

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**High Schools in Livermore, Pleasanton
Team Up With Zone 7 for World Water Monitoring Day**
Global Testing Project Explores Worldwide Water Quality Trends

The Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency is again working with local students to monitor the quality of the water in area creeks as part of World Water Monitoring Day. Findings will be shared with international organizers to build a worldwide database for water trends and potential global water-quality problems.

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, students from environmental studies classes at Foothill High School in Pleasanton and Livermore High School in Livermore will be conducting a first round of water sampling at several sites under the direction of their teacher, Dr. Sarah Palmer. Palmer, with the schools' Regional Occupation Program, has led local students in the monitoring program since 2003. Zone 7 provides the water testing kits.

The media and public are invited to join the students.

Foothill High students will be testing from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at two Pleasanton locations: 1) where Arroyo Mocho joins with Arroyo de la Laguna near a walking bridge just south of West Las Positas Boulevard, west of Interstate 680 and 2) along Arroyo Del Valle where it crosses under Valley Avenue, north of Koll Center Parkway.

From 2 to 3 p.m., Livermore High students will test water along Arroyo Mocho near the rodeo grounds in Robertson Park, and along Arroyo Las Positas near North Livermore Avenue. Testing along Arroyo Del Valle in Veterans Park will take place either that day or, if time doesn't permit, on Wednesday afternoon.

For more information on precise locations on event day, call Dr. Palmer via cell phone at 925-784-1727 or Bonita Brewer at the Zone 7 Water Agency at 925-876-8736.

Additional rounds of testing will be done in coming months.

Zone 7 Water Agency has always considered water quality to be one of its top priorities and is eager to participate in this worldwide effort, which will help educate young people about the importance of monitoring and protecting the water supply. The students also are learning about the many jobs that are involved with water quality monitoring and about the important connection between the quality of water in the arroyos and the quality of water in the valley's groundwater basin.

“There's great value in a program that gives people a chance to see themselves as part of the bigger picture in terms of world stream monitoring,” said Dr. Palmer, who was elected this year to the Zone 7 Board of Directors. “And it's exciting to get the schools involved.”

The World Water Monitoring Day project is sponsored by America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association, which includes a long list of partner groups such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey. For additional information, visit www.worldwatermonitoring.org.

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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. In 1957, by popular vote, Zone 7 became a special district governed by a seven-member board of directors. Along with flood protection, Zone 7 supplies water to all of eastern Alameda County and a population of more than 190,000. 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.