



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Zone 7 Reiterates Call for Water Conservation

Drought, on Top of Delta Crisis, Underscores Need to Reduce Water Usage

With other East Bay water agencies declaring water usage restrictions because of two years of below average snowfall, the Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency is reiterating its call for residents and businesses to conserve water this year.

Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig urges the nearly 200,000 people in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley of San Ramon to cut usage by 10 percent for the second summer in a row. Zone 7 is the water wholesale agency serving retailers in these communities.

Through wise water management, Zone 7 has enough stored groundwater and other reserve supplies to meet projected demands during 2008.

Zone 7 is urging conservation because dry-weather conditions may persist and because court-ordered water-supply reductions related to pumping from the ecologically fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are likely to carry forward into future years

The Delta-related court ruling has resulted in Zone 7's losing nearly 10,000 acre-feet of State Water Project water since the beginning of this calendar year – enough to serve roughly 20,000 households for a full year. The loss is on top of the approximately 25,000 acre-feet of water that is being cut from State Water Project deliveries due to this year's critically dry weather – forcing Zone 7 to dip even further into existing reserve storage than it would otherwise have to do in a dry year to meet demand. While Zone 7 will still have enough water to meet demands this year, this has reduced the agency's ability to store surplus

supplies for long-term drought protection. Conservation helps the community save our water supply reserves in case the court order and/or the drought period continues.

The court action limited use of the Delta pumps that serve both Zone 7 and its fellow users of the South Bay Aqueduct (Fremont, Newark and Union City, in addition to the Santa Clara Valley) as well as the California Aqueduct that serves Southern California and San Joaquin Valley farms.

Conservation tips and other information on such things as drought-tolerant landscaping and rebates for water-saving appliances are available on the conservation page of the Zone 7 website, www.zone7water.com, or by contacting your local water retailer (the City of Pleasanton, the City of Livermore, California Water Service Company or the Dublin San Ramon Services District).

An average family of three in the Valley uses about 350 to 450 gallons of water per day including irrigating landscaping. This number reflects average daily water use over the course of a year and can double during peak the summer months due to outdoor landscape irrigation.

Here are some ways that water can be saved:

Conservation tip	Avg. Savings per Day (Gallons)
Outdoors	
Water before 7 a.m.	15-40
Water your lawn only when and as much as needed. Step on your grass; if it springs up when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water	36+
Put a layer of mulch around trees & plants	36
When washing your car, don't run the hose; instead, use a bucket of water & a quick hose rinse at the end	38 (for two cars)
If using a hose, always use a shut-off nozzle and make sure there are no leaks at fittings.	5+

Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation	32
Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways & sidewalks	19
Indoors	
Shorten showers by 1 to 2 minutes	up to 22
Install a high-efficiency toilet	22
Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket	16
Run only full loads of laundry or dishes	18
Install a high-efficiency clothes washer	18
General Repairs	
Check & repair leaking faucets & sprinklers	20

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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.