

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING August 28, 2009

DATE: August 27, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending August 28, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

WATERSHED PLAN

Staff is drafting objectives and policies for Chapter 6, "Recreational, Cultural, Historical & Educational Resources," Part II of the District's watershed plan, to be discussed at the September 17, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Committee. Staff is preparing additional documents for a continuing discussion of fire management at the meeting.

DISTRICT'S 2008 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Staff is preparing to submit the District's 2008 greenhouse gas emissions inventory to the California Climate Action Registry. The inventory is due by the end of August 2009.

OLYMPIA WELLFIELD MANAGEMENT

Staff has scheduled a tentative meeting between invasive exotic plant species eradication specialist Ken Moore, the District Environmental Analyst, and the District Operations Manager to discuss the timing and methodology of acacia and broom burn pile preparation for the coming wet season.

The USFWS Partners grant, awarded jointly to the District and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, for a project to continue invasive exotic plant species at the Olympia Wellfield property and the Geyer property, will be funded as soon as the papers are signed and returned to USFWS.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM


Staff is scheduled to meet with the inter-agency Water Conservation Coalition on September 10, 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.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff attended the August 26, 2009 meeting of the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment meeting, where the Commission scheduled a joint meeting and forum with the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment, on October 28, 2009. The speakers' forum would address water supply issues relative to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including an overview of county-wide integrated water resource management, local water conservation efforts, and the City of Santa Cruz desalination project.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CONSERVATION BLUE PRINT

Staff serves on the steering committee of the Conservation Blue Print for Santa Cruz County, a collaborative project of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The project is aimed at identifying key lands for conservation throughout the county and is funded in part by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Staff will attend the first technical advisory workshop, "Biodiversity Planning for Vegetation and Plants" on September 2, 2009 at the UCSC Arboretum.


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Environmental Analyst