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Contact: Boni Brewer

925-454-5015

## **Zone 7 Board Endorses Bay-Friendly Landscaping Practices**

*Principles Promote Water Conservation, Environmental Protections*

In efforts to promote practices that help conserve water and protect the environment, the Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors has adopted a declaration supporting Seven Principles of Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening.

Bay-friendly gardening and landscaping practices conserve water by promoting drought-tolerant native plant cultivation and water efficiency, foster soil health and protect other valuable resources while reducing waste and preventing pollution. The idea is to take a holistic approach that works with the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay Area.

As a signatory to the principles, Zone 7 will be recognized as a leader in sustainable landscaping during the first Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Conference, to be hosted by StopWaste.Org on February 29 at University of California Berkeley.

This effort is supported by the newly created Bay-Friendly Coalition, which includes participation from several water agencies, local governments, trade organizations and non-profit groups representing all nine Bay Area counties.

The seven principles of Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening are to employ gardening practices aimed at 1) keeping protection of the natural local environment in

mind, 2) reducing waste going to landfills, 3) nurturing the soil, 4) conserving water, 5) conserving energy, 6) protecting water and air quality, and 7) creating wildlife habitat.

For more information, check out [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org).

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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.*