

M E M O

To: Board of Directors
From: District Manager
Subject: INVASIVE SPECIES POLICY
Date: May 11, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors discuss this matter and provide direction to staff regarding this matter.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 3, 2007 Board of Director's Meeting, Director McPherson requested that the subject matter be agendized for discussion. Introduced or non-indigenous invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and affect ecosystems health. In addition, invasive species represent an increased fire danger due to infestations of highly flammable plants.

The District's existing Watershed Protection Plan, adopted November 4, 1985 contains the following policy relevant to invasive species, in the Vegetation and Wildlife Goals and Policies Section.

Policy No. 8

Where feasible, or when outside assistance is available, remove invasive non-native species of plants such as acacia, broom, english ivy, periwinkle and pampas grass from the District watershed lands. The Olympia Wellfield should have first priority due to the sand parkland habitat and the extensive acacia stands already established there.

Staff is currently in the process of completing a review and update of the existing Watershed Protection Plan. Part One of the new Watershed Management Plan will be a general description of the Watershed and Existing Conditions Report. The Administrative Draft of Part One has been reviewed by the Environmental Committee on several occasions. Part One is approximately 90% complete. Estimated completion date for Part One is June 2007.

Part Two of the new Watershed Management Plan will contain Policies, Practices and Recommendations. Staff is currently working on Part Two. It is estimated that Part Two will be submitted to the Environmental Committee in July 2007.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors discuss this matter and provide direction to staff regarding this matter.

James Mueller
District Manager

JAM/bsb