

## **M E M O**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

**SUBJECT:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT  
WEEK ENDING July 31, 2009

**DATE:** July 30, 2009

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs Status Report for the week ending July 31, 2009.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **WATERSHED PLAN**

Staff has scheduled a meeting with the District Manager and Director of Operations to update objectives and policies for Chapter 5, "Fire Management," Part II of the district watershed plan. The updated policies and objectives are to be discussed at the August 19, 2009 Environmental Committee meeting.

#### **DISTRICT'S 2008 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY**

Staff is analyzing the District's 2008 greenhouse gas emissions in preparation for the August 30, 2009 reporting deadline to the California Climate Action Registry.

#### **EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS**

Staff reviewed two 2008 grant completion reports, and prepared a staff memo recommending that the board review and accept these reports.

#### **OLYMPIA WELLFIELD MANAGEMENT**

Staff attended a Cal-IPC field workshop at the Zayante Fire Station and the Olympia wellfield on July 21. The workshop, led by Ken Moore, demonstrated advanced mechanical methods of removing acacia and broom, and was attended by approximately 30 public land managers and practitioners from various parts of the state.

### **USFWS Partners Grant**

Staff worked with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to complete and submit the project work plan for the District's USFWS "Partners Grant" for the Olympia watershed and Geyer properties, and is now awaiting the final contract from USFWS.

### **Weed Management Area Grant**

Staff is working with the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District to finalize the contract for the District's 2009 grant award to continue with acacia eradication on the Olympia wellfield.

### **WATER CONSERVATION**

Staff is working with the District Manager and the Director of Operations to draft a report summarizing the recommendations of the Environmental Committee to update the District's water conservation credit and rebate program.

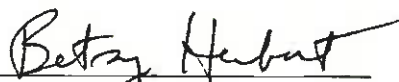
Staff met with the Water Awareness Committee on July 23 to review the beta version of the group's GardenSoft software, which is being customized for Santa Cruz County. The software will be accessible on the web, and uses photographs of local water-wise gardens to further encourage and facilitate the selection of drought tolerant native plants throughout the county. Staff is cooperatively working on selecting appropriate photos of gardens and plants.

### **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CONSERVATION BLUE PRINT**

Staff attended the initial meeting of the newly formed Steering Committee for the "Conservation BluePrint for Santa Cruz County," a collaborative project of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, aimed at identifying key lands for conservation throughout the county, and is funded in part by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The steering committee will meet 4-6 times over the next 16 months to guide the planning process and ensure the integrity of the project's scientific approaches and process. County-wide technical workshops on a variety of topics are being planned. The first workshop, Biodiversity Planning for Vegetation and Plants will take place on September 2, 2009 at the UCSC Arboretum.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

At the invitation of the Willowbrook Residential Home in Ben Lomond, staff gave a presentation on July 29 to the residents about watershed protection and water conservation. The talk was followed by a group hike to Fall Creek, and began with a brief viewing of the District's water uptake on Fall Creek.

  
Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.  
Environmental Analyst