



Zone 7 Water Agency
 100 North Canyons Parkway
 Livermore, CA 94551
 925/454-5000
 www.zone7water.com

Prsrt Std
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Pleasanton, CA
 Permit #284



Waterways

A Newsletter from **Zone 7 Water Agency**

Issue No. 11

February 2010

KIDS' ZONE

TEST YOUR WATER KNOWLEDGE!

TRUE OR FALSE: Automatic sprinklers account for about half of all the water most Californians use at home.

TRUE OR FALSE: Throwing trash and other objects in storm drains and creeks can create blockages that increase chances of local flooding.

TRUE OR FALSE: When water is polluted with paint, oil or pesticides and goes into the storm drains on your street, it is treated before it flows into the Bay.

Answers: 1) true, 2) true, 3) false

WHO TO CONTACT

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

BRACING FOR WET WEATHER



Crews repair banks along flood-protection channel.

In light of forecasts for an El Niño rainy season that can pack more punch into winter storms, Zone 7's flood-protection crews have been more aggressive than usual in readying Agency-owned creeks and channels for high water, and in staying on top of emergency

repairs as needed.

Zone 7 owns and maintains 37 miles of flood-protection and stormwater-drainage facilities, about a third of all the Livermore-Amador Valley's channels and creeks that send stormwater runoff out to San Francisco Bay. Valley cities and private citizens own and maintain the remainder.

This past summer, Zone 7 crews implemented 15 bank repairs; 20 road- and drainage-improvement projects; and eight miscellaneous projects, such as concrete structure repairs. They also installed 730 reinforced steel plates to stabilize a 1,000-foot reach of Arroyo Mocho embankment, coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on four major bank repairs, and constructed 17 bank stabilization projects using biotechnical (natural vegetation) engineering techniques.

FLOOD-PROOFING YOUR PROPERTY

- Keep storm drains, roof gutters, pipes, downspouts, driveway culverts and drainage ditches free of debris.
- Ensure your drainage is directed toward the street's storm-drain system.
- For stream-flooding issues, call Zone 7 at 925-454-5000, or after hours at 925-447-6704. For questions regarding storm drains, or for information on where to obtain free emergency sandbags, call the city and county numbers on the back of this newsletter.

AQUEDUCT GETS UPGRADE

The State Water Project's South Bay Aqueduct is being improved for additional water supply reliability and energy efficiency, and enlarged to meet contractual capacity levels. You'll start to see crews out in full force this Spring, with project completion expected by late summer 2011. Zone 7 is paying roughly 75 percent of the \$190 million cost, the vast majority with fees on new development and a small portion from property tax revenue.

A recent event indirectly related to the SBA project demonstrates not only how reliable

(cont'd on page 3)



PURSuing COST-CUTTING EFFICIENCIES

Zone 7 continues to pursue cost-cutting measures in efforts to ease pressure on water rates – even as it tackles unprecedented challenges facing most California water agencies in providing high-quality, reliable supplies given environmental regulations, soaring chemical costs, aging infrastructure and three years of drought.

The Agency is already saving nearly \$1 million this fiscal year and again next year by not filling several vacant positions. In addition, it is exploring further staffing realignments through its strategic planning process and is pursuing separation of various services from Alameda County as a way to streamline operations and cut costs.

Along with a hiring freeze for all but mission-critical positions, Zone 7 is:

1. Continuing to defer non-critical capital improvement and replacement projects as well as equipment purchases.
2. Shifting maintenance and engineering services from contracts to more cost-effective in-house personnel, and looking for other areas with that potential.
3. Targeting an additional \$1 million in savings in FY 2010-11 and, in efforts to achieve further staff reductions and savings, offering a voluntary resignation program.
4. In yet another effort to reduce pressure on water rates, taking \$7.6 million from various reserve funds over the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years.

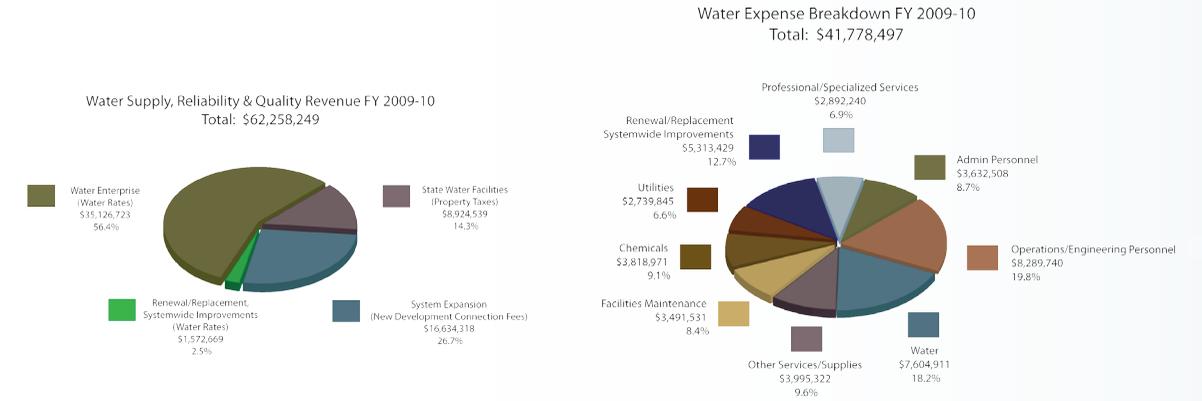
The challenges are great. Economic hard times are hitting at the same time that Zone 7 faces continued costs of addressing reduced water deliveries from the State Water Project due to court-imposed pumping restrictions from the ecologically fragile Delta, through which 80 percent of the Agency's water supply is conveyed. Among other things, we are contributing to a statewide effort to evaluate alternatives for a long-term fix to Delta water conveyance that addresses the co-equal goal of enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan aims to improve long-term reliability of imported supplies and to improve the quality of those supplies.

Meanwhile, we are undertaking a detailed analysis of the most cost-effective options to restore our water-supply reliability through a water system master plan expected to be completed by the end of 2010. For example, this could involve a combination of water conservation, increased water recycling, desalination and purchase of more water. Rather than hire costly consultants, all of this work will be done in-house.

(cont'd on next page)

(cont'd from page 2)

Other investments we're making to improve water quality and reliability include our new demineralization plant that is helping to soften local groundwater supplies and facilitate use of recycled water. In 2010, we're also investing an additional \$400,000 in water conservation programs in furtherance of efforts to meet state legislative calls for a 20 percent reduction in per-capita water use by the year 2020.



Water rates pay to operate and maintain the existing treated water system, and for renewal/replacement projects. Development fees pay for system expansion.

AQUEDUCT GETS UPGRADE *(cont'd from page 1)*



A reservoir in the Altamont Hills, planned as part of the SBA Expansion and Improvement Project, will help reduce energy costs associated with pumping water during times of peak demand.

Zone 7's system is during emergencies, but also how reliant we are on our State Water Project supplies long-term. In November, some of the SBA work required the state Department of Water Resources to temporarily stop pumping Delta-conveyed water into the aqueduct. That made Del Valle Reservoir our only source of state water for a period that was supposed to last two months. But that changed just days before Christmas with a major rupture in DWR's aging pipeline connecting the reservoir to Zone 7's system. Fortunately, in cooperation with our retail water agencies, we were still able to meet customer demand for water. Zone 7 is fortunate to have a local groundwater basin, along with a staff dedicated to providing you with uninterrupted supply, that allowed us to switch to 100 percent groundwater until the state could get the SBA back on line by January 11, on schedule.

Luckily, demand is low at this time of year. DWR is hustling to repair the pipeline from the reservoir by this Spring and assuming this happens, we'll be OK to meet peak-demand deliveries this summer using a combination of groundwater, Delta-conveyed water and our local storm runoff stored in Lake Del Valle.

WATERWISE GARDENING & CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, FROM 2 TO 3:30 P.M. AT THE LIVERMORE CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY, 1188 S. LIVERMORE AVE. BROUGHT TO YOU BY ZONE 7, THE CITY OF LIVERMORE AND THE CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, FROM 11 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY, 400 OLD BERNAL AVE., PLEASANTON. CO-HOSTED BY ZONE 7 AND THE CITY OF PLEASANTON.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, FROM 2 TO 3:30 P.M. AT THE DUBLIN LIBRARY, 200 CIVIC PLAZA. CO-HOSTED BY ZONE 7 AND DUBLIN SAN RAMON SERVICES DISTRICT AS PART OF DUBLIN PRIDE WEEK.

FOR MORE INFO AND TO ACCESS OUR TRI-VALLEY WATER-WISE GARDENING WEBSITE, PLEASE GO TO:

WWW.ZONE7WATER.COM