

## M E M O

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: District Manager  
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager  
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report  
DATE: October 20, 2022

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

- Application submitted April 29<sup>th</sup> for \$100k toward AMI meter upgrades. Still under reclamation review.

Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Subapplications submitted April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Request for information completed by staff

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

- ~1.1 million awarded for the Fall Creek Fish Ladder construction project.
- Grant agreement awaiting signature.

CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant

- ~\$350,000 awarded for fuel reduction around infrastructure

#### Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

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

#### 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 needed for Bear Creek Wastewater to determine Disadvantaged Community (DAC) status (100% grant funded if DAC).

#### Upcoming grants:

- 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

Legal Counsel currently reviewing draft petition.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ONGOING)**

##### CONJUNCTIVE USE

Budget approved by BoD on 8/18/22. Awaiting execution of Rincon's contract amendments.

Project description feedback received from BoD and to be incorporated into draft.

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

Follow up request with consultant for draft sandhills HCP made in September 2022. Awaiting update.

Deliverable	Anticipated Timeline	Assumptions
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<b>Administrative Draft Chapters</b>		
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	
<b>Agency Draft</b>	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)
  - Waiting FEMA approval for alternate access route
  - Permitting process to kick-off once alternative route approved
- c. 5-mile and Peavine pipeline
  - Development of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for environmental permitting pending geotechnical peer-review
  - Staff determining if tree survey can move ahead prior to peer-review completion.
- d. Huckleberry Island pipeline replacement
  - Staff working to secure easements
  - Staff planning to refile CEQA NOE once easement secured
- e. Blue Ridge Tank
  - CEQA IS-MND released for public review on 10/14/22
- f. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
  - Contract awarded, awaiting legal review of contract prior to execution
- g. Big Basin Water Consolidation
  - Meetings with state, county, and federal agencies to determine potential funding sources
  - Staff working on State Revolving Fund application for funding.
- h. Felton Heights Tank
  - BoD approval of contract for environmental services to be awarded by BoD on 10/20/22
- i. Fall Creek Fish Ladder
  - Will need to replace flashboard & install erosion control

## **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. Draft prepared and completing final staff review.

### OLYMPIA PATROL (ONGOING)

Annual contract with the Land Trust contract was renewed and no trespassing was reported in September.

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

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

#### OUTREACH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Outreach contract awarded to Miller Maxfield Inc. in August 2022.

## Performance Summary

View your key profile performance metrics from the reporting period.



### Impressions

9,184 ↘81%

### Engagements

460 ↘72.7%

### Post Link Clicks

18 ↘82.4%

### Engagement Rate (per impression)

5% ↗44%

## Audience Growth

See how your audience grew during the reporting period.

Net Audience Growth, by Day



Audience Metrics	Totals	% Change
Total Audience	3,155	↗1.5%
Total Net Audience Growth	24	↘52%
Twitter Net Follower Growth	4	↗100%
Facebook Net Page Likes	8	↗14.3%
Instagram Net Follower Growth	12	↘70.7%

## OCTOBER PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (BELOW)

Open job positions

Drought

Rainfall update

Billing

Rebates

## SEPTEMBER OUTREACH (THROUGH 9/8/22)

Customer service information

Heat wave

Quail Hollow Pipeline

SMGWA event

Labor day closure

Payment options

Water main break information

Toilet rebate

## AUGUST OUTREACH

Hiring post

Administrative Committee member opening

National Water Quality Month

RCD Chipping program

FAQ

Drought information  
811  
BoD  
Subscribe newsletter  
Quail Hollow Pipeline  
Autopay  
CZU update  
Heat wave posts

## **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.