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Written evaluations of this year's grant applications are due from the Education Advisory Commission on April 12, 2010. A meeting of the Board's Education Advisory Commission to review applications is scheduled for April 19, 2010.

The District received a grant completion report from the Mountain Parks Foundation for its 2008 grant award project, "Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Anadromous Fish Education Program." Staff completed a memo for the Board's consideration and approval at the April 15, 2010 meeting.

WATERSHED PLAN

The public review period is now underway for the Administrative Draft of the District's Watershed Plan, Part II: Goals, Objectives and Policies. Staff posted the Administrative Draft on the District website on April 5, 2010. Staff has contacted all invited peer-reviewers including the local fire station captains. The review period ends on June 6, 2010.

Staff is preparing a draft of the third and final part of the District's Watershed Plan, Part III: Implementation--Management Alternatives and Prescriptions. The Environmental Committee will review and discuss the first section of the document at its next meeting on April 15, 2010.

PUBLIC RELATIONS


Staff drafted a customer survey for review and discussion by the Public Relations Committee at its meeting on April 15, 2010. The questionnaire is designed to identify the types of information that customers would like to receive from the District, and the ways in which they would like to receive it.

WATER CONSERVATION

The Beta version the GardenSoft software is undergoing final review by the Water Conservation Coalition before its release sometime in June 2010.

AWWA SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES COMPENDIUM

Staff received a CD of the 2010 American Water Works Association's "Sustainable Water Resources: A Compendium of Issues and Trends," in which staff's 2007 J. AWWA article "Forest Management by West Coast Water Utilities: Protecting the Source?" was published. Staff is copying the CD and placing in the District's library.


Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst

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