

WATER WAYS

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Zone 7

Pipeline Alignments Identified for Future Altamont Water Treatment Plant

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED a number of potential alignments for a water transmission pipeline that will carry drinking water from the future Altamont Water Treatment Plant at the end of Dyer Road in unincorporated Alameda County to its Cross Valley Pipeline near Kitty Hawk Road in Livermore. Alignment options begin at the treatment plant site and follow Dyer Road, Altamont Pass Road, and run along I-580. Other options follow Dyer Road, turn west and tunnel under the Altamont Hills and either run through North Livermore along May School Road or turn south down Laughlin Road and run along I-580. The pipeline will have a capacity of up to 42 million gallons of treated water per day.

The treatment plant may be in service as early as 2008 to supply drinking water for planned growth in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin through 2030.

Zone 7 has been working with state and federal resource agencies,

Alameda County Public Works Agency, retail water agencies, park districts, and local residents and businesses to determine engineering constraints, costs, and environmental and community impacts associated with different pipeline alignments. Pipeline costs and environmental and community impacts will be examined in more detail during the environmental review process, which will begin in January 2004 and last for about a year.

To learn more about the Altamont Pipeline Project and see maps of the different pipeline alignment options, please see the many Altamont Pipeline Alignment Study documents available on Zone 7's website: www.zone7water.com. Under News and Information go to Current Projects and Programs. If you have additional questions about the project, please contact Jack Fong, Project Engineer, at (925) 484-2600, extension 245, or jfong@zone7water.com.



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Time to cut back the sprinklers

Now that the hot summer is over, it is time to make sure automatic sprinklers are reprogrammed to cut back on water use.

Not only will it save money on water bills and help preserve the

Tri-Valley's water supplies, but many grasses and other vegetation are harmed

if they receive too much water. Also,

automatic sprinkler systems should be shut off when it rains. For

more information on how to properly water

your lawn and garden, as well as other water

conservation tips, see

Zone 7's Conservation

Connection on the

agency's website at

www.zone7water.com.



No Zone 7 Water Rate Increase in 2004

The Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors voted October 15 not to increase the rate at which it wholesales water to the four water retailers in the Tri-Valley—City of Livermore, City of Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District and California Water Service Company in Livermore.

According to Board President Jim Concannon, holding the rates steady is based on two factors. The first is that Zone 7 is interested in reaching consensus with its retailers regarding the priority of projects to further improve water quality in order to develop reasonable cost estimates that will need to be recovered through rate increases. Secondly, Zone 7 staff, like private industry in these tough economic times, is reviewing its core functions to see where it can reduce operating expenses.

Testing the World's Waters

On October 18, Zone 7 joined forces with hundreds of groups across the globe that volunteered to gather data on local water quality and share the information with international organizers. The effort, called World Water Monitoring Day, was undertaken in order to establish a base line for evaluating global water trends and to help ensure that people everywhere have clean water for domestic, agricultural, commercial and recreational uses.

As part of the effort, dozens of teens from Tri-Valley environmental high school science classes conducted water samplings in the Arroyo Valle and Arroyo Mocho, and then uploaded their findings into the World Water Monitoring Day website.

Zone 7 Board President James Concannon joined the students in Livermore as they tested the levels of dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity/clarity and temperature.

"Zone 7 whole-heartedly supports this type of effort," Mr. Concannon said. "By encouraging our young people to get involved in water testing and explore global water issues, we are helping groom them for their future role as stewards of our local watershed."



Dozens of teens from Tri-Valley high schools conducted water sampling on October 18 as part of World Water Monitoring Day. Their findings were uploaded to the World Water Monitoring Day website.

Reading, Writing, Arithmetic . . .and Water!

Now that school is back in session, Zone 7 Water Agency is again helping students learn about something just as important as reading, writing and arithmetic. That something is how to preserve and protect our water supplies.

Zone 7 is in its sixth year of working with local public and private schools to supplement regular classroom instruction with water-related issues specific to the Tri-Valley. Although teachers may give the instruction themselves using lesson plans and learning aids developed by Zone 7, many take advantage of the agency's part-time, certified teachers to present the specialized material.

This year instruction on Water Conservation has been added to the existing lesson plans on Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution and Creek and Storm Drain Pollution. In addition, Zone 7 coordinates two other educational resources that are offered to schools through the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. They are an elementary school assembly featuring a juggler who teaches children about water science and a puppet show that teaches young children how to keep the creeks clean.

Zone 7 also participates in school science fairs in Pleasanton and Livermore. Teachers who would like more information on Zone 7's schools programs may call 484-2600, ext. 274, or e-mail the agency at schools@zone7water.com.

Cool Water Websites

If used properly and with parental supervision, the Internet can be a tremendous resource for young people to learn about the importance of protecting precious water supplies. The following are just a few of the many websites designed especially for kids and teachers:

- **Drinking Water for Kids:** www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/
This U.S. Environmental Protection Agency site, designed for kids grades k-12, has games and activities, classroom activities and experiments, and information on kids' health.
- **Environmental Explorers' Club:** www.epa.gov/kids/water.htm
This is another USEPA site for young people that addresses water treatment and pollution prevention.
- **Polluted Runoff:** www.epa.gov/OWOW/NPS/kids/
This is yet another USEPA site with links to various games and activities that specifically address individual responsibility for pollution prevention.



Great links for younger and older kids

- **www.fi.edu/city/water/science.html**
This site sponsored by the Franklin Institute contains links to sites describing the hydrologic cycle, home water quality and safety, real-time hydrological data, groundwater protection, etc.
- **Learning to be Waterwise:** www.getwise.org/wwise
This site is designed for grades 4-8 and emphasizes water conservation. It also is a good resource for teachers.
- **Water Science for Schools:** <http://www.wga.usgs.gov/edu/>
This U.S. Geological Survey site is primarily for older kids. It contains everything from the basic hydrologic cycle to a glossary of technical water terms. The site also has downloadable certificates of completion for students who have researched the entire site.
- **Kids Corner:** www.groundwater.org/KidsCorner/kidscorner.htm
This site, sponsored by The Groundwater Foundation, teaches kids how to protect groundwater supplies, conserve water and has links to other youth programs.
- **Kids and Education:** www.dsrsd.com
Dublin San Ramon Services District's website has a section with games for kids, poster contest winners and information on an essay contest.
- **Zone 7's Schools Program:** www.zone7water.com/school.html
On Zone 7's own site there is information for kids and teachers. Kids can learn about the Wonder Down Under, the groundwater basin where Tri-Valley residents get up to 25% of their water, and learn The Story of Drinking Water, sponsored by the American Water Works Association. Teachers can learn about Zone 7's schools program.

Zone 7's Website: What You'll Find

Residents wanting information about the Tri-Valley's water supply and flood protection can find it on Zone 7's website at www.zone7water.com. In addition, those needing well-drilling, septic tank and encroachment permits can download and print the required forms without having to go to the administrative offices.

Here's just a sampling of what can be found on the site:

- Board of Directors names and Zone 7 phone numbers
- Principal staff list with contact numbers
- Board and Committee meeting agendas
- Agency financial statement and other fiscal information
- Recent news releases
- Previous *Waterways* newsletters and Zone 7 fact sheets
- Calendar of events

- Current projects and programs (South Bay Aqueduct Improvement and Enlargement Program, Alameda County-wide Clean Water Program, Altamont Pipeline Alignment Study, and Stream Management Master Plan)
- Permits and applications
- Employment opportunities (presently none available)
- FAQs (frequently asked questions) about watershed management, water quality and flood protection
- Water supply reliability, groundwater management, water quality reports
- Chain of Lakes case study
- Water conservation and rebate programs
- Flood control construction and maintenance programs, to include the challenges presented
- Schools program and kids' pages
- Links to related sites

*Zone 7
is at your
fingertips
on the
World Wide Web!*



Water Quality Laboratory

UNLIKE MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, Tri-Valley residents can turn on their water with confidence that it is safe to drink. But safe drinking water does not happen automatically. It requires state-of-the-art treatment facilities and skilled operators. But it also requires continuous monitoring of water supplies and treatment systems to ensure they are operating properly and to identify where there may be a problem.

Nestled in the southeast corner of the Valley at the Water Quality Laboratory at the Del Valle Water Treatment Plant is a crew of five dedicated Zone 7 employees who make sure the water consistently meets all state and federal standards.

Gurpal Deol heads the accomplished team of lab technicians and chemists, all of whom have a master's degree in their field. Rounding out the staff are Kanwal Hundal, Lucita Palma, Taaque Tesfayohannes and Pony Yim.

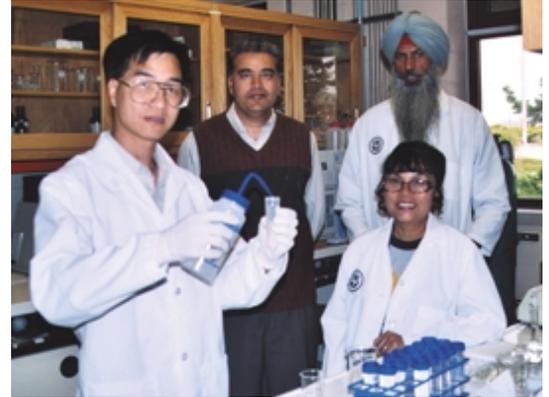
"With an in-house lab we can do much more than the regulatory required monitoring," says Deol. "We are able to anticipate new and more stringent regulations and work with operations staff to ensure compliance."

Deol says the laboratory also is able to support operations staff with special studies to improve water treatment plant performance. Monitoring data is shared with the four retail water agencies in the Valley.

Online monitoring equipment is routinely checked by laboratory staff for accuracy. Online monitoring by operations staff on a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week basis is very critical in providing safe water to consumers that meets and exceeds applicable regulatory standards. In the event monitoring detects a possible concern, operators can modify treatment processes or shift to use water from another source until the problem is resolved.

The Zone's Water Quality Laboratory is certified under the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, administered in the state by the California Department of Health Services. Deol says Zone 7 has a long history of compliance with water quality standards.

Water quality reports and annual consumer confidence reports may be seen at www.zone7water.com.



(From left) Pony Yim, Gurpal Deol, Kanwaljit Hundal and Lucita Palma (seated) of the Water Quality Laboratory.



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Regular meetings of the Board

of Directors are held the third

Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

in the Board Room. Special meetings

are held as needed.

Meetings are open to the public.

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