



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Drought Declaration Underscores Need to Conserve Water
Zone 7 Urges Cutback in Water Use by at Least 10 Percent

With Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's declaration Wednesday that California is officially in a drought, the Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency is reiterating its call for residents and businesses to conserve water.

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

"We are urging customers in our service area to do their part by reducing water use," Duerig said. "If each home could save just 35 gallons a day, we could stretch our resources a bit further." She added that relatively simple measures – from watering the lawn less frequently to taking shorter showers – can go a long way (see tips below).

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

Nevertheless, 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 Delta are likely to carry forward into future years.

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 Livermore-Amador Valley uses about 350 to 450 gallons of water a day, depending on time of year, weather conditions and location. Here are some ways water can be saved:

<u>Conservation tip</u>	<u>Avg. Savings per Day (Gallons)</u>
Outdoors	
Water your lawn only when needed. Step on your grass; if it springs up when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water	36
Water before 7 a.m.	15-40
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)
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	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

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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.