

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2005

CONTACT: Dale Myers
(925) 454-5055

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR ONGOING SAFE WATER PRACTICES
Five Year Status in Program Receives National Recognition

LIVERMORE – Zone 7 Water Agency's Del Valle Water Treatment Plant received national recognition last month for its rigorous water quality and safety practices. The Partnership for Safe Water (the Partnership) awarded the agency its Directors Award for a fifth consecutive year, an honor received by only 42 of 160,000 water utilities across the country. The Partnership is a national volunteer initiative developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and water organizations that are committed to providing drinking water that surpasses federal standards. Zone 7 has been a voluntary member of the Partnership since 1995. The Partnership presents the Directors Award to water systems that examine their treatment plant operation and administration capabilities and then create a plan to implement improvements.

"The Directors Award is national recognition of Zone 7's ongoing commitment and dedication to water quality. It is proof of Zone 7's demonstrated excellence in operations and engineering," said John Marchand, Zone 7 Board Member. "Furthermore, it underscores the quality and caliber of our staff," he stated.

Zone 7 operates the Del Valle water treatment plant in conjunction with its Patterson Pass water treatment plant and the Main Groundwater Basin to provide a 100-percent reliable supply of high-quality water to Tri-Valley communities. The Del Valle plant is designed to treat up to 36 million gallons per day and houses Zone 7's state of the art water quality laboratory. The plant is also the future location of Zone 7's planned dissolved air flotation device, a more efficient technology that will help increase the agency's capacity, improve water taste and odor, and lower operating costs. Del Valle water treatment plant is located in southern Livermore.

Zone 7's water supply meets or exceeds all state and federal regulations for a safe drinking water supply. Zone 7 uses its Water Quality Management Plan to help make system-wide operational decisions that will reduce public health risks, meet future regulations, and improve taste, odor and hardness.

Developed by the EPA and other water organizations striving to provide optimum quality drinking water, the Partnership currently includes more than 200 water utilities that collectively serve more than 85 million people. Zone 7's ongoing participation in the program includes a rigorous review of treatment practices developed by national experts, as well as a four-step self-assessment and peer-review process.

Zone 7 was presented with the Five-Year Directors Award at the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition in San Francisco, California on June 13, 2005.

--end--

###

Zone 7 Water Agency is one of the 10 active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The State Legislature established the District 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.

