

For Immediate Release
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ZONE 7 AUTHORIZES NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND PIPELINE

Altamont Water Treatment Plant to provide reliable water supply to growing Valley

Pleasanton – The Zone 7 Board of Directors last night approved a \$21 million contract with Black & Veatch to begin the design and construction of the Altamont Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline. The plant will initially supply up to 24 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated water to Valley residents and businesses. Approximately 11 miles of buried pipeline will convey the water from the treatment plant in the Altamont Hills to Zone 7’s existing delivery system at Kitty Hawk Road in Livermore. Both the plant and pipeline are scheduled for completion in 2009.

“We’re very excited about this next step”, said Board Vice President John Greci. “It’s an investment in the Valley’s future.”

Zone 7 plans to ultimately expand the plant’s capacity to 42 mgd to meet the demands of planned growth in its service area, the cities of Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore, through the year 2035. The Altamont Water Treatment Plant is the first new water treatment plant built in the Valley since the Del Valle Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1975.

During the new plant’s design phase, Zone 7 will evaluate state-of-the-art treatment technologies to enhance the delivered water quality to its customers. The new plant will treat water imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, whose quality can vary dramatically from day to day, particularly during the warm summer months. The operation of the Altamont Water Treatment Plant will also improve water hardness by helping to meet more of the Valley’s water demands with surface water, which is softer than groundwater.

The contract approval came after the Board approved the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) of the Altamont Pipeline Project. The FEIR stipulates measures to minimize dust, noise, and traffic disruptions during construction, as well as reconstruct Dyer Road and Altamont Pass Road, which may be degraded during construction.

The need for the new treatment plant was first identified by Zone 7 in 1999 as part of its Water Supply Program. In 2001, Zone 7 completed environmental review of the proposed Altamont Water Treatment Plant. In 2004, the California Department of Water Resources completed its environmental review of the South Bay Aqueduct Improvement and Expansion project, required to transport water from the Delta to the plant for treatment. The cumulative impacts of the Altamont Water Treatment Plant, South Bay Aqueduct Improvement and Expansion, and the Altamont Pipeline projects were disclosed in the Altamont Pipeline FEIR, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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Zone 7 Water Agency is one of the 10 active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The District was established by the State Legislature in October 1949 to solve problems of flooding, drainage, channel erosion and water supply and conservation in Alameda County. A seven-member board of directors governs Zone 7. Along with flood control, Zone 7 supplies water to all of eastern Alameda County and a population of more than 183,000. Treated water is sold wholesale to local retailers, including the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the California Water Service Company. Zone 7 also distributes untreated water to local agriculture operations and golf courses.