

THE CITY OF



April 21, 2021

Ms. Valerie Pryor, General Manager
Zone 7 Water Agency
100 N. Canyon Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551

Sent via email: vprior@zone7water.com

Subject: ITEM NO. 11 – Consider Rescinding Local Water Supply and Water Quality
Studies Tri-Valley Task Order and Funding Studies from Zone 7 Budget

Dear Ms. Pryor,

I am writing to convey the City of Pleasanton's position on Item 11 on your Zone 7 Board of Directors meeting agenda scheduled for this evening, April 21, 2021.

The City of Pleasanton is committed in our collective partnership in the joint pursuit of water supply and reliability for the region, including the implementation of strategic measures that ensure water sustainability and safety for the region. This includes not only the study and evaluation of additional water supplies to supplement existing conditions, but also protection of the region's ground basin to safeguard its resiliency and protection from contamination. The City continues to support Zone 7's approach and participation in local and regional studies to improve surface water conveyance, desalination efforts, and improved state and regional storage capabilities.

While the City remains in full support of the principles outlined above, the basis for the City's action to discontinue funding and participation in the region's task order for potable reuse study and planning is based on several health and safety considerations, including: concerns regarding the effectiveness of potable reuse technology to augment the region's drinking supply; potential contamination resulting from an accidental discharge of untreated water into the region's ground basin; and a responsibility to more fully understand the origin and remediation of PFAS from our existing groundwater supplies. These factors, in combination with restrictive General Plan policies and unfavorable support by Pleasanton voters in 2000, limit the City's ability to participate in further potable reuse studies such that we remain opposed to any continued local and regional planning to use recycled water to augment and supplement the region's drinking supplies.

In this same regard, the City does not support a new proposal to shift funding obligations from the remaining task order participants – the City of Livermore, DSRSD, and Zone 7 – to a new funding strategy that now includes the possible use of Zone 7 treated water rate revenues, which by extension includes the residential and commercial ratepayers of Pleasanton.

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Effectively, this funding strategy would burden our ratepayers with a greater cost share for these studies – planning activities that the City of Pleasanton does not support to meet the needs of our existing community. Ideally, further regional planning for potable reuse should stop; minimally, a different source of funding should be found to continue these studies, including grants and connection fees to eliminate the burden on ratepayers. While we remain opposed to the effort, this would be a more appropriate alternative for analyzing the viability of a project to meet future water supply demands that, in part, are growth-inducing.

As we share the challenge of meeting the water needs of end-users, we ask for your consideration of the City of Pleasanton's perspective and appreciate the efforts of Zone 7 to meet this challenge before finalizing funding sources to studies related to potable reuse.

Sincerely,



Nelson Fialho
City Manager

c: Board of Directors, Zone 7 Water Agency
Mayor and City Council
Kathleen Yurchak, Director of Operations and Water Utilities