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Aug. 17, 2006

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Zone 7 Will Reduce Groundwater “Hardness”
Demineralization Plant to go On Line in 2009

Livermore – The Zone 7 Water Agency board on Wednesday approved plans to reduce those chalky-looking salts and minerals from underground drinking water supplies delivered primarily to the western side of its service area, in Pleasanton and Dublin.

The board adopted plans and environmental documents for its Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant, which is expected to get under construction in north Pleasanton early next year and to be operational in early 2009.

Zone 7 is the water wholesaler for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and has been working with all of its retailers to improve the quality of both its groundwater and its imported surface water supplies.

“Our agency is continually looking for ways to manage salt buildup and improve water quality,” said Bill Stevens, the board’s vice president. “This project will improve the groundwater basin’s overall salt balance, and lower the hardness in water delivered to customers.”

High content of calcium, magnesium and other minerals in groundwater can create build-ups that clog appliances, coat plumbing with scaly deposits and make it more difficult to get clothes clean. It is not considered a health risk for most people, but depending on levels and the minerals present, it can affect the taste of water.

The demineralization plant will use reverse-osmosis membrane technology to treat up to 7.7 million gallons of groundwater a day pumped from a series of nearby existing Zone 7 wells. After the salt concentrate is removed, about 6.1 millions gallons per day of treated

water will be available for blending with other supplies prior to delivery to retailers. Zone 7 has partnered with the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), a water retailer and the wastewater services provider in the western portion of the Valley, to discharge up to 1.6 million gallons per day of salt concentrate to the San Francisco Bay via the Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) export pipeline.

Total project cost is estimated at \$31 million, including planning, design and construction. Half will be funded by water rates and half by connection fees charged to new development. In coming months, Zone 7 will be working to obtain required permits and agreements for the construction and operation of the facility.

Planning is under way for a second demineralization facility of roughly the same size, expected to be in service by 2012. That project will be funded entirely by connection fees.

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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.