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**Zone 7 Board Adopts New Storm Drainage Ordinance  
that Increases Fees on New Development**  
*Economic Slowdown Prompts Phased-In Approach*

Mindful of its mission to minimize risks of flooding, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors has approved an increase in fees paid by new development to mitigate for the increased runoff generated by additional buildings and pavement.

The money will fund new development's proportionate share of costs for flood-protection measures in the Agency's multi-benefit Stream Management Master Plan. In light of the current economic downturn, and after meetings with many stakeholders, the Board agreed to phase in the fee increase over a period of five years.

"We are trying to be as flexible as we can, given these difficult economic times, but there's also the reality of the overriding need to protect the community from flooding by taking a proactive approach in planning for probable scenarios," said Board President Sarah Palmer. "Really, we are serving the public."

Zone 7 serves eastern Alameda County including Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol.

A study commissioned by Zone 7 had concluded that it was necessary to increase the current fee from 78.3 cents per square foot of new impervious surface area created by development, to \$1.42 per square foot of impervious area to support new development's proportionate share of flood protection measures in the SMMP. Impervious surface areas include roofs, patios, driveways, parking lots, roads, curbs and sidewalks – from new

houses, office buildings, warehouses and stores – that create storm-water runoff by preventing or slowing rainfall from soaking into the ground.

The Zone 7 Board agreed to phase in the increase over a period of five years, starting Jan. 1, 2010. The plan also calls for a collaborative re-evaluation and update of costs with the Valley's three cities in early 2012.

Zone 7's existing impact fee imposed upon new development is based on the costs associated with implementation of an old flood-protection master plan adopted in 1960. This was updated and replaced in 2006 by the agency's Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP). The SMMP is a multi-benefit plan that identifies compatible uses of the Valley's flood-protection facilities. Funding for enhancements not related to flood protection could come from a variety of other sources, such as grants and contributions from recreational public agencies.

For the flood-protection portion of the plan, the development impact fee apportions to new development – not to existing users – the share of costs of those improvements needed specifically to manage the additional storm water runoff generated by new development so that development pays its fair share. The share of costs for flood protection unrelated to new development would come from existing users or grants.