

For Immediate Release
September 9, 2005

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ZONE 7 HELPS RESTORE DRINKING WATER, REPAIR FLOOD DAMAGE IN GULF COAST COMMUNITIES

Agency will provide funding and staff resources to Gulf Coast water utilities

Livermore – In a special board meeting, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors last night approved a contribution of up to \$50,000 and staff resources to assist water and flood control agencies located on the battered Gulf Coast in their disaster recovery efforts. Hurricane Katrina struck the area on Monday, August 29, destroying power, water, wastewater and other public infrastructure.

“We’re focusing our efforts on smaller communities off the beaten path, where it may take FEMA longer to arrive and the need is dire,” said President John Greci.

Many small towns outside of the major metropolitan areas affected by Hurricane Katrina do not have city engineers, public works directors or utility managers, a condition that will further challenge these communities in their recovery. Repair of water treatment and delivery systems, and flood damage, is critical to preserving life and property in affected areas.

“Recovery will require tremendous effort, and we’re coordinating with local officials and water resource professionals familiar with the area and already on the ground to ensure we’re effective,” continued Greci.

Other Bay Area water agencies, including the Contra Costa Water District and Alameda County Water District, are taking similar action. Zone 7 is joining with these agencies to identify communities in need, and possibly to combine resources. Zone 7 anticipates the work will take place over the next several weeks.

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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.