



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Zone 7 Lauds Science & Engineering Fair Awardees *Businesses Also Recognized for Water Conservation Efforts*

As part of Water Awareness Month, six middle school and high school students received special recognition during the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors May meeting for water-related projects from the recent Tri-Valley Science & Engineering Fair.

Zone 7 is the water wholesaler for Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and, through special agreement with the Dublin San Ramon Services District, the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon. It also provides flood protection to all of eastern Alameda County.

The following students received special Zone 7 awards involving four water-related projects presented at the Tri-Valley Science & Engineering Fair, held March 30 – April 2:

- Bianca De, Windemere Ranch Middle School, who got a junior (grades 6-8) individual award for her study entitled, “Can the Sun Make Seawater Drinkable?” Bianca coupled distillation with solar disinfection (SODIS). She developed her own design for the distillation apparatus and found that six hours of SODIS did make an improvement in water quality over distillation alone.
- Dibya Ghosh and Vishal Manickam, Iron Horse Middle School, who received a junior (grades 6-8) team award for their study, “Desalination.” They used a

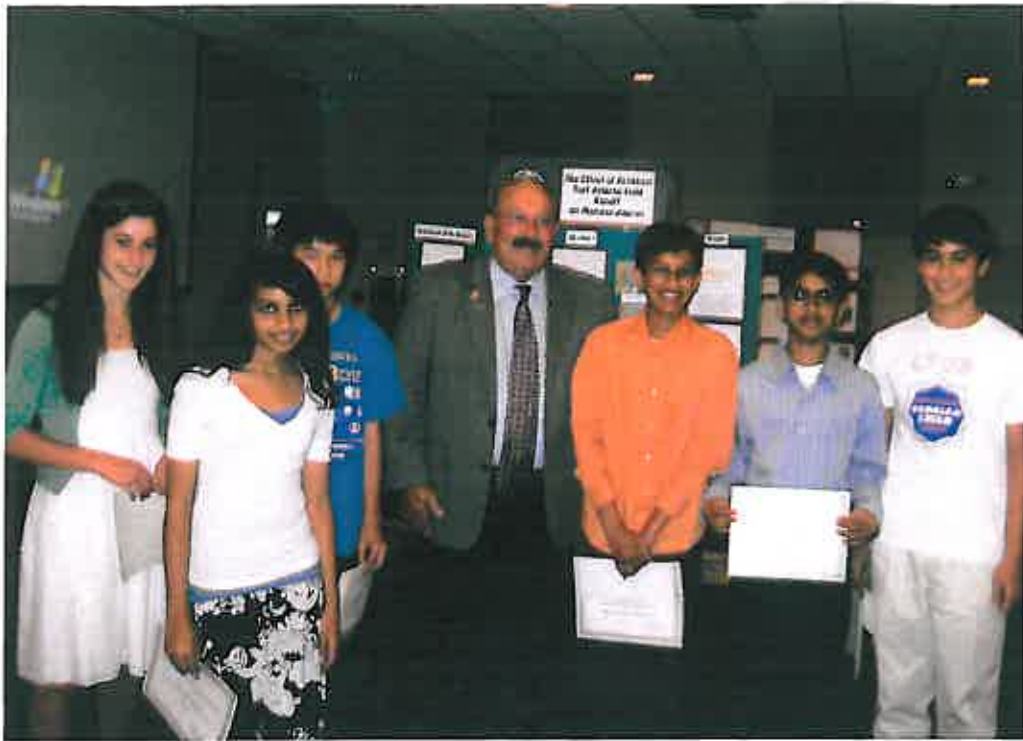
combination of distillation and electro dialysis to desalinate seawater and, while they did not achieve drinking-quality water, they did produce water suitable for agricultural uses.

- Paul Epperson and Steven Wang, Livermore Valley Charter School, who received a junior (grades 6-8) award for their study, “Creating an Energy-Efficient Solar-Powered Water Desalination Apparatus.” They used solar cells to power a dual desalination process. They spent two months just creating the solar panel, which they soldered themselves. They also tested four coatings on the resistors to reduce electro dialysis of the water.
- Alina Sinclair, San Ramon Valley High School, who got a senior (grades 9-12) individual award for her study entitled, “The Effect of Artificial Turf Athletic Field Runoff on Planaria Dugesia.” Her results showed that artificial turf can generate harmful impacts on certain freshwater flatworms that are commonly found in creeks.

Also as part of Water Awareness Month, the Zone 7 Board at its May meeting honored Ruby Hill Golf Course for its effort to decrease water consumption by installing new high-efficient, weather-based irrigation controllers and equipment. Ruby Hill is the first Commercial/Industrial/Institutional (CII) water customer in Zone 7’s service area to take advantage of a rebate under a new Zone 7 pilot program, and received a check in the amount of \$5,000 for its conservation effort. In all, a total 26 CII customers have had evaluations of their irrigation systems done under the program.

The Board also honored Wente Vineyards Event Center and Restaurant for becoming a certified Green Business in Alameda County by working to save energy, water and raw materials.

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Zone 7 Water Agency Board President Dick Quigley (center) honors, from left, students Alina Sinclair, Bianca De, Steven Wang, Dibya Ghosh, Vishal Manickam and Paul Epperson. Their water-related projects received special Zone 7 awards during the recent Tri-Valley Science & Engineering Fair"

Note: Other photos of the Ruby Hill and Wentz awards discussed in the attached release are available by calling Boni Brewer at 925-454-5015.