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Zone 7 Recognized as Climate Action Leader
Water Agency Looks to Reduce Greenhouse Emissions

The Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency has been granted Climate Action Leader status for its proactive steps in helping to address global climate change.

The agency's greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2006 has been certified by the California Climate Action Registry, a nonprofit public-private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas registry to protect, encourage and promote early actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Zone 7's emissions report is available to the public at www.climateregistry.org.

Meanwhile, Zone 7 has begun exploring alternative, renewable sources of energy to help address the amount of carbon emissions that result from conventional electrical power used at its water treatment plants and in groundwater pumping.

"We are conscious of the issue of global climate change and, as staff, aim to make significant strides in identifying energy improvements that can be made both operationally and from a construction standpoint," said Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig.

A state law signed last year by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger establishes mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for “significant” sources starting in 2012, and sets goals to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. While reporting probably won’t be mandatory for Zone 7 because of its relatively small size, the agency’s desire to do its part to address climate change prompted its membership in the Climate Action Registry.

Zone 7 is the water wholesaler for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and provides flood protection to all of eastern Alameda County.

The agency, which purchases most of its water supplies from the State Water Project, is also supporting state investments in measures to stabilize future energy costs connected with State Water Project operations, and in long-term energy sources that contribute less to global climate change.

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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.