

For Immediate Release
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ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY APPROVES WELL MASTER PLAN

Project will increase local production capacity and reduce reliance on outside sources during droughts

Pleasanton – The Zone 7 Water Agency board last night certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the agency’s Well Master Plan. The Board’s approval clears the way for the addition of six to nine wells to the agency’s inventory. The new wells are expected to ultimately increase overall production by about 20 million gallons per day, reducing Zone 7’s dependence on outside water sources such as California’s State Water Project (SWP) during periods of water shortage.

“Increasing reliability in Zone 7’s water system ensures that treated water is available to Valley customers when SWP allocations are low, during a drought year, or in the event of an emergency,” said Zone 7 President John Greci.

By using both surface water and groundwater to meet Valley demands, Zone 7 ensures a 100 percent reliable supply to local communities, even during a prolonged drought. Zone 7 strives to be able to meet 75 percent of its estimated maximum day demand with stored groundwater and limited surface water supplies in the event of an emergency outage of the SWP. The Livermore-Amador Valley Groundwater Basin (Main Basin) can store about 250,000 acre-feet of water and provides, on average, 20-30 percent of Zone 7’s total water supply. One acre-foot is enough water to supply two households for one year. The Main Basin’s large size allows Zone 7 to store additional surface water during normal rainfall years to use during dry years. All of Zone 7’s water, no matter the source, meets or exceeds state and federal public safety standards.

“It is truly a remarkable effort on the part of Zone 7 staff to be able to guarantee 100 percent reliability in the event of a source water outage or an emergency,” said Zone 7 Vice President John Marchand. “This is why Zone 7 is in the top one percent of water agencies in the nation.”

Based upon projected demands, Zone 7 anticipates installing the wells over a 15-year period, averaging about one well per year on an as-needed basis. The wells will be located within eleven wellfield areas in the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, and in unincorporated Alameda County. The project also includes associated pipelines to connect the new wells to Zone 7’s existing water distribution system. The project is anticipated to cost \$31 million over the 15-year period.

With the board’s approval of the FEIR, Zone 7 certifies that the project complies with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. As part of CEQA, Zone 7 will also establish a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting plan to ensure that mitigation measures identified in the FEIR are implemented and monitored appropriately.

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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 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.