

M E M O

To: Board of Directors

From: District Manager

Subject: RECOMMENDATIONS OF EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORY
COMMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED EDUCATION PROGRAM
GRANTS

Date: APRIL 13, 2006

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board receive and consider the recommendations of the Education Program Advisory Commission regarding the current proposed Education Program Grants and provide direction to staff regarding the Board's award of said proposed grants.

BACKGROUND:

On June 5, 2003 your Board approved District Ordinance No. 100 which created and established the San Lorenzo Valley Water District Education Program Advisory Commission. The purpose of the Education Program Advisory Commission is to advise the Board of Directors regarding the selection and allocation of education program grants.

At the November 15, 2005 Education Program Advisory Commission meeting, the Commission directed staff to notice the availability of grant funds. In addition, the Commission also directed Staff to specifically develop and notice a separate application process for Science Fair Projects. The Science Fair Project Education Grant Program encouraged grant applications with funding levels at or less than \$200.00 for Science Fair Projects which enhanced the understanding of the San Lorenzo River Watershed or improved the watershed's environmental health. Staff developed a simplified application process for the Science Fair Project Education Grant Program.

Staff noticed the availability of grant funding by direct mail to interested citizens, community groups and local schools, on the Districts website and through published display ads in local newspapers. The deadline for submittal of Education Grant Program Proposal Applications for this funding cycle was January 20, 2006. The deadline for Submittal of Science Fair Project Education Grant Program Proposal Applications was January 27, 2006.

In response to the Notice of Available for Education Grant Program Funding, the District received eleven (11) Grant Proposal Applications. See Attachment 1. The aggregate dollar amount of general grant applications received for the January 20, 2006 funding cycle was \$27,710.25. In response to the Notice of Availability for Science Fair Projects Funding,

the District received two (2) Science Fair Project Grant Proposal Applications. The aggregate dollar amount of the Science Fair Grant Applications for the January 27, 2006 funding cycle was \$400.00. See Attachment 2. For Fiscal Year 2005/2006 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006), the District's budget provides for the availability of \$17,500.00 in total Education Grant Program Funds. To date, no Fiscal Year 2005/2006 Education Grant Program Funds have been allocated by your Board

At the February 25, 2006 Education Program Advisory Commission meeting, the Commission established guidelines for the evaluation and scoring of Grant Proposal Applications. In general, the guidelines established that each Commissioner would independently evaluate and score each Grant Proposal Application using an established scoring matrix. Upon completion of the independent reviews by each Commissioner, the scored Grant Proposal Applications were returned to District staff. The scores for each proposal were compiled by District staff and each Grant Proposal Application was assigned an overall proposal rating. Due to the resignation of one (1) Education Program Commissioner the overall proposal ratings for this funding cycle was based on a review by the remaining four (4) Commissioners. See Attachment 3.

At the April 5, 2006 Education Program Advisory Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed and discussed the aggregate scores and ranking order of the Education Grant and Science Fair Applications received relative to the current funding cycle. At said Commission meeting, the Commission recommended the funding and allocation of San Lorenzo Valley Water District Education Program Grants to nine (9) applications in the aggregate amount of \$17,500.50. The recommended applications and funding amounts are as follows:

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

1. The Outdoors as a Context for Cultivating Little Learners in the San Lorenzo Valley Watershed; Stacie Fletcher, Little Peoples School.
Grant amount requested: \$2,492.50
Recommended Grant Funding Level: \$2,492.50
2. Creek Exploration Curriculum Enhancement for Improved Watershed Health; Tom Folkert, Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School.
Grant amount requested: \$1,898.00
Recommended Grant Funding Level: \$1,898.00
3. Watershed Cruzin' Teachers Workshop for San Lorenzo and Scotts Valley; Jennifer Sterns, Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District.
Grant amount requested: \$3,863.75
Recommended Grant Funding Level: \$2,500.00
4. Design and installation Interpretual Panels describing the Santa Cruz Sandhills; Jodi M. McGraw, Sandhills Alliance for Natural Diversity.
Grant amount requested: \$2,440.00

	Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$2,440.00
5.	Ruggedized Laptop for Watershed Studies; Jane Orbuch, Watershed Academy, San Lorenzo Valley High School.	
	Grant amount requested:	\$2,651.00
	Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$2,500.00
6.	The San Lorenzo River Watershed; What is it and why is it important?; Fred McPherson.	
	Grant amount requested:	\$2,500.00
	Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$2,500.00
7.	Smart Gardening Fair; Sheryl McEwan, Monterey Bay Mater Gardeners.	
	Grant amount requested:	\$2,500.00
	Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$970.00
8.	Boulder Creek Elementary Loves the San Lorenzo River; Rita Peddy, Boulder Creek Elementary School	
	Grant amount requested:	\$2,500.00
	Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$970.00

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM SUBTOTAL	\$17,300.50
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SCIENCE FAIR GRANT PROGRAM

9.	San Lorenzo Watershed Tributary Contamination Study, Caitlyn Chistensen and Kristi Hanssen.	
	Grant amount requested:	\$200.00
	Recommended Grant Funding Level:	\$200.00

SCIENCE FAIR GRANT PROGRAM SUBTOTAL	\$200.00
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GRAND TOTAL	17,500.50
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It is recommended that the Board of Directors review this memo and provide direction to staff regarding the Board's award of said proposed grants.

James Mueller
District Manager

JAM/bsb
Attachment

EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM JANUARY 20, 2006

The following Education Grant Program Grant Proposal Applications were received by the District in response to the Notice of Availability of Grant Funds date January 20, 2006:

1. Boulder Creek Elementary Loves the San Lorenzo River (\$2,500.00).
Rita Peddy; Boulder Creek Elementary School
Proposed project to purchase five (5) new computers (\$500.00/each) to assist in an environmental studies program to understand how to protect the watershed.
2. Creek Exploration Curriculum Enhancement for Improved Watershed Health (\$1,898.00).
Tim Folkert; Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School
Proposed project to add new curriculum to the Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School program relative to water quality and conservation in the watershed.
3. Design and Installation Interpretive Panels Describing the Santa Cruz Sandhills (\$2,440.00).
Jodi M. McGraw; Sandhills Alliance for Natural Diversity
Proposed project to design and install interpretive panels at three (3) locations to increase awareness of the Santa Cruz Sandhills ecosystem.
4. INTERACTIVE COMICS-BY KIDS FOR KIDS; WATER: Going... Going....? (\$2,500.00).
Delores L. Palmer; WeWrite LLC
Proposed project to coordinate the creation of an interactive comic-page packet relative to water.
5. O'Neill Sea Odyssey Education Folders (\$1,865.00).
Dan Haifley, O'Neill Sea Odyssey
Proposed project to fund the printing of watershed education "take home folders."
6. Ruggedized Laptop for Watershed Studies (\$2,651.00).
Jane Orbuch; Watershed Academy, San Lorenzo Valley High School
Proposed project to fund the purchase of a ruggedized laptop computer for student and staff field use.
7. Smart Gardening Faire (\$2,500.00).
Sheryl McEwan; Monterey Bay Master Gardeners
Proposed project to provide educational outreach relative to the watershed through a "Smart Gardening Faire".

8. The Outdoors as a Context for Cultivating Little Learners in the San Lorenzo Valley Watershed (\$2,492.50).
Stacia Fletcher; The Little People's School in Boulder Creek
Proposed project to develop watershed-based classroom and outdoor learning experiences for preschool and kindergarten students.
9. The San Lorenzo River Watershed: What Is It and Why Is It Important? (\$2,500.00).
Fred Mc Pherson
Proposed project to produce an introductory video documentary about the San Lorenzo River and its watershed.
10. Wastewater Treatment System-Education Garden (\$2,500.00).
Marja E. vanden Hende; YMCA of the Redwoods/Camp Campbell
Proposed project to construct an educational garden and activities in association with an engineered wastewater system.
11. Watershed Cruzin' Teachers Workshop for San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley Teachers in Grades 4-8 (\$3,863.75).
Jennifer Stern; Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District
Proposed project for five (5) teacher workshops which introduces "Watershed Cruzin': An Activity Guide to Santa Cruz County Watersheds," a classroom and field based curriculum and activity guide to workshop participants.

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**EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM
SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS
JANUARY 27, 2006**

The following Science Fair Education Grant Program Grant Proposal Applications were received by the District in response to the Notice of Availability of Science Fair Project Grant Funds dated January 27, 2006.

1. San Lorenzo Watershed Tributary Contamination Study (\$200.00)

Caitlyn Christensen and Kristi Hassen

Proposal to purchase test kits and equipment to test for contamination where major tributaries enter the San Lorenzo River.

2. SLV Charter School Science Fair Sponsored by Boulder Creek Homeschool (\$200.00)

Barbara Verhage

Proposal to purchase supplies for the SLV Charter Science Fair a noncompetitive event open to K-12 Charter students and 4-6 grade Boulder Creek Elementary School.