

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT
WEEK ENDING August 10, 2007

DATE: August 9, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Programs status report for the week ending August 10, 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, and July 19, 2007 meetings. An Environmental Committee meeting of August 16, 2007 included the review of the completed Administrative Draft of Part One. 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 continuing to solicit 2006 and 2007 Education Grant Completion Reports. Staff is coordinating with the Santa Cruz County School District to publicize the District's Education Grant Program's Science Fair grants for the 2008 Santa Cruz 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 is exploring partnerships with other water agencies in funding a research proposal from Peter Gleick, Ph.D., and in sponsoring a climate change/water resources forum to include Dr. Gleick's presentation, and other local climate change experts.

The District became a member of the California Climate Action Registry on August 7, 2007, and staff is now eligible to attend on-line member orientation and carbon emissions inventory procedures training.

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.
Environmental Analyst

BH/bsb