

M E M O

TO: District Manager

FROM: Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 11, 2009

DATE: December 10, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the District Manager review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending December 11, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff has refined draft recreation policies in the District's Watershed Plan, Part II: Goals, Objectives and Policies, and will review at the staff level next week, for consideration and discussion at the December 17, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Committee.

DISTRICT'S 2008 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

E.H. Pechan has issued a draft verification report of the District's 2008 greenhouse gas emissions report, which staff submitted to the California Climate Action Registry last month. Some reworking of the report will be necessary to address the registry's methods of assessing the 2008 acquisition of the Felton Water System. Staff has discussed this matter with the CCAR and with EH Pechan, has begun working on the adjustment, and has requested an additional extension until January 15, 2010.

OLYMPIA WELLFIELD MANAGEMENT

Burning has begun of invasive acacia that was cut last season at the Olympia wellfield property. This project was partially funded under a 2009 Weed Management Area grant awarded to the District in 2008. Staff is working on completing grant requirements by the December 15, 2009 deadline. Staff has completed another 2009 Weed Management Area grant completion report, and should be receiving reimbursement shortly. Staff has started work on the new project funded by the USFWS Partners Grant, which involves supervised cutting and treating of standing acacia on additional areas of the Olympia wellfield property.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Staff is continuing to work with the Santa Cruz County Water Conservation Coalition on customizing GardenSoft software to Santa Cruz County.

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Second installment checks were issued to HOWL and the Valley Women's Club for the two 2009 final education grant project reports that were approved at the December 3, 2009 Board meeting. Staff is planning the 2010 grant availability notification process to enable the Board to review and approve the next round of grant awards at its regularly scheduled May 6, 2010 meeting.

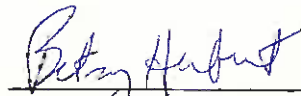
PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff attended as a commissioner the regular meeting of the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment on December 9, 2009.

Staff attended on December 10, 2009 a Blue Circle networking meeting of watershed practitioners, sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION ON DISTRICT WATERSHED PROPERTY

Staff has begun the process of estimating the costs of a project that would inventory current carbon stores, project future stores, and verify these measurements with regards to District watershed property.



Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst

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