

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

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

DATE: September 14, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending September 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. 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 and September 6, 2007 meetings. An Environmental Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2007 to review the final Administrative Draft of Part One, including the Executive Summary. Staff continues work on activities associated with Part Two of the Watershed Management Plan; Policies, Practices and Recommendations.

WATER CONSERVATION

Staff is participating with the Santa Cruz County Water Awareness Committee, relating to its campaign of water-wise gardening and conservation in landscaping. The committee will host its first annual Water-wise Landscape Design Contest as part of the 2007 Santa Cruz County Fair, September 11 - 16.

DISTRICT EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Staff is preparing a flyer to be mailed with materials of the Santa Cruz County School District to publicize the District's Education Grant Program's Science Fair grants for the 2008 Science Fair. Staff is scheduling a joint meeting of the Education Grant Advisory Commission and Board sometime after Labor Day weekend, to discuss the upcoming grant funding cycle.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Staff has organized a planning meeting on September 19 to discuss, with other public water agencies in the county, sponsoring a climate change/water resources forum and to seek partners in funding a research proposal from Peter Gleick, Ph.D.

Staff is scheduled to complete the membership orientation training with the California Climate Action Registry on September 5.

RALSTON TANK SITE

Staff reviewed the CEQA Initial Study prepared by consultants for the Ralston tank site.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst

BH/bsb