

For Immediate Release
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RECENT WINTER STORMS ENHANCE VALLEY WATER SUPPLY

Water supplies still hinge on a wet spring

Pleasanton – Recent wet weather has nearly filled the Del Valle reservoir, staff reported to the Zone 7 Board at its monthly meeting last night. Since the start of the water year, the Valley has received almost 16 inches of rain, or 180 percent of average rainfall, to date.

“We’re way ahead of the curve for this time of year”, said Zone 7 General Manager Dale Myers. “But we’ll need the rains to continue through the spring to ensure a good water year,” he explained.

The water year runs from October 1 to September 30, during which rainfall and snowpack in the Sierra Nevada determine how much water Zone 7 will be able to draw from the Delta to meet Valley water demands. Average yearly rainfall in the Valley is 21 inches. Zone 7 measures local rainfall at a weather station in Pleasanton.

“We’ve been fortunate in that the recent storms were staggered”, explained Myers. “It gives us the opportunity to capture and store the water in Lake del Valle, and use it to replenish the groundwater basin”, he said. “The combination of breaks in the storm system and our channel restoration earlier this year helped us to so far avoid problems in flood prone areas.”

Zone 7’s groundwater management program is unique in that it allows the agency to take advantage of wet weather years to ensure a reliable water supply into the future, even during drought years. Zone 7 captures and stores local storm water in Lake del Valle and then releases it down local arroyos, where it percolates into the groundwater basin. The water is then pumped out of local wells to meet Valley water demands as necessary. Groundwater provides as much as 40 percent of Valley water during dry summer months, and could provide 75 percent of Valley water needs during a severe drought.

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Zone 7 Water Agency is one of the 10 active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The District was established by the State Legislature in October 1949 to solve problems of flooding, drainage, channel erosion and water supply and conservation in Alameda County. A seven-member board of directors governs Zone 7. Along with flood control, Zone 7 supplies water to all of eastern Alameda County and a population of more than 183,000. Treated water is sold wholesale to local retailers, including the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the California Water Service Company. Zone 7 also distributes untreated water to local agriculture operations and golf courses.