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Zone 7 Board Supports Two Statewide Ballot Measures

*Proposition 84 and Proposition IE
Would Fund Flood Control, Water Supply and Quality*

Livermore – The Livermore-Amador Valley’s Zone 7 Water Agency board on Wednesday joined a growing list of water, environmental, business and elected leaders throughout the state in supporting two bonds on the Nov. 7 ballot related to water and flood protection – Propositions 1E and 84.

“These measures provide for needed investments in our supply and flood control systems,” said Bill Stevens, vice president of Zone 7’s board. “They offer a comprehensive, broad-based approach to address critical issues of public concern.”

Zone 7 is the water wholesaler for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and provides flood protection to all of eastern Alameda County.

Proposition IE is part of a larger \$37 billion infrastructure package placed on the ballot by the Legislature and Gov. Schwarzenegger. It provides \$4.1 billion in bond funding for flood-related programs, primarily to shore up the state’s deteriorating levee system in the Bay-Delta. Those levees are increasingly vulnerable to large-scale failure that could leave more than 23 million Californians, including 190,000 within Zone 7 territory, without a key drinking water supply source. Zone 7 could also qualify for some of the \$500 million the measure earmarks for local flood protection projects.

If approved by voters, Proposition 84 - the “Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006” – would provide \$5.4 billion for a wide range of water-quality and natural resource-related programs and projects throughout the state. The measure, which qualified for the ballot by voter initiative, would make \$2.71 billion available for water management projects, including

\$800 million for levee and flood protection, and \$2.67 billion for resource and conservation programs including protection of rivers, lakes and streams.

Zone 7 could benefit from the two bond initiatives with potential grant funding for various projects, including one already planned to reduce the hardness of the valley's underground drinking water supplies and others that have an array of environmental and flood-protection benefits outlined in its newly adopted stream management master plan.

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Zone 7 Water Agency is one of the 10 active zones of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The District was established by the State Legislature in October 1949 to solve problems of flooding, drainage, channel erosion and water supply and conservation in Alameda County. In 1957, by popular vote, Zone 7 became a special district governed by a seven-member board of directors. Along with flood protection, Zone 7 supplies water to all of eastern Alameda County and a population of more than 190,000. Treated water is sold wholesale to local retailers, including the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the California Water Service Company. Zone 7 also distributes untreated water to local agriculture operations and golf courses.