Farewell and Welcome

We bid farewell and good luck to Director John Marchand—he will be greatly missed. Director Marchand resigned from the Zone 7 Board after his election to the Livermore City Council in November 2005. Director Marchand brought an in-depth, direct understanding of water issues to the Board, and was instrumental in approving Zone 7’s 2003 Water Quality Management Plan. His dedication earned him the prestigious American Water Works Association Fuller Award in 2004. Director Marchand served on the Board since 1990.

As we say goodbye to Director Marchand, we welcome Christopher Moore, who will carry out the remainder of his term. Director Moore is committed to Zone 7’s mission of ensuring a safe, reliable water supply and an effective flood control system. His unique combination of understanding big-picture water management issues and first-hand experience at all levels of government will be a great asset to Zone 7. He is currently a Police Lieutenant with the San Jose Police Department. The temporary appointment will expire on June 30, 2006.

Kids’ Zone

Kids Activity Survival Kit*

You may have to leave your house during a flood or other disaster. It’s smart to put together your own Kids’ Activity Survival Kit so you will have things to do and share with other kids. Some suggested items include:

- A few of your favorite books
- Crayons, pencils or marking pens and plenty of paper
- Scissors and glue
- Two favorite toys such as a doll or action figure
- One or two board games
- A deck of cards
- A puzzle (One with lots of pieces is good—it takes a long time to do!)
- Favorite blanket or pillow

*From FEMA For Kids website: www.fema.gov/kids
**MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

**Flooding: A Valley-Wide Issue**

Do you know that the entire Livermore-Amador Valley used to be a floodplain in which large areas flooded during large storm events? Part of Zone 7’s mission is to protect the Valley from flooding.

Zone 7 has implemented many flood protection projects over the past 38 years that have minimized this risk, but flooding can still occur when streambeds fill too quickly after heavy thunderstorms or long rainfall periods. Our arroyos act like a giant funnel and move water from everywhere in the Valley and the surrounding hills towards the southwest, eventually draining into the San Francisco Bay. Even if you live in an area that doesn’t flood or you live miles from a stream, flooding is a region-wide issue that impacts everyone.

Zone 7 is in the process of finalizing its Stream Management Master Plan (SMMP)—a flood protection plan that continues to move stormwater through our stream system, while recognizing the recreational, habitat, and water quality benefits that local arroyos also provide. Projects identified in the SMMP will protect the Valley against 100-year storm events as the region continues to grow.

There are many ways to educate yourself about and to prepare for flooding—the “Tips” in this newsletter are a great place to start.

— Dale Myers  
Zone 7 General Manager

**Big Turnout for Altamont Creek Planting**

On December 3, 2005, more than 50 community volunteers joined Zone 7 to help the agency plant native vegetation along the banks of Altamont Creek (south of Blue Bell Drive and Springtown Road). This area of Altamont Creek was impacted when Springtown Road flooded after heavy rains in 1998. Since then, Zone 7 has been working to restore the area with desilting and revegetation projects, which will increase water flow and slow bank erosion.

**Dedicated to Natural Habitats**

Zone 7 took cuttings from existing plants on the creek to propagate the new plants. In all, this effort involved planting over 2,000 new plants. Once established, the plants will help slow bank erosion in Altamont Creek, which can create buildup and reduce water flow. If left unchecked, erosion can also create bank instability, threaten neighboring properties, and discharge sediment into watercourses. Excess sediment and silt can spread through neighboring properties, and discharge can also create bank instability, threaten neighboring properties...

**Draining the Valley**

Altamont Creek is located in northeast Livermore and drains stormwaters from the Altamont Pass area into Arroyo Las Positas. Arroyo Las Positas later joins Arroyo de la Laguna and ultimately out to the San Francisco Bay through Alameda Creek. Because of its upstream location, erosion and sedimentation in Altamont Creek have the potential to impact a large portion of Zone 7’s stream system.

Zone 7 appreciates the enormous help from Friends of the Arroyos, local Cub Scouts, and other community volunteers.

**New in the Zone**

**Providing Drinking Water**

The Altamont Water Treatment Plant & Pipeline (AWTP&P) website is now live! The site, www.altamontproject.com, will provide area residents and other stakeholders up-to-date project information as the project progresses. Once complete, the AWTP&P will help to meet the Tri-Valley’s current and future treated water supply needs and improve water hardness.

**Protecting Our Community**

The Zone 7 Board of Directors recently approved the Zone 7 Annex to the San Francisco Bay Area Local Hazard and Mitigation Plan, which enables Zone 7 to apply for FEMA funding in the event of a disaster. The plan, which will stand for five years, was also accepted by FEMA.

**Enhancing Water Quality**

The Zone 7 groundwater demineralization project took a big leap forward this past December with the selection of a reverse osmosis system supplier. The system will be the centerpiece of the demineralization project, which will reduce the hardness of water delivered to the Dublin and Pleasanton areas.

**Tips to Help Prepare Your Home for Wet Weather**

- Keep all storm drains, roof gutters, pipes, downspouts, driveway culverts and drainage ditches free of debris.
- Ensure your drainage is directed toward the street storm drain system.
- If gutters are filling, use a rake, broom or shovel to remove debris from the storm drain opening.
- Landscaping is the best protection against slides. If your home is on a bare-soil hillside, you can protect it by punching straw into the soil with a shovel, or securing sheets of woven burlap with stakes.

**Flooding is a region-wide issue that affects every Valley resident, regardless of location**

— Dale Myers

**Flooding**

We all know that flooding can occur...