



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sandy Figuers, President
Zone 7 Board of Directors
100 North Canyons Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551-9486

JUN 22 2012
Zone 7 Water

SUBJECT: Separation from Alameda County

Dear President Figuers,

We are writing to you to express our support for Zone 7's effort to separate from Alameda County and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). However, that support is conditioned on separation as a water district only. We firmly believe that the citizens of Alameda County are best served by having the flood control function remain with the District. In addition, separation should be worked through the LAFCo process rather than by special legislation.

Some of the reasons for our desire that flood control remain with the District are as follows:

- Everything that occurs in the Alameda Creek watershed, including that portion of the watershed that is within the jurisdiction of Zone 7, affects the hundreds of thousands of residents that live downstream of the Zone 7 boundary. The interests of a separate flood control district upstream of the District would not necessarily be compatible with those of the District and could lead to disputes and conflicting interests.
- Creating a separate flood control district that would further split the Alameda Creek watershed would needlessly complicate management of the watershed and further burden the District. Though a much greater portion of the Alameda Creek watershed lies within the boundaries of Zone 7, the District has nearly one and a half times the number of miles of facilities in the lower watershed than Zone 7 has within its boundaries.
- While Zone 7 has approximately 37 miles of flood control facilities, the District as a whole (excluding Zone 7) owns, maintains and operates over 580 miles of flood control facilities. The District has greater capacity to manage the infrastructure, as evidenced by the fact that Zone 7 has no flood control maintenance staff or equipment – by contract, the County/District currently provides maintenance services in Zone 7.
- While the focus of the District is flood control, the primary focus of Zone 7 is water supply, as evidenced by the fact that approximately 10% of Zone 7 staff is dedicated to flood control while the rest are dedicated to water supply, and the fact that just a little

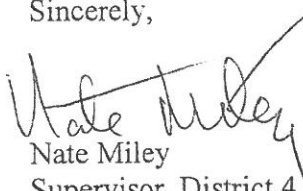
over 18% of the Zone 7 operating budget is for flood control versus the remainder which is for water supply.

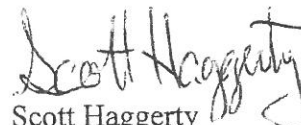
- Currently, the District as a whole receives a share of the ad valorem property tax over the entire county which is used to provide services that are beneficial on a District-wide basis, such as rain and stream gauging. If a separate flood control district were formed, the District would lose that revenue. Reflecting the fact that watersheds must be managed as a whole, the District has spent approximately \$1M over the past 5 years on work in Zone 7.

We also strongly feel that a matter such as the proposed separation should include local citizen input which the LAFCo process provides. To bypass the LAFCo process in favor of special legislation takes the matter out of the hands of the local community and makes the decision a state-wide matter.

We look forward to working together with you in a collaborative process that allows you to achieve the goals you seek while keeping the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District intact.

Sincerely,


Nate Miley
Supervisor, District 4
President, Board of Supervisors


Scott Haggerty
Supervisor District 1
Board of Supervisors

Cc: Jill Duerig, General Manager of Zone 7
Daniel Woldesenbet, Director of ACPWA