

## M E M O

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: District Manager  
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager  
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report  
DATE: February 8, 2023

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

### **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

##### DWR 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Grant

- Application submitted in January 2023

## 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

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. Big Basin Water Consolidation
  - Hold 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Tour of sites completed on 2/8/23.

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.

### **SANITARY SURVEY**

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

### **OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)**

No trespassing reported in January.

### **WATERSHED TRESPASS (ONGOING)**

None reported in January.

## **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 41.52 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

See attached report provided by Miller Maxfield.

### **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.