

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER 

DATE: 10/06/2010

AGENDA ITEM
2
OCT 11, 2010

ITEM 2: EVENTS

ITEM

Event summaries. [RECEIVE INFORMATION AND DISCUSS EVENTS].

BACKGROUND

Creek Day 2010. The event had 24 participants. SLO County staff set up the event in the empty field behind the NCSD lift station. It was difficult to see from Tefft, and there were no signs pointing to the event. County staff brought a lot of enthusiasm and handout stuff, as well as a beautifully arranged morning-snack basket. We shared our give-aways with the attendees, and county staff sent back with me several copies of two different Sammy-the-Steelhead-Trout stormwater-pollution prevention activity books. The participants spread out in the community and cleaned up lots, streets, and other public spaces. The County made arrangements for sandwiches, and purchased them. There were six Spanish-only-speaking adults who visited the booth, and we only had one handout in Spanish. Consideration of having Spanish water-conservation information available might be indicated.

October Festival 2010. Oral report will be provided.

Chipping Event 2010. The following is a summary of the 2008 Chipping Event participation and costs.

2008 Chipping Event Summary								
	#Participants	% of Total Participants	CubicFeet	CubicYards	Tons	% of Total Ft³,Yd³, Tons	Cost	Cost/ Participant
TOTAL	172	100%	133,628.5	4,949.2	121.5	100.0%	\$13,412	\$78
NCSD	64	37%	44,902.5	1,663.1	40.8	33.6%	\$4,507	\$70
OTHER	108	63%	86,621.0	3,208.2	78.7	64.8%	\$8,694	\$80

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Receive information, discuss events, direct staff.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

T:\BOARD MATTERS\BOARD MEETINGS\BOARD LETTER\2010\COMMITTEES\WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE\10-11-2010 WCC\10-11-2010-ITEM2.DOC

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER 

DATE: 10/06/2010

AGENDA ITEM

3

OCT 11, 2010

ITEM 3: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

ITEM

Event summaries. [REVIEW NEWSLETTER, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF].

BACKGROUND

The Water Conservation Program usually sends to customers four newsletters each year. The newsletter being prepared for distribution is Issue 1 for 2010.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Receive information and discuss the newsletter.

ATTACHMENTS

Conservation News 2010, Issue 1 (Draft).

T:\BOARD MATTERS\BOARD MEETINGS\BOARD LETTER\2010\COMMITTEES\WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE\10-11-2010
WCC\10-11-2010-ITEM2.DOC

CONSERVATION NEWS 2010, ISSUE 1

Please note: This is MSWord text version. It will be formatted for printing before it goes to the printer.

DRAFT

Annual Report of NCSD water use

Water used by NCSD is measured each year. For comparison studies of water use over years, the GPCD (or gallons-per-capita-per-day) unit is used. GPCD is defined as the average amount of water used by one person in one day.

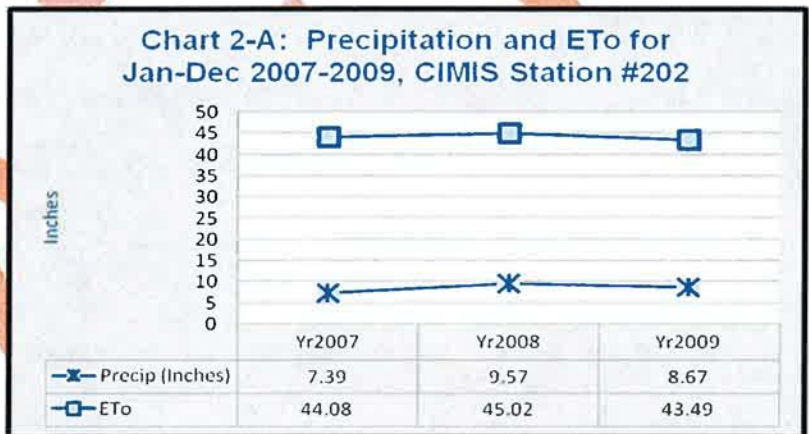
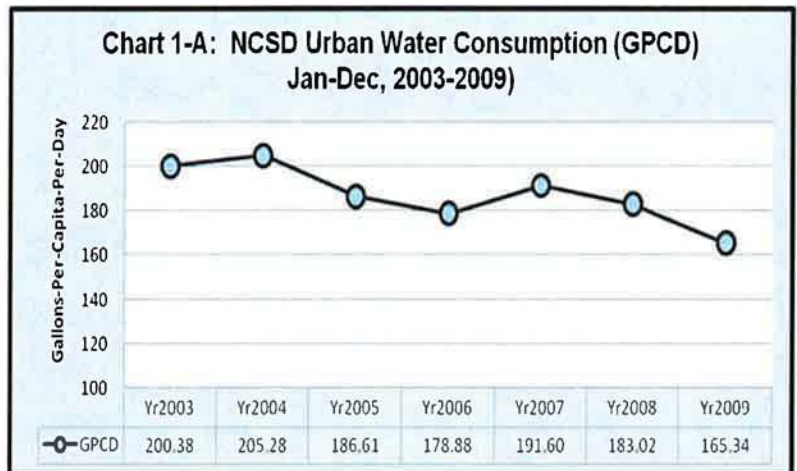
Chart 1-A illustrates the change in GPCD amount from 2003 to 2009. There was a general downward curve or “trend” in water consumption over this period.

In 2003 the GPCD was approximately 200, in 2009 it was 165. From 2003 to 2009, there was an overall decrease in GPCD of about 35, with the greatest decrease (26) between the years 2007 and 2009. This means the average person used 35 gallons (or 17%) less in 2009 than they did in 2003, and 26 gallon less (or 13%) in 2009 than they did in 2007.

The rate of use depends on several factors, especially precipitation (rainfall), evapotranspiration rate (ETo), and customer conservation.

ETo measures the amount of water plants lose, which is calculated from a formula including temperature, humidity, radiation from the sun, and wind. In general, when there is less rainfall, or when it is hotter, people use more water, especially in the landscape. The local California Irrigation Management Information Station (CIMIS) has been up and operating since the middle of 2006. Chart 2-A shows both precipitation and ETo for the three full years’ readings which are available. In general, when it is hotter and drier, the ETo is higher. When it is cool and especially rainy, the ETo drops. For the three full years of available data, there is not much change in the totals for the ETo, from year to year. There is a little more change in precipitation, but not a marked amount.

As you can see, NCSD customers continued to decrease the amount of water they used through three years of very low rainfall and with a normal or slightly higher ETo rate. Therefore, out of the three major contributors to a decrease in water consumption, only “water conservation” is remaining. So, a big high-5 to our customers! Keep up the good work.



► Look for announcements for Fall Workshops!

NCSD will be expanding educational workshop series to include workshops in the fall. Subjects may include “*Lawn Replacement, from Start to Finish*” and “*The Easy Basics of Water Conservation.*” Suggestions for workshop topics are always welcome! Just email cwhitow@ncsd.ca.gov

► Water-efficiency habits WORK, so don't stop now!

Winter rains were great this year, but we still need to use water efficiently. The amount of water withdrawn from the Nipomo Mesa Groundwater Basin by its users is, on average, more than nature can replenish the groundwater basin in an average-rainfall year. When we have a run of dry years, as we have in the past, we have even more of a groundwater-basin water withdrawal-replenishment deficit than when our rain amounts are normal. Decreasing availability of new water supplies will continue to be a problem for California, so we must continue our efforts in using water efficiently.

► Using Water Efficiently – Three Simple Steps

1. **Install water-saving devices or make water-saving changes in the home or landscape.** No matter the type of device, usually it is purchased only once, and the savings are reaped for the life of the device.
2. **Repair leaks.** An estimated 16% of water used by residential customer is wasted by leaks. A single dripping faucet can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons per year. Most leaks are easy to find and repair. Because of the potential for polluting our creeks, in San Luis Obispo County, it is illegal to allow water to run off your property into gutters. Fixing leaks is a quick way to both save water and decrease stormwater pollution.
3. **Change your habits.** Changing habits takes time and patience. Work on changing one habit at a time, and reward yourself as you make progress.



► REBATES ► REBATES ► REBATES ►

NCSD is offering two rebates to its customers: one for high-efficiency clothes washers, and one for lawn removal and replacement with drought-tolerant plants. Want more information? Visit the NCSD website (www.ncsd.ca.gov) or send an email to cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov



► NCS D rebate program supports customers' water-use efficiency.

Two rebate programs offered by NCS D provide financial incentive to customers who wish to increase their water-use efficiency.

NCS D's successful *High-Efficiency Clothes-Washer Rebate Program* has issued rebates for 137 customers who replaced a low-efficiency clothes washer with a new, high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW).

Washing laundry is a large water user in the average home, accounting for 15% to 40% of the overall water consumption inside the typical household of four persons. A standard washer will use approximately 40 to 45 gallons of water per load. A family of four using a standard clothes washer will wash more than 300 loads per year, using 12,000 gallons of water annually. New, HEWs can significantly reduce this water use by more than 6,000 gallons per year, and can save energy, clean the clothes better, and reduce fabric wear.

NCS D is also offering a *Turf Replacement Rebate Program*. Customers can receive a rebate of \$1.00 per square-foot (up to 500 square feet, or \$500) of turf replaced by drought-tolerant plants. The potential for water (and money) savings is high: the average potential savings is 60% for the rebate applicants who have been accepted into the program.

There are specific eligibility requirements and condition for acceptance into the rebate programs, so if you are interested in applying for a rebate, be sure you check the requirements first before making changes to your existing landscape/clothes washer.

To find out if you qualify for a rebate program, either call the office (929-1133), visit the NCS D website (www.ncsd.ca.gov), or send an email to cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov.

Is your irrigation system at top efficiency? A simple problem, such as a sprinkler head out of adjustment such that instead of spraying it mists, can waste 30% of the water leaving the sprinkler head. A properly functioning, well-maintained system will keep your landscape healthy, while making every drop count! Here is a website with tips to make sure your system is ready to go.

How to Tune Up Your Irrigation System

http://www.irrigationrepair.com/how_to_tune_up_your_irrigation_system.html

FREE!! Soil Moisture Meter for NCS D customers! Only give your plants the amount of water it needs. How do you find that out? Use a Soil Moisture Meter, which shows how dry the soil is. These handy gizmos will be given to NCS D customers (100 meters available, one per customer) on a first-come/first-get basis. Just stop by the office, 148 South Wilson Street, in Olde Towne Nipomo!



World War II poster

Most residential landscapes are overwatered. Overwatering not only wastes water, it also promotes soil diseases and damage from harmful insects.

More often than not, using a finger to judge soil moisture content is inaccurate. For instance, sandy soils often do not feel moist to the touch even when they have plenty of moisture.

Using a hand-held moisture meter provides objective information about the soil moisture content. Test the soil at different locations, especially next to new plants.

Do not water new water-efficient plants when the moisture meter reads higher than low-moderate. For established drought-tolerant plants, do not irrigate unless there is less than moderate moisture present. By the end of the second year, a drought-tolerant plant has been in the landscape, if it is truly drought-tolerant, it should be able to go at least one month, and up to three months or more, without irrigation.

GET RID OF UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

Getting rid of your unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications just got easier. You can now deposit them in secured boxes located in front of all San Luis Obispo County Sheriffs and police stations. The goal is to keep drug-related pollutants out of the storm drains and the environment, out of wastewater treatment plants, and out of the hands of kids.

Medications dropped in the drop-boxes are to be in their original containers, and it is recommended you remove all of your personal information from the label. They just ask you keep the pills in their original containers and get rid of all of your personal information from the label.

[LAST PAGE HAS THE USUAL DISTRICT INFO, NOT REPRODUCED HERE BECAUSE OF PRINTING FORMATTING]

Names of Board Members and some Staff

Upcoming Board Meetings

General contact information for District

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER 

DATE: 10/06/2010

AGENDA ITEM

4

OCT 11, 2010

ITEM 4: SCIENCE DISCOVERY 2010 AGREEMENT RENEWAL

ITEM

Event summaries. [REVIEW AND DISCUSS AGREEMENT AND PROPOSED CHANGES, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD, AS NEEDED].

BACKGROUND

Science Discovery, owned and directed by Michael DiMilo, provides educational presentations to elementary-level classrooms in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

A coalition of water purveyors (NCSD, Golden State Water Company—Nipomo and Los Osos branches--Los Osos CSD, and S&T Mutual Water Company in Los Osos) in 2008 joined in an agreement to share costs for the development of a water-conservation presentation program for schools in our service areas. Los Osos, GSWC-LO (Los Osos) and S&T Mutual shared local program-customization development costs, and NCSD and GSWC (Nipomo) shared local program-customization costs. Los Osos costs were paid by San Luis Obispo County.

In addition to the development costs, shared costs also included costs for individual classroom presentations, newsletters, program updates, and other program-related costs.

Water Conservation was the focus of the agreement secondary to groundwater issues both the Los Osos and Nipomo areas are experiencing.

On 9/21/2010, the coalition of water providers received an email from the program coordinator stating a cooperative approach with the County had been worked out in which SLO County would pay each purveyor \$425 and, in exchange, they could use our program and storyboards. However, it is unclear whether the County would pay directly to Science Discovery \$425 as a portion of the Science Discovery contract, thereby reducing the District's costs this year.

In response, the program coordinator contacted Paso Robles, who agreed to share storyboards with SLOCo, thereby reducing the use of the Nipomo and Los Osos program materials. An MOU for 2010-2011 was attached to the email. A copy of the MOU is attached to this staff note.

Contact with Mark Zimmerman and John Turner (GSWC) indicated similar concerns.

I contacted Mr. Michael DiMilo (Science Discovery). He indicated he was involved peripherally in the discussion with County, but assumed the "sharing" of materials would be a "quid pro quo" arrangement limited to Paso Robles and SLOCo. Paso Robles uses SLOCo's stormwater pollution storyboards for presentations in Paso Robles. Mr. DiMilo does not know the process by which the SLOCo buy-in price of \$425 per purveyor was determined.

The initial costs for development of the storyboards and program was \$3618 each for GSWC-Nipomo and NCSD.

The program coordinator arranged for the cooperative agreement with County, and issued the Memorandum of Understanding, because it was the coordinator's feeling that it was in the best interest of the coalition to "partner" with SLOCounty. Ms. Wagner said the County is required to

provide stormwater presentations to County elementary schools, and would be providing them in Nipomo, whether or not they "partnered" with us.

The program coordinator said the County planned to tag on stormwater information at the end of the water conservation presentations, or to tag on water conservation information at the end of stormwater presentations.

Staff feels working with County would be beneficial. However, the agreement does not include details necessary to assess whether this particular opportunity, in the way it has been presented, would be beneficial to the District.

In addition, the coalition of water purveyors' original agreement was to focus on water conservation. We have not discussed branching out into other areas, such as stormwater pollution. It is agreed that stormwater pollution is an important issue, but whether the water conservation coalition benefits from adding it to the current Science Discovery program is unclear.

Issues not defined include who will be making the County presentations and using our program materials, who will decide whether stormwater or conservation information is presented, and what the impact will be of having both the coalition's Science Discovery water conservation program and the County's schedule classroom visits in the relatively small elementary-school population of Nipomo. Also unclear is how we would avoid having our visits overlap, and perhaps give mixed messages to the school children.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Receive information, discuss, and provide directions to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Cooperative Agreement to Fund the Development of the Water Conservation Education Program by Science Discovery, 2010/11 School Year.*
- *Proposal to Provide Water Conservation Education to Schools, 2010-11 School Year.*

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM
BY SCIENCE DISCOVERY
2010/11 School Year**

Water is a precious commodity. For this reason, making efforts to conserve water is a priority for the Los Osos Community Services District (LOCSD), Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD), Golden State Water Company (GSWC) (Los Osos and Nipomo areas) and S&T Mutual Water Company (S&T), who together provide water service to hundreds of customers within the Los Osos and Nipomo areas. Each water purveyor is striving to find new ways to reduce their per capita demand. In addition, the County of San Luis Obispo (County) is also working to support the water purveyors in their efforts on reducing water consumption and raising water awareness.

A proposal has been provided to these water purveyors to implement a Water Conservation Education Program for elementary schools in the Los Osos and Nipomo areas (see attached proposal). The proposal is provided by Science Discovery, whose mission statement is:

Science Discovery will implement a water conservation school education program of exceptional quality. Class presentations will meet the educational objectives of the water purveyors AND correlate with the California Academic Science Standards, meeting the needs of the local teachers.

A large number of the customers in the Los Osos and Nipomo areas have kids in elementary school. Educating our children to conserve water is vital to the future of water conservation. After a classroom presentation, these students will take home valuable insight on how they can change their habits, as well as their family's habits, and ultimately reduce the amount of water they use on a daily basis.

Excessive water use is not just one entity's concern, it is everyone's concern. For this reason, the water purveyors in Los Osos and Nipomo, and the County of San Luis Obispo are joining together to help develop the material that will be used by Science Discovery to teach the students how they, too, can conserve water and make an impact in Los Osos and Nipomo.

Based on the proposal issued by Science Discovery, the fees to develop this program are provided in the following Table. The fees are based on the following assumptions:

Los Osos

- S&T MWC will contribute 5% of the Project Administration Costs for the Los Osos Component.
- The County of San Luis Obispo – WW Project will contribute 20% of the Project Administration Costs for the Los Osos Component.
- The County of San Luis Obispo – Storm Water Program will contribute \$650 for the Los Osos Project Administration Costs.
- The remaining Project Administration Costs for Los Osos will be split equally between LOCSD and GSWC – Los Osos.

10/4/2010
2009/10 School Year

1 of 4

- The costs of the class presentations will be split equally between LOCSD and GSWC – Los Osos for all presentations given in Los Osos.

Nipomo

- The County of San Luis Obispo – Storm Water Program will contribute \$850 for the Nipomo Project Administration Costs.
- The remaining Project Development Costs for the Nipomo component will be shared equally between GSWC - Nipomo and NCSD.
- The costs of the class presentations will be split equally between NCSD and GSWC – Nipomo for all presentations given in Nipomo.
- NCSD has requested an additional meeting with the Lucia Mar School District. This cost will only be born by NCSD.

	Los Osos (LOCSD, GSWC, S&T MWC)	Nipomo (NCSD, GSWC)	
Project Administration Costs			
Program Update	\$110.00	\$110.00	
Write and Distribute Teacher Newsletter*	\$425.00	\$425.00	
Pre/Post Test Development	\$522.50	\$522.50	
Annual Operating Costs	\$412.50	\$687.50	
	\$1,470.00	\$1,745.00	
Cost Sharing Allocations for Project Administration Costs			
LOCSD	\$226.25	--	\$226.25
GSWC - Los Osos	\$226.25	--	\$226.25
GSWC - Nipomo	--	\$447.50	\$447.50
NCSD	--	\$447.50	\$447.50
SLO County - Storm Water	\$650.00	\$850.00	\$1,500.00
S&T MWC (5%)	\$73.50	--	\$73.50
SLO County - WW (20%)	\$294.00	--	\$294.00
Total	\$1,470.00	\$1,745.00	
Estimated Cost for Class Presentations			
Billings for the presentations will be split equally between the two water purveyors within that community and will not be billed until presentation is made.			
Los Osos (GSWC & LOCSD) 8 @ \$110/program	\$880.00	--	
Nipomo (GSWC & NCSD) 12 @ \$115/program	--	\$1,380.00	
Presentation to School Board - NCSD Only			\$220.00
* Price does not include copy/print costs			

In a joint effort, the four water purveyors are working with Science Discovery to provide the best tools for the students in Los Osos and Nipomo for water conservation. This contract acts as and accepts the proposal with Science Discovery for the 2010/11 School Year based on the final costs as follows:

	Project Administration Costs ¹	Classroom Presentation Costs ²	Additional Misc Costs	Total Estimated Costs
LOCSD	\$226.25	\$440.00		\$666.25
GSWC - Los Osos	\$226.25	\$440.00		\$666.25
GSWC - Nipomo	\$447.50	\$690.00		\$1,137.50
NCSD	\$447.50	\$690.00	\$220.00	\$1,357.50
SLO County - Storm Water	\$1,500.00	\$0.00		\$1,500.00
S&T MWC (5%)	\$73.50	\$0.00		\$73.50
SLO County - WW (20%)	\$294.00	\$0.00		\$294.00
Total	\$3,215.00	\$2,260.00	\$220.00	\$5,695.00

¹ Costs provided above **do not** include the cost for copy/print of the letters.

² Costs are only an estimate for budgeting purposes. The exact number of presentations to be given is unknown at this time. Science Discovery will bill for the presentations once the class presentation is given.

Below is acknowledgment from each of the water purveyors of their participation in this cooperative agreement and commitment to support the development of the Water Conservation Education Program developed by Science Discovery.

Dan Gilmore
General Manager
Los Osos Community Services District

Don Spagnolo
General Manager
Nipomo Community Services District

Mark Zimmer
Golden State Water Company

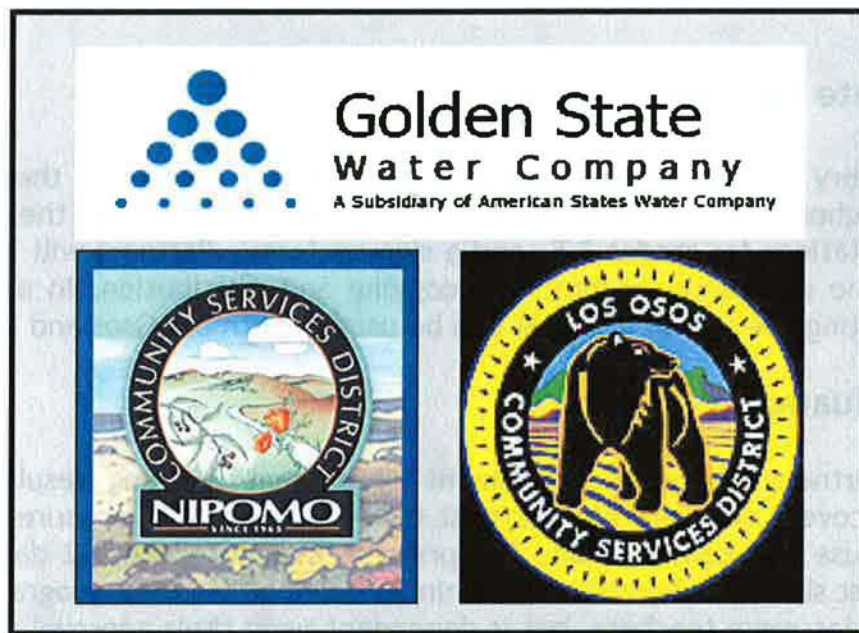
David Tolley
S&T Mutual Water Company

Paavo Ogren
Director of Public Works

Mike di Milo
Science Discoveries

This agreement can be signed in counterparts.

Proposal To Provide
Water Conservation Education To Schools
2010-11 School Year
for



Submitted By

Science Discovery

242 Luneta Dr.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Phone: 781-8341 Fax: 781-8343
E-mail: sciencediscovery@sbcglobal.net

Scope of Services

Project Start-Up

Science Discovery staff will update program information as directed by Partners (Los Osos CSD, Nipomo CSD, and Golden State Water Co.) This may include topics such as new statistical information, services offered by water purveyors, or current conservation procedures that the Partners would like communicated.

Write and Distribute Teacher Newsletter

Science Discovery will prepare a four-page newsletter, describing the water conservation program to local teachers. The newsletter will include a description of the program along with photos, science correlations for grades 3-5, and a sign-up form. Partners will have the opportunity to review and edit the newsletter before final copying and distribution. In an effort to conserve funds, we suggest writing one newsletter that can be used in both Los Osos and Nipomo.

Pre/Post Test Evaluation

Should the Partners desire an assessment of student learning resulting from the class program, Science Discovery will create a pre/post test. The test will measure increases in student knowledge of water use and conservation. The pre-test shall be given 1-2 days prior to the class program. The post-test shall be administered within 24 hours of the class program. The tests can be administered by the classroom teachers, but is dependent upon their approval and willingness to do so.

We suggest that the completed student tests be scored and evaluated by a qualified, independent, education evaluator. Science Discovery has worked with *Out of Chaos Consulting* for such educational reviews. We recommend the use of their services to obtain a statistically significant analysis and summary of results.

Presentation to School Board

Science Discovery can provide an overview of the water conservation education program to Lucia Mar Unified School District Governing Board. This overview would provide the program concepts and goals to the board members. We suggest that this be communicated using a slide show, assuming that the school district board meeting can facilitate the use of a projector at their meeting. School district board meetings agendas are generally impacted, as such any allotment of agenda time would be limited to less than 10 minutes of presentation time.

Program Administration

This aspect of the program includes all communications with teachers and Partners staff, minor changes to the program, cleaning presentation materials, phone, fax and postage costs.

Costs

Project Start-Up

Program Update: 4hrs @ 55.00/hr\$220.00
(50% for Los Osos / 50% Nipomo, \$110.00each)	
Write and Distribute Teacher Newsletter (same newsletter for both regions):	\$850.00
(Does not include copy/print cost or sales tax)	
Operating Cost Total	<u>\$1,070.00</u>

Pre/Post Test Development & Analysis

Develop Pre/Post Test: 4 hrs @ 55.00/hr:\$220.00
Analyze & Evaluate Pre/Post Test: 11 hrs @ 75.00/hr :\$825.00
(up to 100 tests)	
Pre/Post Test Total	<u>\$1,045.00</u>

Presentation to School Board

Slide Show Development: 2hrs @ 55.00/hr:\$110.00
School Board Meeting/Presentation: 2hrs @ 55.00/hr:\$110.00
Presentation to School Board Total.....	<u>\$220.00</u>

*Annual Operating Costs, Nipomo

Class Presentations: 12 @ 115.00/program:\$1,380.00
Program Administration 1.25 hrs/month @ 55.00/hr :\$687.50
(10 month year)	

Operating Cost Total \$2,067.50

***Annual Operating Costs, Los Osos**

Class Presentations: 8 @ 110.00/program: \$880.00

Program Administration: 0.75 hours/month @ \$55.00/hr \$412.50
(based on 10 months/year)

Operating Cost Total \$1,295.50

*Projected

