

Providing a reliable supply of high-quality water and flood protection to the Tri-Valley.

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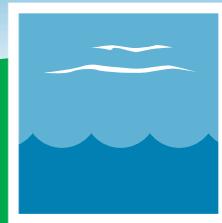
100 North Canyons Parkway

**Zone 7 Water Agency**

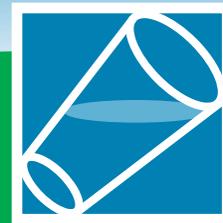


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# WATERWAYS



WATER SUPPLY



WATER QUALITY



FLOOD CONTROL

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

## TIPS FOR DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

We live in a drought-prone region, so designing and maintaining your lawn and garden to need less water is an important way to keep it looking good all year long. Many people over-water their lawns up to two times the necessary amount. In fact, over-watering can make lawns *more* susceptible to drought. Here are some tips to design and maintain your lawn and garden so that they're always drought-resistant:

- Try watering infrequently, yet thoroughly. This creates a deep, well-rooted lawn that efficiently uses water stored in the soil.
- Plant the lowest-water-use turf grass adapted to the region.
- Design a yard with less grassy area. Less grass means less water used. Instead, incorporate decks, walkways, brick, stone or tile mosaics into the plan.
- Add organic matter to the soil of shrub and flower beds. This increases the soil's ability to absorb and store water. Till in 4 to 6 inches shredded pine bark, peat or rice hulls.
- Buy and landscape with drought-tolerant plants.
- Get your free Waterwise Gardening CD from your water retailer.

## Kid's Zone

### Congratulations Water Awareness Poster Contest Winners!

Thanks to all of you Livermore 3rd and 4th graders who submitted posters to our poster contest! We got a lot of really great art, but we could only pick three winners from each grade.



The winning posters were displayed at the Livermore Wine Country Festival and at the Alameda County Fair. The artists and their families received recognition and awards at a Livermore City Council meeting and a Zone 7 Board meeting. Zone 7, California Water Service Company, and the City of Livermore sponsored the poster contest as part of the California Water Awareness Campaign.

*Board President John Greci presented awards to the poster contest winners at Zone 7's April 12 Board of Directors meeting. The winners were (from left to right): Ryan Reeves-3rd Place-3rd Grade; Carly Anne Genendlis-3rd Place-4th Grade; Hope Adams-2nd Place-3rd Grade; Kayla Fitzgerald-Retailers Award; Grady Saccullo-2nd Place-4th Grade. Not pictured: Clara Neal (1st place, third grade), Sarah Mc Callister (1st place-4th grade).*

## Change in the Seasons Can Change Your Water's Taste

Water can sometimes have a faint taste or smell during the summer months. This is because algae in the surface water supplies bloom more in warmer weather. Zone 7 removes the algae when it treats the water, but the taste and odor may linger. This doesn't affect the water's safety. In fact, Zone 7 consistently meets state and federal drinking water standards. To reduce taste and odor in your tap water, chill your water in the refrigerator, purchase a low-cost carbon filter, or squeeze a few drops of lemon in your water.





## NEW IN THE ZONE

### *Tri-Valley elects four members to Zone 7's Board*

On June 6, Tri-Valley voters elected four members to Zone 7's Board of Directors: John Greci, Steven Kalthoff, Bill Stevens, and Sarah Palmer. Greci and Kalthoff have served on the Board since 1994. Stevens is also returning, having served on the Board since 1998. Palmer is the newest member. They will be sworn in at the Board of Director's meeting on July 19.

### *Free Gardening CD!*

Zone 7 Water Agency is offering Tri-Valley residents free drought-tolerant gardening CDs on a first-come, first-served basis. This CD is filled with beautiful photographs of water-conserving gardens, native plant lists, landscape ideas, irrigation information, and much more. Contact your local water retailer to receive your free copy.

### *Zone 7 Sponsors Water Workshop for Local Teachers*

On April 29, Zone 7 sponsored a Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop—a hands-on water education workshop aimed at teachers. Zone 7 has several water science programs designed to help local teachers meet the California Framework Requirements and bring environmental science to life for local students. Project WET is a non-profit water education program designed to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, and knowledge of water resources.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

### *Be a Good Neighbor—Please Conserve Water This Summer!*

Conserving water at home and at work helps us all: it helps avoid future water shortages, ensures a reliable drinking water supply, supports local recreation, and protects natural habitats. Zone 7 makes water conservation an integral part of its current and future operations.

Zone 7 takes pride in being able to provide a 100% reliable water supply to the Tri-Valley—even during a prolonged drought. We conserve water on a daily basis by storing water above daily demand in the Main Groundwater Basin for future use when needed. The Main Groundwater Basin holds 250,000 acre-feet (AF) of water. One AF is enough to meet two households' indoor and outdoor needs for one year. This year, Zone 7 received a rare and unusually large allotment of surface water from the state—at no cost to local taxpayers. Zone 7 stored this extra water in the groundwater basin in order to prepare for future dry years that could be just around the corner.

But there are other ways to conserve. Did you know that toilets manufactured before 1992 can use between 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush? That's a lot of water! We offer residents rebates on ultra low-flow toilets and washing machines. New low-flow toilets are just as efficient, but use only 1.6 gallons per flush.

There are a number of easy steps Tri-Valley residents can take to conserve more water:

- Conserve water around the house, such as fixing leaks and running full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Conserve water outside in the yard, such as planting drought-tolerant plants and improving your soil.
- Install ultra-low-flow toilets and washing machines. You may qualify for a rebate of up to \$75! Contact your water retailer for more details.
- Read publications about water conservation measures we can all take.

**For more information on these and other tips visit [www.zone7water.com/conservation.html](http://www.zone7water.com/conservation.html) and click on the "Conservation" tab at the top of the page.**

*– Dale Myers  
Zone 7 General Manager*

## WHO TO CONTACT

**Zone 7 Water Agency • 925-454-5000**

*For Questions Regarding Your Water*

California Water Service Company • 925-447-4900

City of Livermore • 925-960-8100

City of Pleasanton • 925-931-5520

Dublin San Ramon Services District • 925-828-0515

*For Questions Regarding Your Storm Drains*

Alameda County Public Works • 510-670-5480

City of Dublin Public Works • 925-833-6630

City of Livermore • 925-960-8100

City of Pleasanton Public Works • 925-931-5500

## WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM

Approximately 75-80 percent of the water that Zone 7 uses to supply the Tri-Valley comes from the California-Bay Delta. Before the water enters homes and businesses in the Tri-Valley, it must pass through three separate systems: the State Water Project (SWP), Zone 7, and your local water retailer. Each of these water systems is independently maintained and operated. First, the SWP sells water to Zone 7, which treats it and then sends it to your local water retailer. Your water retailer then distributes it to you.

The Delta is vital to California and provides drinking water for two-thirds of the state, supporting the most productive agricultural region in the nation. The water in the Delta is sent from Lake Oroville, 70 miles northeast of Sacramento, which captures run-off, rainfall and snow melt from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The remainder of Zone 7's water supply comes from local surface water (which is stored in Lake del Valle) and from the local groundwater basin.

*State Water Project*

**Zone 7 Water Agency**

**Water Retailer You**