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Zone 7 Board Foregoes Increased Pay
Compensation Remains Below That of Other Water Districts in Region

In a unanimous decision, Zone 7 Water Agency's Board of Directors on Wednesday night opted against increasing the amount of money directors are paid to attend Board meetings -- even though their current compensation falls below that of other water districts in the region.

Board members said they don't serve in a publicly elected office for the money, and want to set an example in these difficult economic times by foregoing an increase in compensation.

"It's important for the public to know that the Board sitting here making policy and doing water rates is, in comparison to neighboring boards, really paid leanly," said Board President Dick Quigley. He said compensation is particularly small when considering all the time that Board members put into Zone 7 business outside of Board meetings themselves.

The Board's current compensation, last adjusted in June 2008, is \$159.99 per meeting, with a maximum of four meetings per month for a maximum monthly total of \$639.96. During that same period, the Bay Area's Consumer Price Index rose 3.8 percent.

The mean compensation level of other six Bay Area water agencies surveyed is \$166 per meeting, with a maximum of 9.2 meetings per month for a maximum monthly total of \$1,448.88. Currently, Zone 7 is also the only agency of those surveyed in which Board members are not eligible for health and dental benefits.

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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 for nearly 200,000 residents. 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.