



ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7

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October 31, 2012

Scott Haggerty  
Supervisor, District 1  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612

Nate Miley  
Supervisor, District 4  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
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Subject: ***Response to Letter Received June 22, 2012, Concerning Zone 7's Separation from Alameda County***

Dear Supervisors Haggerty and Miley:

Zone 7 received your letter addressed to President Figuers on June 22, 2012 (which responded to his letter of November 23, 2011). Hopefully, most of the issues that were raised in your letter were addressed in Zone 7's September 19, 2012 response to the Grand Jury's report, with copies to the Board of Supervisors.

As for Zone 7's efforts to become an independent special district, our Agency's ultimate goal in pursuing separation, of course, is to be able to provide improved services to our ratepayers at the same or lesser cost. We believe that, in this time of shrinking public budgets, separation is the best way to achieve that goal.

Another important objective is to become a multi-county agency, allowing registered voters in the Dougherty Valley portion of San Ramon (in Contra Costa County) to be able to vote for and serve on the board while honoring the public mandate of 1957 to retain local control of flood control and water supply issues. It is the Zone 7 Board's commitment to full public representation that is a major goal in seeking separation from the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Your June 22, 2012 letter also proposed that only the water enterprise function pursue independence from the District (and, by extension, the County). As stated in Zone 7's September 19, 2012 letter response to the Grand Jury, Zone 7 is strongly opposed to this approach, for several reasons:

- First, experts in water management uniformly agree that the most efficient and cost-effective way to manage water resources is to integrate operations of water supply and flood control facilities, rather than operating or managing them separately. Fragmenting management minimizes effective operations. Separating the water enterprise function would interfere with such integrated water resource management. Any fragmentation of resource management would also result in economic and political inefficiencies in managing the local channels and arroyos, which are currently utilized for both groundwater recharge and for flood protection. In these hard economic times, government efficiencies are even more critical to the public.

- Second, Zone 7 is the institutional manner in which the residents of the Livermore Valley have exercised local control of both the flood protection and water aspects of the business. Again, Zone 7 firmly believes that local control of and local access to agencies in Eastern Alameda County is good public policy.
- Third, the portion of the Alameda Creek Watershed within Zone 7 is geographically and geologically unique, overlying and integrated with the Livermore-Amador Valley Groundwater Basin. The portions of the watershed that are upstream (in Contra Costa County and in Santa Clara County) and downstream (in the Fremont-Newark portion of Alameda County) are relatively separate and are not integrated with the Livermore-Amador Valley Groundwater Basin, although the upstream portions of the watershed supply water and sediment to this portion of the watershed and Zone 7, in turn, passes water through to the lower watershed. However, the Stream Management Master Plan, adopted by the Zone 7 Board in 2005, is a holistic management program that improves water quality, enhances habitat and manages flood waters, while allowing multiple uses of facilities for recreation and other public purposes.

In past meetings, you have also expressed a concern with Zone 7's rate increases. It is my pleasure to tell you that the Zone 7 Board announced that there will be no increase for 2013 and only a modest increase in 2014, approximating the current inflation rate.

Zone 7 appreciates your willingness to support its independence, albeit for the water enterprise function only. We hope you will consider the additional information we have provided. We look forward to meeting with both of you on November 5, 2012. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime, please feel free to contact either me or Jill Duerig at the number above (Jill can also be reached by e-mail at [jduerig@zone7water.com](mailto:jduerig@zone7water.com)).

Sincerely,



Sarah Palmer, PhD  
President, Zone 7 Board of Directors

cc: Zone 7 Board Members  
Susan Muranishi, County Administrator  
Jill Duerig, Zone 7 General Manager