

## M E M O

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: District Manager  
PREPARED BY: Environmental Programs Manager  
SUBJECT: Environmental Department Status Report  
DATE: September 15, 2022

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file the Environmental Department status report for August/September 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 being 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 legal review prior to 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.
- Invited to submit pump house hardening project for funding consideration.

#### 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:

- CAL FIRE – California Forest Improvement Program
- 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

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

Budget approved by BoD on 8/18/22. Awaiting legal review of 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 with consultant for draft sandhills HCP BoD review by October 2022 completed. Awaiting feedback from consultant to confirm schedule below is still accurate.

Deliverable	Anticipated Timeline	Assumptions
<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
- e. Blue Ridge Tank
  - CEQA kick-off held in June 2022
  - Drafted project description in review by staff
  - Forester completed tree/vegetation surveys in August
  - AB52 tribal consultation in process.
- f. Bracken Brae & Forest Springs Consolidation
  - Request for Proposal (RFP) for environmental permitting closed, BoD to award contract 9/15/22
- 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

- Request for Proposal (RFQ) for environmental permitting released and closes 8/28/22

i. Fall Creek Fish Ladder

- Project postponed
- Salvaged plants from site to be donated to library system
- Staff alerted all permitting agencies
- 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 August.

## **WATER CONSERVATION (ONGOING)**

### EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

District in Water Shortage Stage 2

### 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.slwvd.com/about-us/pages/local-weather-rainfall>

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

### OUTREACH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

### BUZZ PR

Buzz is working with staff on outreach through daily updates, distributing information to press, social media sites, and print sources (until October 6<sup>th</sup>).

## AUGUST PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (BELOW)

### Performance Summary

View your key profile performance metrics from the reporting period.



#### Impressions

48,476 ↗ 431.7%

#### Engagements

1,686 ↗ 418.8%

#### Post Link Clicks

102 ↗ 292.3%

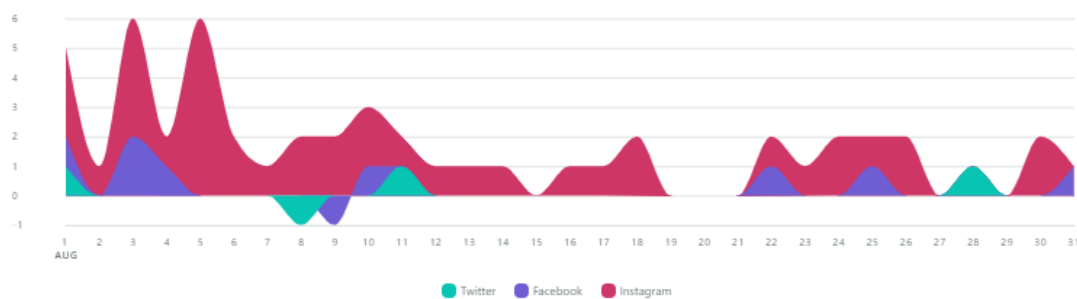
#### Engagement Rate (per Impression)

3.5% ↘ 2.4%

### Audience Growth

See how your audience grew during the reporting period.

Net Audience Growth, by Day



Audience Metrics	Totals	% Change
Total Audience	3,108	↗ 1.6%
Total Net Audience Growth	50	↘ 32.4%
Twitter Net Follower Growth	2	↘ 60%
Facebook Net Page Likes	7	↗ 250%
Instagram Net Follower Growth	41	↘ 38.8%

## 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

### JULY OUTREACH

Hiring post  
Postage increase – sign-up for online billing  
Water saving tips  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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.