

WATER WAYS

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Zone 7

RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY KEEPS VALLEY STRONG

You depend on getting enough water each and every time you turn on your tap—whether it’s to drink, to cook and clean, to bathe, or to water your lawn. A reliable, safe water supply is the heart of the Valley’s quality of life. It ensures our economic vitality, sustains our agricultural open space, and provides us with recreational activities. In addition to providing a reliable supply of treated water to 175,000 residents, Zone 7 provides enough untreated water to sustain more than 2,000 acres of irrigated agriculture in the Valley.

There are many challenges to water reliability in California today. The amount of annual rainfall can vary, demand for water increases as the population grows, and warm temperatures can degrade source water quality and make it more difficult to treat. The possibility of prolonged drought or emergency or other outage of water supply facilities can also threaten water supply. Zone 7 responds to these challenges by constantly maintaining and operating its treatment plants, groundwater wells, and pipelines. Zone 7 is committed to providing 100% water reliability to Valley communities, even during prolonged drought.

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Zone 7 maintains water reliability in the Valley by drawing on multiple water sources, including surface water that is imported from the Delta, local rainfall runoff that is stored in Lake del Valle, and surface water stored in the Main Groundwater Basin that lies under the Valley’s west side. In the event of a prolonged drought or an emergency outage of surface water treatment or conveyance facilities, the groundwater basin is a critical water supply source for the Valley. As part of Zone 7’s water reliability efforts, it maintains water levels in the groundwater basin and plans for groundwater pumping facilities to meet up to 75% of the Valley’s water demand from Zone 7 in case of emergency.

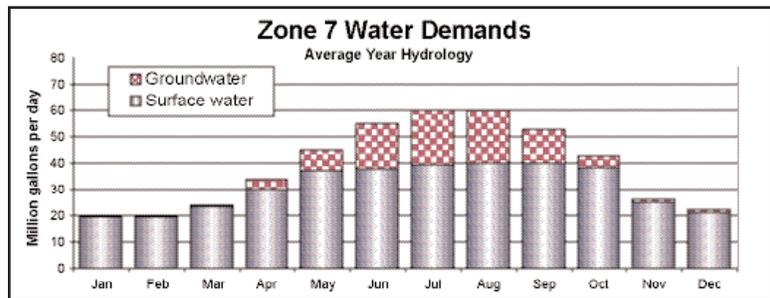
OPERATIONS

Zone 7 operates its treatment plants and groundwater wells to make the water quality the best it can be depending on its source. How Zone 7 manages most of its surface water and groundwater sources is key to water reliability. Surface water is stored in the groundwater basin during normal and wet years to maintain adequate supplies to meet Valley demands during dry years. Zone 7 routinely uses rain and snow level data from the months of November through March to plan how to combine available surface water and stored groundwater sources, and to determine how much water will be available to replenish the groundwater basin.

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On a daily basis the weather, fluctuations in demand, facility downtime for maintenance, and the quality of Delta water can all affect how Zone 7 combines surface and groundwater to meet daily water demands. The mix of sources is usually between 75% to 80 % surface water and 20% to 25 % groundwater, although sometimes groundwater can account for up to 40% of peak day summer supplies. During the warm summer months Zone 7 meets more of its total water demand with groundwater because temperature variations and algae growth makes surface water more difficult to treat and because of increased overall Valley demand.

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When customer demand for water increases during summer months, Zone 7 pumps more groundwater to ensure a reliable water supply.

(Continued inside)

(Water Reliability continued from cover)

INVESTING IN RELIABILITY

In order to maintain water reliability as the Valley continues to grow, Zone 7 plans and builds new facilities and replaces or repairs its existing infrastructure. Planning and funding these projects today is an investment in the Valley's existing and future water reliability, its economic viability, and its quality of life. Current projects include:

- **Altamont Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline** – to supply treated water needs of planned growth through 2035.
- **Wellhead Demineralization** – to stabilize the groundwater basin's salt balance and ensure its future viability.
- **New wells** – to be used in the event of a drought, an emergency or a treatment plant or pipeline outage.
- **Projects to increase treatment capacity at Del Valle Water Treatment Plant.**
- **Ongoing facility renewal and replacement** – including transmission pipelines, pumping stations, water treatment equipment, and well equipment.

ZONE 7 AND LARPD CONTINUE TO STUDY SYCAMORE GROVE PARK

Zone 7 Water Agency and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) are moving forward with the second phase of studies that will help the agencies benefit the trees in Sycamore Park Grove.

Previous studies concluded that severe drought conditions from the late 1980s until the early 1990s were primarily to blame for a significant decline in tree growth and health during that time period. The trees have recovered quite well since then, and the two agencies want to learn what they can do to keep the trees



Sycamore Grove Park

healthy and the park a valuable environmental and recreational resource for the Valley.

The additional research will help Zone 7 manage its water releases into the Arroyo del Valle, which flows through the grove before recharging the Main Groundwater Basin. On average the basin supplies Valley residents with as much as 25% of their drinking water.

Likewise, LARPD will learn more about how reduced flood waters from the Del Valle Reservoir may have impacted seedling growth, and how the District can help the trees regenerate in a changed environment. The research is expected to be finished before the end of the year.

WATER QUALITY

ALTAMONT WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND PIPELINE MOVE FORWARD



In February, the Zone 7 Board of Directors approved nearly \$5 million in contracts to begin designing the new Altamont Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline. The Board also certified the environmental impact report for the preferred route of the pipeline that will bring the treated water from the new plant to the populated areas of the Valley. The new treatment plant is needed to meet the Valley's water demands through the year 2035. It also will improve aesthetic water quality by allowing Zone 7 to increase the blend of surface water with groundwater. Groundwater typically has a higher mineral content and, therefore, is harder than surface water.

GROUNDWATER DEMINERALIZATION PROJECT TO REDUCE HARDNESS OF WATER

Plans are well underway for Zone 7 Water Agency to construct the first phase of its groundwater demineralization facility near the agency's Mocho Wellfield in Pleasanton. The project, which is currently under design and environmental review, will use reverse-osmosis technology to remove salt from the groundwater. This salt contributes to the water hardness that residents sometimes experience, especially in Pleasanton and Dublin.

The \$30 million Groundwater Demineralization Project is the keystone of Zone 7's Salt Management Plan, adopted late last year by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Implementing the plan is necessary to stabilize the salt loading of the Main Groundwater Basin, which supplies as much as 25% of the Valley's drinking water. The Demineralization Project is also required for the use of recycled water in the Valley.

An estimated 6.1 million gallons per day of groundwater will be treated and blended with other drinking water sources. If approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the removed salt will be exported to San Francisco Bay through the Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency pipeline, which primarily exports treated wastewater to the Bay.

WE'VE MOVED!

In February, Zone 7 moved its offices from Pleasanton back to Livermore, where the agency first established its headquarters when it was formed in 1957. The Pleasanton office suited Zone 7's needs in its day. But it became increasingly more crowded as the agency needed more staff to keep up with increased water demand, flood control facilities management and other challenges associated with



Zone 7's new office building

growing responsibilities, and new development in the Valley. Before the move about half of the staff was housed in temporary buildings and rented office space. Now, except for treatment plant personnel, all of Zone 7's employees are located under one roof. The new office building is located at 100 North Canyons Parkway, about a block and a half east of Costco.

MANAGING GARDEN PESTS

Handle almost any bug or garden problem using "integrated pest management." This means starting with the least toxic approach, and saving the more harmful chemicals only for serious problems. Zone 7 has information just for you. Call 454-5065 or visit our website at www.zone7water.com.

ZONE 7'S WEBSITE IMPROVED

Zone 7 Water Agency recently redesigned its website, www.zone7water.com, to make it easier for Valley residents to stay informed about water supply, water quality, water conservation, planned new facilities, and back issues of WaterWays. Residents can also find agency budgets and meeting agendas. Zone 7 wants the website to be of great value and use to you. Please give us your suggestions on how we can make it even better.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of WaterWays we gave you the incorrect website address for the new California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) automated weather station at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. CIMIS helps you determine how much water you need to irrigate your lawn. The correct address is <http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov/cimis/welcome.jsp>

ZONE 7 AND CITIES CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Zone 7 and the City of Pleasanton celebrated Earth Day again this year at the Main Street Green at Arroyo del Valle Bridge in downtown Pleasanton. Participants

visited with Master Gardeners, made a Home Depot craft, learned to treasure hunt, explored with the City Naturalist and learned how our watershed works.

Volunteers helped clean the creeks and remove graffiti, demonstrating their commitment to "Make a Difference" on Earth Day!



Earth Day Naturalist

Zone 7 also helped celebrate Earth Day in Livermore at an event sponsored by the City of Livermore Beautification Committee. The event included a creek clean up in the morning, followed by a celebration at Robertson Park. Hundreds of visitors stopped by our booth to say hello and learn how our stormwater system works. A big thanks to all who came out!

LIVERMORE WINE COUNTRY FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

The 14th annual Livermore Wine Festival took place in historic downtown Livermore the last weekend in April. The event celebrated the bounty of the region's dozens of local wineries and olive growers and showcased other local products. Zone 7 and the California Water Service Company distributed free information on how to conserve water in your garden this summer.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

You can sign up for two classes in Livermore to help you learn to work with nature to reduce waste and to prevent unnecessary pollution to San Francisco Bay:

Gardening to Manage Pests Naturally,
Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore.

Let Worms Eat Your Garbage, Saturday, June 18,
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bay-Friendly Demonstration Garden,
3589 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

Call (510) 444-SOIL
or register online at <http://recycle.stopwaste.org/GardenWS/>

