

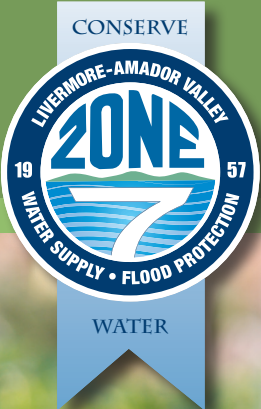


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Waterways

A Newsletter from Zone 7 Water Agency



Issue No. 9 | June 2009

Youth Zone

At the recent Tri-Valley Science & Engineering Fair sponsored by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the following students received Zone 7 awards for their water-related projects:

- ▶ **Brian Garcia and Nicholas Winter**, Livermore Charter School, who got a junior (grades 6-8) team water award for their study entitled, “Is There Muck in the Water? Analyzing the Water of Local Waterways.”
- ▶ **Adam Rueckert and Brady Comerford**, San Ramon Valley High School, who got a senior (grades 9-12) team water award for their study, “The Effect of Non-Prescription Drugs in the Water, on Water Hyacinth.”
- ▶ **Alison Burklund**, The Athenian School, a Livermore resident who received an individual senior (grades 9-12) water award for her study, “Finding the Optimal Decontamination Method for Bacillus Anthracis Spores in a Contaminated Drinking Water System.”

Who to Contact

For Questions Regarding Your Water
California Water Service Company • 925-447-4900
City of Livermore • 925-960-8100
City of Pleasanton • 925-931-5520
Dublin San Ramon Services District • 925-828-0515

For Questions Regarding Your Storm Drains
Alameda County Public Works • 510-670-5480
City of Dublin Public Works • 925-833-6630
City of Livermore • 925-960-8100
City of Pleasanton Public Works • 925-931-5500

Reducing Our Water Footprint

Like many other Californians, residents and businesses in Zone 7’s service area have made strides in water conservation and water-use efficiency – last year reducing overall demand by 3.2 percent. But the combined impacts of drought, climate change, court-ordered supply reductions, potential natural disaster, population growth and lack of investment in the state’s water-delivery infrastructure make it clear that we all will have to do much more to reduce our individual and collective water footprints. This represents both short- and long-term challenges.

The Zone 7 Board of Directors in April declared support for a series of policy principles crafted by the Association of California Water Agencies that help frame the key issues that must be addressed statewide to meet these challenges. A key principle embraces the governor’s statewide goal to reduce individual water use by an average 20 percent by the year 2020. This is achievable not only by making conservation more of a lifestyle habit, but also through residential and commercial retrofit programs and by increasing the use of recycled water for irrigation purposes.

(con’t on page 2)



Reducing Our Water Footprint (cont'd from page 1)

Zone 7 is investing in ways to help. For example, we have:

- ▶ In conjunction with our water retailers, enhanced rebate programs for water-efficient toilets.
- ▶ In partnership with other Bay Area water agencies and with Pacific Gas & Electric Co., streamlined the rebate process for high-efficiency clothes washers that save both water and energy.
- ▶ Joined forces with retailers in offering water-wise gardening and irrigation workshops and other conservation education and other conservation education to the general public as well as to plumbers, landscape contractors and property managers.
- ▶ Because outdoor water use accounts for significant amounts of water consumption, launched a web-based water-wise gardening program specifically geared to Tri-Valley climate and other conditions. To access the site, go to www.zone7water.com.
- ▶ Been developing programs to offer landscape irrigation system audits and financial incentives to help schools and businesses reduce water use.

The Delta Solution: Conservation of a Different Type

The ACWA principles stress that water conservation and water-use efficiency cannot, by themselves, accomplish the co-equal objectives of water-supply reliability and environmental sustainability.

It's also important to understand the significance of the Delta in our water supply. For 2009, Zone 7 expects to get only 40 percent of its contracted-for State Water Project supplies, primarily due to drought but also because of court-ordered pumping restrictions from the ecologically fragile Delta aimed at protecting endangered Delta smelt (normally, we would expect to get 76 percent of our entitlement). Zone 7 continues to work with other state water contractors, environmental groups and wildlife agencies on a long-term plan to protect the Delta – through which 80 percent of Zone 7's water supply is conveyed – as both a critical water supply and a key ecosystem. A draft Environmental Impact Report on solutions that could include a new conveyance system is set for completion later this year.

Continuing drought conditions, and court-imposed reductions in State Water Project pumping from the ecologically fragile Delta, underscore that we all need to look at wise water use as a way of life.

Meanwhile, Zone 7 has developed a sophisticated new approach to long-term water-supply modeling so we can better assess potential vulnerabilities and benefits of various water supply/storage projects. For example, we are doing a new analysis of participating in expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County. But ultimately, we believe we will always rely on the Delta for the majority of our water supply.

Local Water-Saving Heroes

Kudos to residents right here in our community for helping to save water. For example:

- ▶ **Ed and Anne Severs** of Livermore replaced their front lawn with drought-tolerant native plants, and have low-flow showerheads, water-conserving toilets and a high-efficiency clothes washer. They cover their pool in the summer with a solar blanket that helps prevent evaporation (and saves energy in heating their pool). "In winter, we keep the cover off and let the rain fill the pool to the very top," Anne Severs says.
- ▶ **Bruce Crawford** of Pleasanton captures water in a bucket while heating up the bathroom shower and uses it to water his plants, fill his pets' water bowls or add to the swimming pool. He also got rid of some of his grass and converted to drip irrigation for his shrubs and groundcover. "Each little thing does not make much difference but when you add them up, it's something," he says.
- ▶ **George Chiampas** of Dublin makes sure his sprinklers come on at 4 a.m., instead of the middle of the afternoon, to reduce evaporation from the sun and wind. He also switched to a drip system to irrigate his shrubbery because, as he says, "it's much better for the plants and you don't lose water to the sidewalk."
- ▶ **Paula Rose** of Livermore has a rule at her house: never run the dishwasher or clothes washer unless they're completely full.
- ▶ **Stephen Woodward** of Livermore has detected and fixed big water leaks by regularly checking his water bill for unusual spikes in water usage.
- ▶ **Linda Somerville** of Dublin, in addition to capturing water in a bucket while heating the shower, captures rainwater in pails for later use. "My son's generation is going to have to deal with a lot more of this (environmental sustainability), and I want to set an example for him."
- ▶ **Troy Allen** of Pleasanton is a renter and doesn't directly pay the water bill, but watches his water use nevertheless by replacing leaky toilet flappers and taking short ("easily" under 5-minute) showers.

Welcome

Chris Moore has been appointed by Zone 7 Board members to fill the unexpired term of Zone 7 Board member Dale Myers. Myers resigned from his post in April, citing time constraints.



Check out this new statewide public education program. Also get conservation tips at www.zone7water.com.