

# WATER WAYS

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Zone 7

## New Project Provides Fish Passage

In addition to providing flood control protection to public and private property, a new project between Livermore and Pleasanton will also contribute to efforts to provide native fish access to upstream habitat.

Efforts are under way from San Francisco Bay all along Alameda Creek and its tributaries to remove man-made barriers that have prevented steelhead trout from traveling upstream to spawning locations. New and more environmentally friendly facilities no longer force the choice between either flood control or environmental protection. Now, albeit at a higher cost, it can be a “win-win” for both needs.



*Photos: Fish will now be able to swim both upstream and downstream along the Arroyo Las Positas, thanks to Zone 7's newly constructed fish passageway.*



In a recent project it was necessary to realign the Arroyo Las Positas and widen the Arroyo Mocho near where they join south of I-580 at El Charro Road. Instead of constructing a drop structure, necessary to prevent excessive stream erosion where the elevation drops but also restrictive to fish swimming upstream to spawn, the Zone 7 Water Agency engineered and constructed two fish passageways. While still preventing streambed erosion, the passageways make negotiating this section of the improved arroyo no different for the fish than swimming up a mountain stream running over rocks.

When cities and agencies closer to the Bay finish similar projects, Valley residents may again see steelhead in local arroyos during periods of winter and spring high-water flows.

### MORE NEWS INSIDE:

**Stream Management Master Plan addresses pressing Valley issues**

**Water-saving landscape design CD available free from your water retailer**

**Kids' Zone: Test your knowledge by decoding this phrase!**

**Plus...Lots of fun events coming up this spring!**

## All Three Tri-Valley Cities to Be Represented on Zone 7 Board

When Zone 7 Water Agency's new Board of Directors is seated this July 1, its members will represent all three cities in the Tri-Valley service area.

Of the three incumbents whose terms expire on June 30, only Director Jim Concannon filed for re-election. Director David Layton, completing his third term, and Director Susan Johnston, who is finishing her first term on the Board, chose not to run again. Both are residents of Livermore.

Filing for the first time were James Kohnen of Dublin and Richard Quigley of Pleasanton. Because only three candidates filed for the three open seats, an election is not required. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is expected to officially appoint Messrs. Concannon, Kohnen and Quigley to the Zone 7 Board later this spring.

# Plan Addresses Pressing Valley Issues

Zone 7 Water Agency has published the Phase 1 Interim Report of the Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP). Development of the SMMP began in September 2002 as an update to the Zone's 1966 Flood Control Master Plan.

The SMMP study area includes 430 square miles of watershed within the Zone 7 service area in the Livermore-Amador Valley. Zone 7 is responsible for managing flood flows in the Valley and owns and maintains approximately 39 miles of improved flood control channels. This is about one-third of all the streams and arroyos in the drainage basin.

The SMMP uses a multi-disciplinary and stakeholder-based approach to stream management by recognizing the challenges of balancing flood protection with providing community water supplies, maintaining and enhancing water quality, protecting natural habitat,

and providing recreation opportunities within the Valley. Development of the SMMP included a series of eight stakeholder workshops to accomplish the following:

- Identify goals and objectives for the SMMP.
- Identify needs and opportunities for stream management throughout the Valley.
- Discuss regional approaches to flood protection for the Valley.
- Comment on SMMP project concepts.
- Comment on the preliminary SMMP Program and Interim Report format.

Stakeholders involved in the workshops included those from the cities and other governmental agencies in the Valley, business and industry, environmental groups, trail advocates, and regulatory agencies.

Those interested in reading the Interim Report may find it under "Reports" on Zone 7's website, [www.zone7water.com](http://www.zone7water.com).



## May Is Water Awareness Month

Zone 7, like water agencies throughout the state, recognizes the month of May as Water Awareness Month, a time to educate consumers on the wise use of this precious resource.

In conjunction with Water Awareness Month, the California Urban Water Conservation Council has launched a H2ouse Water Saver Home Website, an interactive tour through a typical home and ways water can be saved throughout. Access the educational website at [www.h2ouse.com](http://www.h2ouse.com).



## Free From Your Water Retailer— Water-Saving Landscape Design CD

While supplies last, residents may obtain from their water retailer - City of Livermore, City of Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District or California Water Company - just-released software to help them design and maintain water-wise gardening and general home water conservation.

Zone 7 Water Agency has contracted with GardenSoftUSA to prepare a limited supply of a special Zone 7 CDROM edition of its new software Waterwise Gardening as a customized, regional garden guide for water conservation in landscaping.

The software will assist people in finding solutions, ideas and gardening concepts to bring to their own properties. Garden images are grouped into categories. When a user selects a category he or she will be taken to a new screen listing dozens of garden idea thumb nails within that subject area. The user will be invited to click on one of the images to expand it. Once expanded the user will be invited to point and click on any of the component parts of the photograph to reveal pop-up menus. These hot-links will enable the user to identify the plants and the hardscape components that went into creating that garden.

Not only will the user be able to identify and view additional photography for that item but review a large amount of information in an easy to navigate window. The Waterwise Gardening CD also will allow the user to look through several thousand plants, available at local retail nurseries, by botanical or common name. The user also can look up plants by using the powerful search engine provided in the system. After collecting the

plant characteristics of concern the program will search through the selected library of plants and find the ones that solve the user's problems.

The CD will contain a file of problem solving lists for plants that deal with a variety of local situations. It will pull from the hand-picked library of plants selected for this area and available at local retail nurseries.

The user can tour through plants that solve specific problems and review information so that intelligent decisions can be made about individual yards and properties. In addition, the user will find the CD filled with pertinent information about designing gardens in the waterwise way, maintaining the garden in a water-efficient manner, and how to review indoor water-conservation measures.

The CD will contain a self-water audit checklist for homeowners.

An online description of the Waterwise Gardening software may be found at [www.gardensoftusa.com/Waterwise.html](http://www.gardensoftusa.com/Waterwise.html).





## Section Spotlight: Administrative Services Division

In previous issues of *WaterWays* Zone 7 has spotlighted various departments within the Agency and the staff that is involved in providing the basic water resources and flood protection services. But as one can imagine, an agency charged with providing a reliable source of quality water to nearly 200,000 residents and protecting their property from winter storms requires some administrative staff as well.

The **Administrative Services Division**, led by Assistant General Manager Jon Orellana, manages a \$2.7 million annual budget, looks after the Agency's 100 emp

Jan Tobias is the section head of **Accounting and Finance**. The section, in consultation with other Zone 7 divisions, receives the funds from water sales and other sources, pays

provide special services are being properly administered.

Tamara Olsen leads **Financial and Systems Services** which prepares and monitors the budget, does financial forecasting and analysis and makes sure Zone 7's information technology systems are current and function properly.

Maintaining Zone 7 office spaces, its vehicle fleet and keeping supply shelves stocked is the responsibility of Frank Torrian, head of the **Transportation and Supply Section**.

Any successful company or organization will say that its greatest asset is its staff. And Zone 7 employees are no exception. The **Human Resources Section**, headed up by Sylvia Seaborn, handles everything from address changes to workmen's compensation. The section manages employees' benefits programs, the service awards program, employee training and many other functions that help maintain an effective Zone 7 staff.

Employee safety has always been a priority at Zone 7 Water Agency. Diana Gaines, head of the **Safety and Emergency Services Section**, sees that the best safety equipment is used and that employees receive up-to-date training in how to protect themselves and others. Because of recent world events, the section has stepped up its efforts to protect Zone 7's water supplies, facilities and employees from external influences.

Thanks to the **Administrative Services Division**, Zone 7 Water Agency is better prepared to serve the public in the Livermore-Amador Valley.



*Standing (left to right): Frank Torrian, Jon Orellana, Maria Overly, Linda Vernon, Phyllis May, Jan Tobias, Robyn Navarra, Diana Gaines, Margaret Chun. Seated: Karen Bartels, Charlene Proctor, Cindy Vanderlaan, Lucinda Myers, Tom Pico. Not pictured: Jeanne France, Sylvia Seaborn, Tamara Olsen, Teri Yasuda, Jeff Jones.*

FREE CD—Information Inside!



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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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