

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report
DATE: March 10, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for February 2023.

GRANTS (ONGOING)

FIRE/FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS

The District was awarded grant for CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant program to continue fuel reduction at infrastructure sites, awaiting lead agency's completion of the CalVTP.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

State Revolving Fund for Consolidations

- Staff working on applications for 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 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant

- Application submitted in January 2023
- Proposal sent as informational item to BoD

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Efficiency Grant Program

- Awarded 100k for AMI installation

Upcoming grants:

Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Efficiency Grant Program

- Pursue all remaining meter replacements

Congressional Community Project Funding

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation focused funding opportunity with 20% match (past awards ranged from \$45,000-5,000,000)
- Application due March 15, 2023

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.

Notice of Preparation pushed for release (staff aiming for March 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 once staff review is complete.

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
 - Tree survey scope received
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.
4. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation

- Consultant developing IS-MND
- NOE filed for geotechnical work
- 5. Felton Heights Tank
 - Environmental permitting contract awarded
 - Awaiting site selection
- 6. Bear Creek Estates
 - Median Household Income (MHI) survey in process
- 7. Alta Via
 - NOE filed March 2023
- 8. Zayante drive pipeline
 - NOE & CEQA checklist in process
- 9. Fall Creek Fish Ladder
 - Project construction contract awarded.
 - Prepping for biological surveys to kick-off
- 10. Orman, Hermosa, and Juanita Pipelines
 - NOEs filed March 2023

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING (ONGOING)

Staff prepared an RFQ for on-going maintenance of fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. The RFQ closed on February 17th, 2023. 8 statements of qualifications were received. Staff is currently evaluating the SOQs and will bring the information to the Engineering and Environmental Committee in April 2023 prior to awarding contracts.

SANITARY SURVEY

Sanitary Survey complete and submitted to the State Waterboard in March 2023. Board acceptance pending tonight's meeting (3/16/23).

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

No trespassing reported in February.

WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)

None reported in February. No trespassing signs ordered and planned for placement in common trespassing areas in April 2023.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2. Staff reviewing current conditions in preparation of potentially moving into a Stage 1.

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 22/23 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 51.63 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Miller Maxfield provides outreach summary on a quarterly basis. For latest outreach information see February 2023's 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 2021-2023.

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

Program to restart in March 2023.