

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING October 26, 2007

DATE: October 25, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending October 26, 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. Staff is completing the administrative draft for Part One of the Watershed Management Plan; Existing Conditions Report. The administrative draft for this section of the report has been reviewed by the Environmental Committee at their January 25, 2007, March 1, 2007, March 15, 2007, April 19, 2007, May 3, 2007, May 24, 2007, June 11, 2007, July 19, 2007, August 16, 2007 and September 6, 2007 meetings. An Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2007. Staff continues work on activities associated with Part Two of the Watershed Management Plan; Policies, Practices and Recommendations.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff has scheduling a special joint meeting of the Education Program Grant Advisory Commission and the Board on November 8, 2007. Your Board approved the date for this meeting at your September 6, 2007 meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for the commissioners to discuss their ideas and recommendations with the Board regarding the District's Education Grant Program.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff is rescheduling the planning meeting with other public water agencies in the county to discuss a local climate change/water resources forum and a research proposal. Staff is also presenting a summary of the District Environmental Committee's efforts with regards to this issue at the October 25, 2007 meeting of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee.

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

On October 24, 2007 staff attended the kick-off meeting of the County's new Commission on the Environment. Staff was appointed by Supervisor Mark Stone to participate on this advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

TIMBER PRODUCTION REZONE

On October 24, 2007 staff attended the County Planning Commission public hearing in support of the county staff's recommendation to increase the minimum parcel size for rezoning to the timber production (TP) zone from 5 acres to 40 acres. The Planning Commission adopted the resolution for approval by the County Board of Supervisors, which will consider the issue sometime in December.

PROPOSED COUNTY ORDINANCES ON SMALL-SCALE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

On October 24, 2007 staff attended the County Planning Commission public hearing to consider reforms of county zoning regulations for small-scale residential structures. Staff submitted a letter, signed by President Larry Prather, summarizing concerns discussed by the Board at its October 18, 2007 meeting. The Planning Commission adopted the resolution to approve the regulation changes, with the caveat that County planning staff would meet with the District to discuss its concerns more fully, before the resolution goes to the Board of Supervisors.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst