
From: Scott Akin
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 9:44 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Proposed 2025 Untreated Water Rate - Item 9

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Dear Zone 7 Board of Directors,

I am writing to you as a resident of Livermore and in my role as Chair of Tri-Valley Conservancy's Economically Sustainable Agriculture Committee, in support of the Zone 7 Finance Committee proposal to set untreated water rates for 2025 at \$263/AF.

As has been documented in numerous media outlets, the wine industry and grape growers in particular are currently experiencing a serious economic downturn in California. The effects of this downturn are being felt here in the Tri-Valley area as well. The timing of this downturn is particularly challenging for wine growers in our area since we are coming into a period where many of Livermore's vineyards are reaching the end of their life and property owners are having to make difficult decisions on whether or not to replant. As they make these decisions, growers are forecasting the costs associated with replanting and water is one of the primary costs.

The Zone 7 Finance Committee recognizes these challenges and the proposed 2025 Untreated Water Rate reflects an approach that equitably supports agriculture and open space in our area.

Livermore has world class growing conditions for wine grapes and a long history of wine making that helps to set the character of this amazing place we live and work. Livermore has invested and continues to invest in making this a destination where visitors can come for a day or a weekend to wine taste and enjoy the hospitality of our local wineries, restaurants and shops. By supporting the wine making community, we are supporting the larger Livermore business community.

Over the past several years, untreated water users have engaged in productive discussions with Zone 7 staff on water rates and other issues of importance to the agricultural community and we look forward to continuing this dialogue. In particular, we hope to discuss alternatives to the existing reconciliation process that may benefit all parties, as well as potential policy changes that better support local agriculture. We recognize that these are long-term goals and appreciate the time and effort that Zone 7 staff continues to show in engaging with the untreated water users.

Sincerely,

Scott Akin
Livermore, CA