

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING December 14, 2007

DATE: December 13, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending December 14, 2007.

BACKGROUND:

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

This project consists of a complete review and update of the District's Watershed Protection Plan adopted November 4, 1985. Your Board reviewed and accepted the Administrative Draft of Part 1: Existing Conditions Report, Rev. 1.3 for public and peer-review at your regularly scheduled December 6 meeting. Your board also approved the review process and the amended list of invited peer-reviewers recommended by the Environmental Committee, and directed staff to proceed with the review process. The document was posted on the District website on December 12, 2007. Review copies were placed in local libraries, and at the front desk at the District's office. All of the invited peer-reviewers were contacted by email or telephone on December 12, 2007. Staff continues work on activities associated with Part Two of the Watershed Management Plan; Policies, Practices and Recommendations.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff continues to monitor the status of grant completion reports. The application deadline for Science Fair Grants is 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 25, 2008.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has scheduled a meeting of the inter-agency climate change working group for December 19, 2007 at the Scotts Valley Water District. Agencies sending representatives include the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, Scotts Valley Water District, County of Santa Cruz, Soquel Creek Water District, Lompico County Water District, and Central Water District. The agenda includes further discussion of a spring 2008 forum to address issues of climate change impacts on local water resources.

Staff completed training December 4, 2007 for the California Climate Action Registry's on-line carbon emissions inventory and tracking system. Staff has begun entering the District's 2006 data for purchased electricity and mobile fuels.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff attended a Water Awareness Committee meeting at the Soquel Creek Water District on December 7, 2007 to discuss inter-agency water conservation efforts. Representatives from the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners attended to present their plans for their 2008 garden tour and contest emphasizing water-saving gardens. They are seeking water agency sponsorships, and will come back with a budget.

PROPOSED COUNTY REGULATORY CHANGES RE: SMALL STRUCTURES

At their December 4 meeting, the County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to delay consideration of these proposed ordinances until the Planning Department has more fully addressed enforcement and other issues. The item was rescheduled for the February 26, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst