



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Free Water-Wise Gardening and Water Efficiency Workshops** *Gardeners Can Gear Up for Spring with Tips to Save Water and Money*

Despite recent rains, California's water woes are far from over -- and reducing outdoor water use is typically the single biggest way to both cut down on waste and save on water bills long term.

Zone 7 Water Agency is teaming up with retail water providers serving Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon to host three water-wise gardening workshops aimed at helping people learn how to create beautiful, low-maintenance, water-conserving yards.

The workshops will be held:

- **Saturday, March 27, 2 to 3:30 p.m.** -- Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore; co-hosted by Zone 7, Livermore Municipal Water, and California Water Service Company.
- **Saturday, April 3, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** -- Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton; co-hosted by Zone 7 and the City of Pleasanton.
- **Saturday, April 24, 2 to 3:30 p.m.** -- Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin; co-hosted by Zone 7 and Dublin San Ramon Services District as part of Dublin Pride Week.

Local plant and irrigation experts will discuss how much water plants really need, what types of plants are the most water-efficient, and irrigation practices that can save water. The workshops will also include a short demonstration on how to use the new Tri-Valley Water-Wise Gardening website, which can be accessed at [www.zone7water.com](http://www.zone7water.com).

Representatives from Zone 7, the Valley's water wholesaler, as well as from the Valley's retail water providers -- the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the California Water Service Company -- will also provide information

on indoor water conservation, including rebates for water-conserving clothes washers and toilets.

According to the American Water Works Association, outdoor water use comprises 58 percent of average residential water use annually, meaning an even bigger percentage in hot summer months. This makes landscaping a key target as we rethink the ways we use our water – particularly in dry regions such as those that exist in the Livermore-Amador Valley.

Despite recent rains, Zone 7 expects to continue to receive less State Water Project water than normal in 2010. Even if average precipitation continues through Spring, the best-case estimate is that Zone 7 and other State Water Project contractors could receive just 40 percent of their contract amounts. This is due to three years of statewide drought and the impacts of environmental restrictions aimed at protecting endangered fish species in the Delta, which conveys most of Zone 7's supply.

The need to use water wisely is more than just a theory. As work continues on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan aimed at achieving the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and environmental sustainability, a new state law requires that we reduce our statewide per-capita water consumption 20 percent by the year 2020.

More details on the speakers at each workshop, along with other water-conservation information, are available at the following websites:

Livermore Municipal Water	<a href="http://www.ci.livermore.ca.us/wrd">www.ci.livermore.ca.us/wrd</a>
California Water Service Company	<a href="http://www.calwater.com">www.calwater.com</a>
City of Pleasanton	<a href="http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/utility">www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/utility</a>
Dublin San Ramon Services District	<a href="http://www.dsrsd.com">www.dsrsd.com</a>
Zone 7 Water Agency	<a href="http://www.zone7water.com">www.zone7water.com</a>

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