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Zone 7 General Manager Declines Full Pay Increase
Displays “Show of Solidarity” In Light of Financial Challenges

Citing the current economic downturn, Zone 7 Water Agency General Manager Jill Duerig has voluntarily declined a 3 percent pay increase even though it is called for in her employment contract.

Instead, Duerig opted to accept only a 1 percent cost-of-living increase as approved by the Board for other Agency employees following labor negotiations.

In addition, although Duerig’s contract contains provisions for merit-based compensation of up to 5 percent on top of her regular salary, she and the Board mutually agreed that she forego any such compensation for the coming fiscal year in light of current economic conditions.

“Ms. Duerig has done a good job and should be commended for showing solidarity with the troops in turning down a full increase during these tough economic times,” said Board President Sarah Palmer. “This also reflects the Board’s commitment to fiscal prudence.”

Last year, Duerig voluntarily turned down an offer of 2 percent merit compensation.

Zone 7 supplies treated drinking water to retailers serving Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Dougherty Valley. It also provides untreated water to farms and vineyards, and flood protection to all of eastern Alameda County.

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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 approximately 200,000. 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.