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Zone 7 Recognized for National Award
Small Percentage of Nation's Water Utilities Receive Honor

The Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency is being honored for its "Directors Award of Recognition" from the Partnership for Safe Water, a national volunteer initiative developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and five other safe-drinking-water organizations.

The award recognizes water suppliers striving to provide drinking-water quality that surpasses required federal standards.

Zone 7's Del Valle Water Treatment Plant was among just 83 plants nationwide recognized in 2006 for having maintained Directors Award status for five years. The Partnership for Safe Water is recognizing all awardees by placing an ad in two national publications -- Nation's Cities Weekly, the official publication of the National League of Cities; and U.S. Mayor, the official bimonthly publication of the Conference of Mayors.

"Maintaining Directors Award status for five years is a credit to our staff and visibly demonstrates our philosophy of constant vigilance to improve water quality," said Dale Myers, Zone 7's general manager. "We are thrilled to receive national recognition for this ongoing commitment."

The partnership currently includes 219 water utilities operating 394 treatment plants collectively serving more than 85 million people. This represents more than 60 percent of the U.S. population served by surface-water supplies. Each utility has committed to the enhancement of drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment. As

members of the partnership, utilities make a pledge to their communities to improve their treatment operations to reduce the risk of exposure to microbial contaminants, including cryptosporidium, a parasite that can cause illness. By making this commitment, the member utilities' treatment practices undergo a rigorous review developed by national experts, and include a four-phased, self-assessment and peer-review process.

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The 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.