

M E M O

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report
DATE: August 18, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for July/August 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

Bureau of reclamation Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects – WaterSMART grant

- i. Application submitted April 29th for \$100k toward AMI meter upgrades

Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resiliency Grant

- ii. 2021 final progress & request for disbursement submitted
- iii. 2022 application not awarded

Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- iv. Subapplications submitted April 8th, 2022
- v. County MOU approved by Board of Directors
- vi. Request for information being completed by staff

California's Department of Fish & Wildlife's Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs

- vii. Application submitted in March 2022
- viii. ~1.1 million for the Fall Creek Fish Ladder construction project awarded

CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant

- ix. Pump house hardening not awarded
- x. ~\$350,000 awarded for fuel reduction around infrastructure

Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

- i. Three project proposals submitted hardening of pump house structures, AMI meter replacement, and Quail Hollow Well project.

Upcoming grants:

- xi. CAL FIRE – California Forest Improvement Program
- xii. DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program

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

Staff preparing to submit water right petitions. Legal Counsel currently reviewing draft petition.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)

CONJUNCTIVE USE

Project description draft completed and reviewed by Board of Directors (BoD) on 8/4/22

CDFW & NMFS permitting for all surface water diversions (Fall Creek, Peavine, Clear Creek, Sweetwater, and Foreman) in progress. Site walks conducted in July 2022.

Meeting with City of Santa Cruz conducted in July 2022.

SANDHILLS HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) FOR THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DECEMBER 2021)

Consultant confirmed draft sandhills HCP will be ready for BoD review by October 2022. Detailed schedule below.

Deliverable	Anticipated Timeline	Assumptions
Administrative Draft Chapters		

Covered Activities (Ch. 2)	4/29/2022	District provides additional documents (fire management plan, etc.) by 3/25/22
Environmental Setting (Ch. 3)	5/31/2022	
Impacts and Take Assessment (Ch. 4)	6/30/2022	
Conservation Program (Ch. 5)	7/31/2022	District agrees upon avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures by 5/31/22
Implementation (Ch. 6)	8/31/2022	
Funding (Ch. 7)	8/31/2022	
Alternatives	8/31/2022	
Agency Draft	10/15/2022	District provides final feedback by 9/23/22

CIP PROJECT PERMITTING

Staff is working to secure permits for the following Projects:

- b. Lyon Treatment Plant Access Road Slide (FEMA funded - 2023)
 - i. CALOES agreed with alternate access route
 - ii. Waiting FEMA approval for alternate access route
 - iii. Permitting process to kick-off once alternative route approved
- c. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
 - i. Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting pending geotechnical peer-review
- d. Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
 - i. CEQA NOE to be refiled with updated easement information.
 - ii. Staff working to secure easements
- e. Blue Ridge Tank
 - i. CEQA kick-off held in June 2022
 - ii. Drafted project description in review by staff
 - iii. Forester scheduled to complete tree/vegetation surveys
- f. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
 - i. Request for Proposal (RFP) for environmental permitting released.
- g. Big Basin Water Consolidation
 - i. Meetings with state, county, and federal agencies to determine potential funding sources
 - ii. Boil water notice active for 25 connections
- h. Felton Heights Tank
 - i. Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting in process
- i. Fall Creek Fish Ladder
 - i. Project postponed
 - ii. Salvaged plants from site to be donated to library system
 - iii. Staff alerting all permitting agencies
 - iv. Block nets removed. Will need to replace flashboards.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT/ STEWARDSHIP

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING (ONGOING)

Staff prepared a RFP for on-going maintenance of fuel reduction around critical infrastructure. Pending release.

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. Water quality data provided.

OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Annual contract with the Land Trust contract was renewed and no trespassing was reported in May or June.

WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2

Assessment (AWSDA) as required by the California Water Code and summarized in the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), report submitted July 1, 2022.

URBAN WATER MANGEMENT PLAN

Approved by state

RAIN UPDATE

Water year 21/22 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) totals in downtown Boulder Creek thus far are approximately 35.28 inches. For current rain fall totals visit <https://www.slvwd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

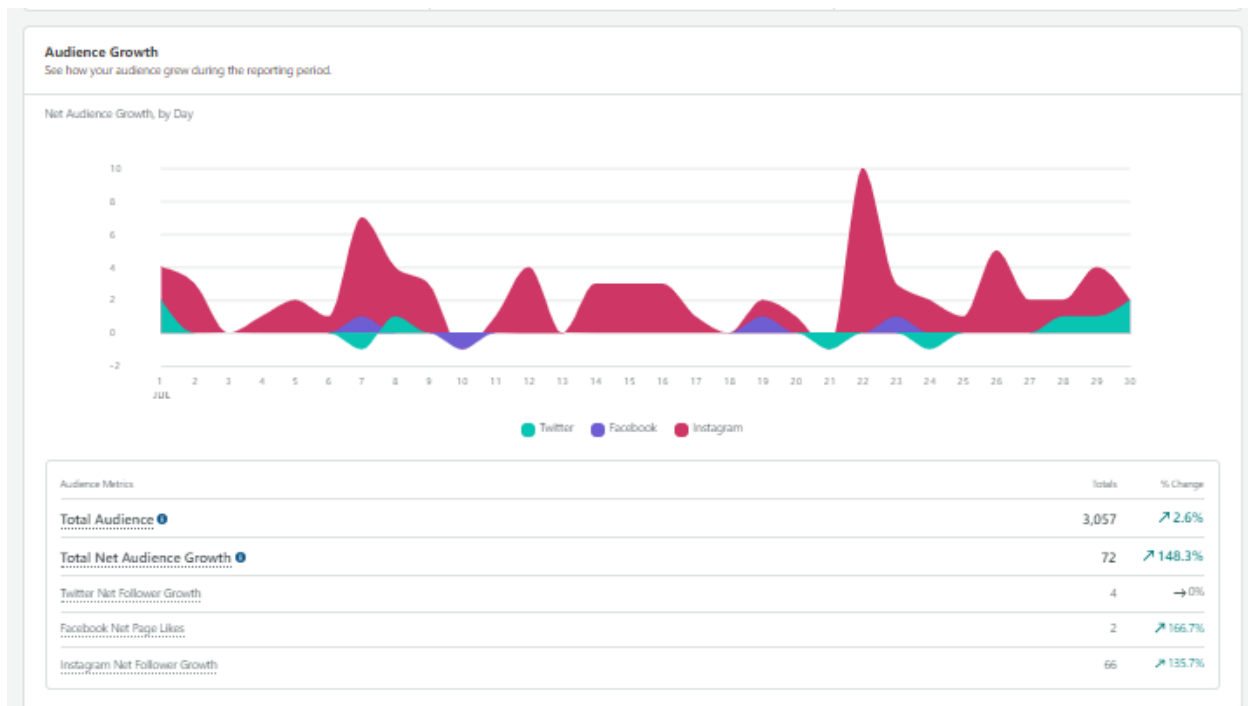
OUTREACH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP for District outreach consultant closed July 28th, 2022. Three proposals received. Administrative Committee to recommend consultant to Board of Directors in September.

BUZZ PR

Buzz is working with staff on outreach through daily updates, distributing information to press, social media sites, and print sources.

JULY PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (BELOW)



AUGUST OUTREACH (AS OF 8/9/22)

Hiring post
Administrative Committee member opening
National Water Quality Month
RCD Chipping program
FAQ

JULY OUTREACH

Hiring post
Postage increase – sign-up for online billing
Water saving tips
4th of July post
Board of Directors meeting
FAQ
State Executive Water Conservation Order
Calendar of events
Engineering/Environmental Committee meeting cancelled
CZU information
Administrative Committee Update
Customer Service information
Rate Assistance
Fix a leak
Emergency preparedness
Administrative Committee member opening
811
After hours
Newsletter – subscribe
Star/stop service
Autopay

JUNE OUTREACH

CIP

WaterSmart gardening

Water conservation

Emergency preparedness

BoD meetings

Committee Meetings

Water Master Plan

Quail Hollow Pipeline

FAQ

Online bill pay

Customer Service

Leaks

Rate assistance program

Subscribe to newsletter

Start/stop service

Hydration day

CZU fire information

MAY OUTREACH

May newsletter

BoD & Committee meetings

CZU Fire update

Committee opening

FAQ

Subscribe newsletter r& updates

Gardening tips

Autopay

Rate assistance program

State of the District report

811

System flushing

Drought info.

Staff spotlight

System leak detection

Emergency preparedness

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 August 2022.