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news release



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Zone 7 and DSRSD Support Demineralization of Groundwater

LIVERMORE & DUBLIN – The Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors last night approved an agreement with the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD’s Board of Directors approved the agreement at their June 7th meeting) to allow the construction and operation of a groundwater demineralization facility to reduce the hardness of water delivered to customers in Dublin and Pleasanton.

The facility will be located at the northwest corner of Santa Rita and Stoneridge roads in Pleasanton on the Camp Parks’ well site. Since 1998, DSRSD has operated the site under license from the United States Army. Zone 7, the Valley’s water wholesaler, manages the groundwater basin and delivers groundwater to Tri Valley agencies.

Customer surveys by DSRSD, Zone 7 and Pleasanton identified customer concerns with the hardness of the water delivered. Hardness is caused by the naturally occurring minerals in the groundwater basin and from minerals leached into the groundwater from surface irrigation. These minerals are commonly referred to as salt, the concentration of which is increasing in the groundwater.

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Using the reverse osmosis membrane technology, this facility will remove minerals from the groundwater that make it hard, such as calcium and magnesium. The facility will treat up to 7.7 million gallons of water per day and is expected to become operational in the fall of 2007. Zone 7 anticipates the facility will remove between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of minerals from the water annually. Zone 7 will dispose of these minerals into the San Francisco Bay through the Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) pipeline. The minerals discharged are the same minerals that make Bay water salty. Existing customers will pay for half the facility's \$250,000 estimated cost and developer fees will cover the remainder.

"Removing minerals from our groundwater supply is critical to maintaining deliveries of good water quality to our customers," said Zone 7 Board President Stephen Kalthoff.

Zone 7 plans additional groundwater demineralization facilities so that the groundwater basin can continue to provide water during peak summer demand periods, droughts and emergencies.

Established in 1949, the Zone 7 Water Agency – one of the ten active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – manages flooding, drainage, channel erosion, water supply, and conservation. Treated water is sold wholesale to local retailers: cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District, and California Water Service Company. Zone 7 also distributes untreated water to local agriculture operations and golf courses. For more information about Zone 7, visit www.zone7water.com.

Founded in 1953, DSRSD provides water, recycled water, and wastewater services at the lowest overall rate in the Livermore Amador Valley. For more information about DSRSD, visit www.dsrdsd.com.