

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report
DATE: January 19, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for December 2022.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

FIRE/FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS

Information on grants related to fire management and fuel reduction/hardening can be found in the "FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING" section of this report.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

- Hardening of 13 pump house structures (~300k)
- Application submitted to IRWM group on December 9, 2022

State Revolving Fund for Consolidations

- Staff working on applications for Big Basin Water consolidation & Bear Creek Estates Waste Water system consolidation into County.
- Median Household Income survey in process for Bear Creek Wastewater to determine Disadvantaged Community (DAC) status (100% grant funded if DAC).

DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program

- Application submitted in December 2022

Upcoming grants:

- DWR 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant

SEE GRANT TRACKING TABLE AT END OF REPORT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DISTRICT GRANTS APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

WATER RIGHTS (On-going)

CONJUNCTIVE USE WATER RIGHT PETITIONS – FELTON

Legal Counsel currently reviewing draft petition.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

Regulatory agency permitting (including diversion permitting) in progress.

NOP to be released in February 2023.

SANDHILLS HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) FOR THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DECEMBER 2022)

Draft chapters received and are in review by staff. Engineering & Environmental Committee to receive update and presentation in February 2023.

CIP PROJECT PERMITTING

Staff is working to secure permits for the following Projects:

1. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - Waiting FEMA approval for alternate access route
 - Permitting process to kick-off once alternative route approved
1. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - Geotechnical peer-review complete
 - Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting Board direction
2. Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
 - CEQA NOE to be refiled with updated easement information.
 - Staff & legal working to secure easements
3. Blue Ridge Tank
 - CEQA IS-MND adopted.
 - NOE filed for geotechnical work
4. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
 - Consultant developing IS-MND
5. Big Basin Water Consolidation
 - Staff working on state revolving fund planning application
6. Felton Heights Tank
 - Environmental permitting contract awarded

- Awaiting site selection
- 7. Bear Creek Estates
 - Median Household Income (MHI) survey in process
- 8. Alta Via
 - NOE to be filed
- 9. Zayante drive pipeline
 - NOE & CEQA checklist in process
- 10. Fall Creek Fish Ladder
 - Project construction RFP open.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING (ONGOING)

Staff prepared a RFP for on-going maintenance of fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. Released in December – closes February 17th, 2023.

The District was awarded grant for CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant program to continue fuel reduction at infrastructure sites.

SANITARY SURVEY

Staff working with the City of Santa Cruz to complete an updated Sanitary Survey. Draft prepared and completing final staff review. Board approval expected in February 2023.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Trespassing was reported in December. Mountain biker informed of trespassing and fence fixed.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

Reported dirt bike activity on Zayante parcels. Staff working to post no trespassing signs and to block access.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 22/23 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 34.99 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Awaiting Miller Maxfield report (staff will include in January status report).

NETWORKING & COLLABORATIONS

GREEN BUSSINESS PROGRAM

In 2017 the District was certified as a Santa Cruz County Green Business. Staff is working with Green Business certifiers to complete certification for 2021-2022.

SANTA CRUZ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM EARTH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (NOVEMBER 2021)

Program to restart in February 2023.