

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Zone 7 to Implement Broad Approach to Local Stream Management
Public Invited to Workshop on Agency's Stream Management Master Plan

Livermore – Last night, the Zone 7 Board of Directors released the Agency's Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP), a multi-beneficial flood protection plan that has been eight years in the making. The SMMP is a major overhaul of the agency's Flood Control Master Plan, which has been in place since 1966. The new and improved plan identifies 45 projects anticipated through Valley build-out in 2035 to help Zone 7 protect communities in the Livermore-Amador Valley against 100-year storm events. The projects also provide additional opportunities for water quality, water supply, habitat restoration, and recreational benefits to the community. Zone 7 expects to complete the final document in July of this year.

“Even if you live in an area that doesn't flood or you live miles away from a stream, flooding is a region-wide issue that impacts everyone,” said John Greci, Zone 7 Board President. “The SMMP's regional approach will help us continue to maintain our high flood protection, water supply, and water quality standards, while also providing value added benefits to our community such as recreational opportunities and habitat protection.”

The SMMP is a new approach to flood control that emphasizes the interrelationships between flood protection, adequate water supply, healthy habitats for plants and animals, and recreation. When Zone 7 first began implementing flood protection in the Livermore-Amador Valley, then-current science called for one mission: move stormwater through the Valley as quickly as possible. Zone 7 is now changing its stormwater management strategy to keep pace with experts' understanding of natural processes, changes in the regulatory environment, and increased public interest.

The draft SMMP and related draft Environmental Impact Report are now available for public review. Zone also 7 invites the public and other interested parties to a public workshop on April 26, 2006, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. A presentation will begin at 3:30 p.m., with an open house following at 5:00 p.m. More information can be found online at www.zone7water.com.

Prior to Zone 7's flood control improvements, the entire Livermore-Amador Valley was an historic floodplain that likely flooded regularly during large storm events. Zone 7 has implemented many flood protection projects over the last 38 years that have minimized this risk, but flooding can still occur when streambeds fill too quickly after heavy thunderstorms or long rainfall periods. Zone 7 is preparing for future flood events by planning now for improvements that will minimize the disruption to public services, loss of habitat, and property damage when these events inevitably occur.

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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.