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April 18, 2008

Contact: Boni Brewer
925-454-5015

Altamont Water Project to Get Underway
First Phase Will Also Help with Livermore Water Reliability

The first phase of a long-planned Zone 7 Water Agency project to increase the amount of imported water that can be treated and delivered to customers in the Livermore-Amador Valley will get underway this summer.

Zone 7 sells water to retail agencies serving nearly 200,000 people in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon, and provides flood protection throughout eastern Alameda County.

Following a competitive bidding process, Zone 7's Board of Directors this week approved a \$22.8 million contract with Ranger Pipelines Inc. to build a 5-mile segment of pipeline from Kittyhawk Road in Livermore east to the vicinity of Vasco Road in Livermore. The engineering estimate was \$26.8 million.

The pipeline segment is part of the larger Altamont Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline Project, which will provide Zone 7 with enough additional treated-water production capacity to accommodate planned Valley growth, improve the region's overall water-system reliability, and improve water quality by reducing the agency's reliance on groundwater supplies. As currently planned, the overall Altamont project -- funded by connection fees on new development -- includes a total of 11 miles of pipeline from a new treatment plant on Dyer Road in the Altamont hills west to an existing pipeline at Kittyhawk Road in Livermore.

Zone 7 is currently evaluating the timing of the project's future phases, including the treatment plant itself and the remaining 6-mile stretch of pipeline through unincorporated Alameda County west to Livermore. But independent of this larger project, the initial pipeline segment between Vasco and Kittyhawk Roads in Livermore will have its own immediate benefits. By creating a loop within Zone 7's existing water-delivery system, it will provide improved water-supply reliability for a portion of eastern Livermore in the event of emergency outages of water deliveries from the South Bay Aqueduct. Such an outage was threatened last June during the State Water Project's nine-day shutdown of Delta pumps in efforts to protect endangered Delta smelt.

The 5-mile pipeline segment to get under construction this summer is expected to come on line in Summer 2009. Before and during construction, Zone 7 will perform outreach to residents and businesses along the pipeline route informing them of construction related activity. The agency will do all it can to minimize construction impacts to the community.

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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.