

Waterways

A Newsletter From **Zone 7 Water Agency**



Safeguarding Our Valley Against Floods

Each year, in addition to performing emergency storm repairs, Zone 7 flood-protection crews conduct routine maintenance of Agency-owned creeks and channels to protect against regional flooding during the rainy season. This past summer and fall, crews completed 28 stream bank repairs, 11 road- and drainage-improvement projects, and 12 other structural projects. Total construction cost was \$650,000.



Crews repair a bank slide and damage to a flood-maintenance road along Arroyo de la Laguna. Many of our maintenance roads also function as regional trails for public use.

Zone 7 owns and maintains 37 miles of regional flood-protection and stormwater-drainage facilities, about a third of all the Livermore-Amador Valley's channels and natural streams. The remainder is owned privately or by public entities.

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Study Pursues More Cost-Effective, Environmentally Friendly Flood Protection



As another way Zone 7 is working to develop cost-effective in-house expertise, Agency employees get specialized training in how to conduct sediment surveys in local streams.

Zone 7 has undertaken a study to better understand the magnitude and movement of silts and sands in the local streams. The idea is to help us develop a more environmentally sound and cost-effective maintenance plan to reduce flooding risks from sediment buildup that, depending on location, can decrease stormwater-carrying capacity.

The study will help Zone 7 achieve the goals of its Stream Management Master Plan by helping us better design our flood-protection system to mimic efficient natural streams.

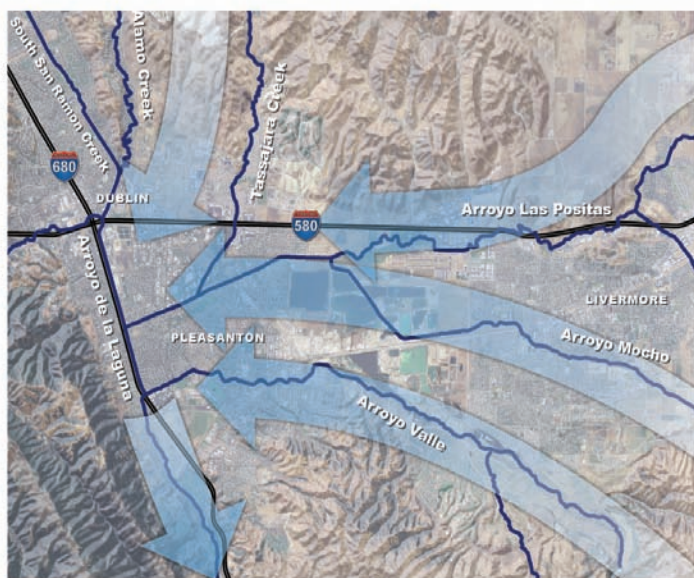
We'll also be able to clarify the need, location, size and maintenance frequency of sedimentation basins and other facilities used for stormwater detention.

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Zone 7 is contracting with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), a scientific research organization that has performed similar sediment studies on the lower reaches of Alameda Creek, which collects and carries much of our stormwater to San Francisco Bay. The current more comprehensive study of sediment transport in the Valley's major streams is needed to understand how these streams interact and carry sediment through the system.

Using the existing data collected by previous studies and the specific knowledge of SFEI will provide an overall cost savings to Zone 7 and provide training for a potential future in-house sediment survey program of our local streams.



How Storm Water Moves Through the Valley

The Livermore-Amador Valley's flood-protection system begins at city- and county-owned storm drains on local streets and roads. Storm water is carried into local creeks or man-made channels that, in turn, flow into major streams that merge into Arroyo de la Laguna, which carries runoff to San Francisco Bay via Alameda Creek.

Be Winter-Wise! Flood-Proof Your Property

- » Keep storm drains, roof gutters, pipes, downspouts, driveway culverts and drainage ditches free of debris.
- » Ensure your drainage is directed toward the street's storm drain system.
- » Do not drive or walk into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Just 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling. A foot of water will float many vehicles, and two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.
- » For stream-flooding issues, call Zone 7 at **925-454-5000** or after hours at **925-447-6704**.
- » For questions regarding storm drains, or for information on where to obtain emergency sandbags, call the city and county offices on the back of this newsletter.

Go with the Flow; Keep Debris Out of Creeks

Our local creeks are a valuable natural resource that not only support wildlife habitat, but also serve as natural drainage systems that carry stormwater away from homes, roads and businesses safely to the Bay. Trash and other debris can cause flooding and bank erosion, destroy habitat and divert public funds. Did you know that even yard waste and soil can pollute a creek and obstruct water flow?

Come Visit Clean Water Program Booth!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Home & Garden Show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Zone 7 and other local agencies will join the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Clean Water Program at a booth focused on stormwater pollution prevention to keep our creeks and Bay clean and healthy. Zone 7 staff will also provide water conservation tips.

Home & Garden Show hours are: February 18, from noon to 7 p.m.; and February 19, 20 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Importance of Delta Conveyance to Our Water Supply



Over 80 percent of Zone 7's municipal and agricultural water supply comes from the State Water Project and other imported sources. Most of this water starts as Sierra snowmelt, travels through a series of rivers, lakes, canals and pumping

stations moving from Lake Oroville on the north, down the Feather and Sacramento Rivers, through the Delta to the South Delta Pumps, and into the South Bay Aqueduct. The majority is treated for delivery to our retailers – the City of Pleasanton, the City of Livermore, California Water Service Company and Dublin San Ramon Services District – who in turn deliver it to homes and businesses. Another portion remains untreated and is used by Valley agricultural operations. In wet years, Zone 7 stores surplus State Water Project water in local and offsite groundwater basins for use when needed, and for reliability during droughts.

Addressing Water Reliability Challenges

Zone 7 continues to develop plans for securing the long-term reliability of its Delta-conveyed supplies, and for diversifying its overall water sources. Court-ordered State Water Project pumping restrictions aimed at protecting threatened and endangered fish species in the Delta are challenging our water-supply reliability. We remain at the table with other water agencies, environmental organizations and wildlife agencies on Bay Delta Conservation Plan efforts to achieve the co-equal goals of restoring water-supply reliability and protecting the Delta's ecosystem.

In addition to working toward a Delta "fix," the Agency continues to analyze the most viable options – from water recycling and enhanced conservation to participating in a regional desalination project and in water-transfer agreements with other agencies – as part of a new water system master plan.

South Bay Aqueduct Gets an Upgrade

The State Water Project's South Bay Aqueduct, serving Zone 7, the Alameda County Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, is being improved for additional water-supply reliability and energy efficiency, and enlarged to meet contractual capacity levels. Crews were out in full force throughout 2010, and project completion is expected in 2012. The vast majority of Zone 7's share of costs (for enlargement) is being paid with fees on new development, with a small portion (for the improvement) coming from property tax revenue.



The SBA Enlargement and Improvement Project includes upgrades to the South Bay Pumping Plant and the addition of a 450 acre-foot (146.6 million gallon) Dyer Reservoir, along with 4 ½ miles of pipeline connecting it to the South Bay Pumping Plant.

The reservoir will allow water to be pumped at night for storage, when electricity costs are cheaper, and then be delivered to meet peak demand via gravity flow. In addition to providing for improved water-supply reliability in the event of South Bay Pumping Plant outages, the new reservoir may also improve short-term water quality by reducing daily fluctuations in temperature



Zone 7 Water Agency

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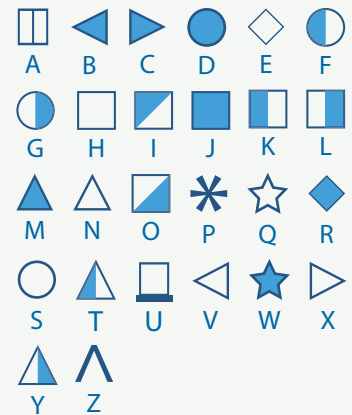
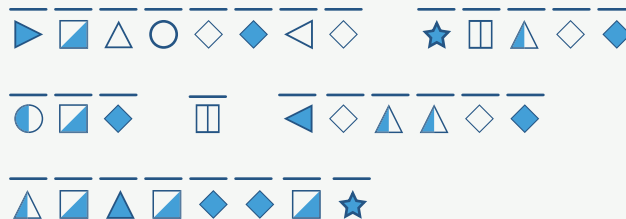
ABOUT ZONE 7

In addition to providing flood protection to eastern Alameda County, Zone 7 Water Agency provides treated drinking water to four major water retailers, along with a small number of direct customers, serving nearly 200,000 people in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon.

It also supplies untreated irrigation water to some local agricultural operations and manages the Livermore-Amador Valley's groundwater basin.

Kid's Zone

Use this code to fill in the secret message below.
The answer is at the bottom of the page.*



* Answer: Conserve Water For A Better Tomorrow

Who To Contact

Regarding Your Water

California Water Service Company: (925) 447-4900
City of Livermore: (925) 960-8100
City of Pleasanton Operations Services: (925) 931-5500
Dublin San Ramon Services District: (925) 828-0515

Regarding Your Storm Drains & Sand Bags

Alameda County Public Works: (510) 670-5480
City of Dublin Public Works: (925) 833-6630
City of Livermore: (925) 960-8100
City of Pleasanton Operations Services: (925) 931-5500