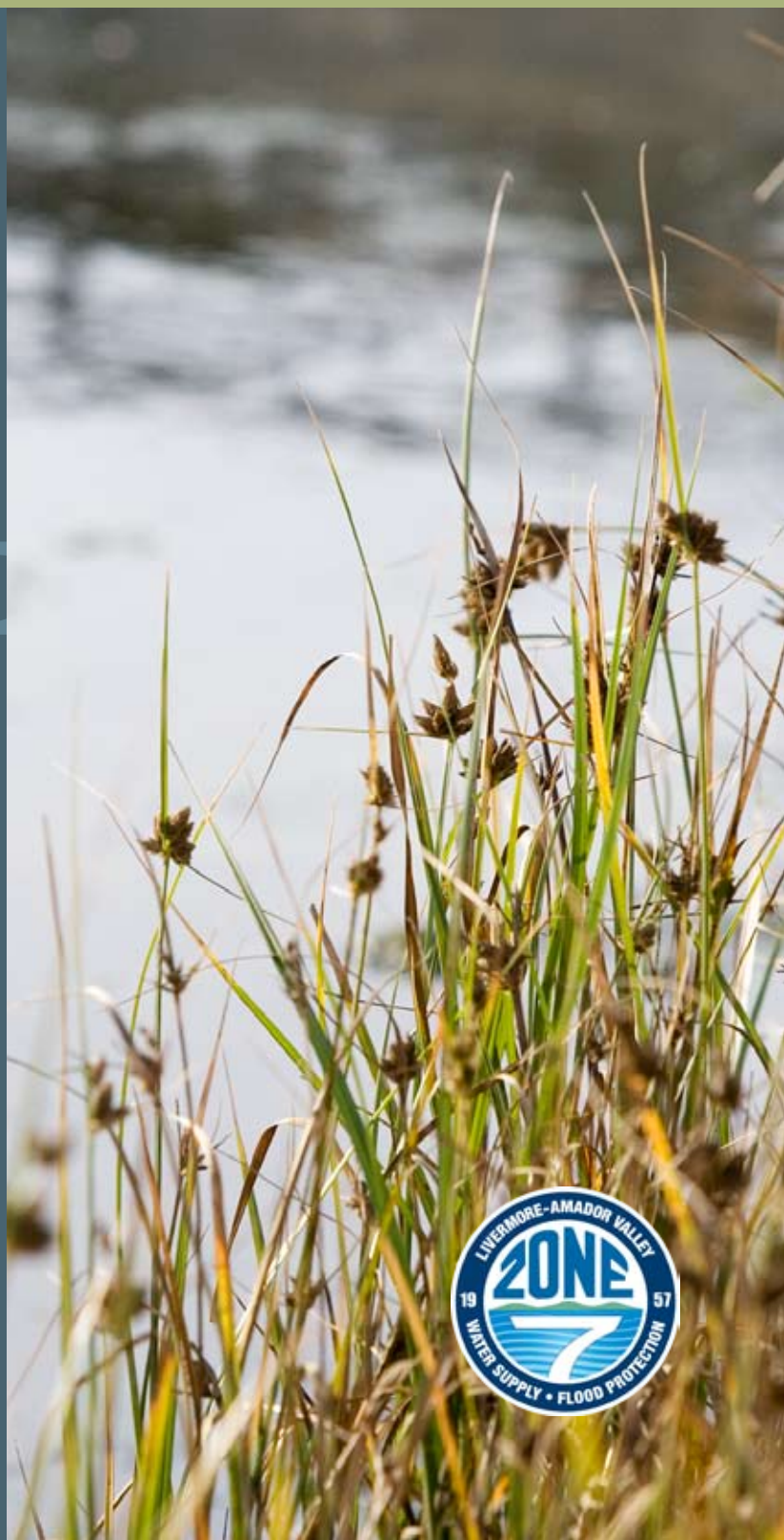
Zone 7 Water Agency

2007 Annual Consumer Confidence Report

Zone 7 Water Agency provides treated drinking water to four major water retailers, along with a small number of direct customers, serving nearly 200,000 people in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area. We also supply untreated water to farms and vineyards, primarily in the South Livermore Valley, and provide flood protection to all of eastern Alameda County.

Each year, Zone 7 prepares this report to show how our water quality compares to the drinking-water standards set by the state and federal governments. Here, you can find specific data about regulated and unregulated contaminants. You can also learn more about where your water comes from, what is in your water, and how Zone 7 manages the water supply and protects its quality.



Where Does Your Water Come From?

Since its creation in 1957, Zone 7 Water Agency has been making sure that the Livermore-Amador Valley has had a reliable and safe water supply, and that the proverbial well never runs dry. We work hard in attempts to make sure you never need to worry if your drinking water is safe, or if there is enough water – even in times of drought or during unplanned system disruptions. We manage the water supply carefully and we apply proven and reliable technologies to remove contaminants from our source water supplies. We also use continuous water-quality monitoring instruments and laboratory analyses to test your water and ensure its high quality.

Most of Zone 7s water supply originates as snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada, and it makes its way here using the Delta as a conveyance system. The water is imported to the Livermore-Amador Valley through the State Water Project's South Bay Aqueduct (SBA), which also delivers water to the Fremont area and to Santa Clara Valley. In an average rainfall year, Delta-conveyed water accounts for 80 percent of Zone 7s water supply. The remaining 20 percent comes from local rain runoff stored in Lake Del Valle Reservoir and from groundwater pumped from the aquifer that lies below the Valley floor. Water from the South Bay Aqueduct can be pumped into or released from Lake Del Valle at the Del Valle Pumping Plant.

In wet years, we store surplus State Water Project supplies in local and offsite groundwater basins for use when needed, and for reliability during droughts. The actual source of the water from your tap can vary depending on the time of year, whether it's been a wet or dry year, and where you live in the Valley.

Water from the SBA is treated either at the Patterson Pass Conventional Water Treatment Plant, the Patterson Pass Ultrafiltration Water Treatment Plant or the Del Valle Water Treatment Plant. Because of the Del Valle plant's physical location, its water supply source can be from the SBA, Lake Del Valle, or a blend of the two. Groundwater is chloraminated to maintain a consistent residual disinfectant throughout the distribution system.

Commitment to Water Quality

No matter the source, all of Zone 7s treated water delivered to our retailers and direct customers consistently meets state and federal drinking-water regulations and, in almost all cases, is significantly better. For an additional margin of safety and to address local concerns, Zone 7s Water Quality Management Program (WQMP) – developed jointly by Zone 7 and its retailers – establishes even more stringent internal targets and policies for both treated and untreated water quality. We review and update the WQMP at least every two years to make sure that water-quality targets are kept up-to-date. We manage our operations proactively to meet changes in state and federal regulations, reduce public health risks, and improve delivered water quality – including its taste, odor and hardness.

We are pleased to report that, once again, all water delivered to our customers during 2007 met the regulatory standards and, in almost all cases, the quality was much better than required. However, samples taken from Zone 7 direct customers (those who pay their water utility bill directly to Zone 7) showed that water at some VA hospital buildings south of Livermore exceeded lead action level at the tap. Water at this facility is primarily used by adults, who face minimal risk from lead exposure because of their already-developed neurological systems. As Zone 7 water supply has been historically free of lead, internal corrosion of the customer's water plumbing is most likely causing these high lead detections. Zone 7 is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to mitigate these problems.

Assessing Source Water

We employ many techniques, including surveys and water-quality monitoring programs, to assess source-water quality and monitor potential contaminating activities. A State Water Project sanitary survey update is required every five years and the most recent update was completed in June 2007.

Most of the contaminants detected in the South Bay Aqueduct water supply originate in the Sacramento and San Joaquin watershed and the Delta. These contaminants can come from agricultural drainage, wastewater-treatment plant discharges, urban runoff, recreational activities, and seawater intrusion. After leaving the Delta, the water supply in the South Bay Aqueduct may also be vulnerable to local cattle grazing, wildlife activities, and recreational activities in the watersheds of the Bethany and Del Valle reservoirs. Although the SBA water supply is considered vulnerable to these contaminants, Zone 7 applies a multi-barrier approach to remove them, and the water is disinfected to minimize microbial risks.

An ongoing seasonal challenge with SBA water is algal growth that can cause taste and odor complaints from customers. Control strategies include periodic copper sulfate application to source water by the Department of Water Resources and use of Powdered Activated Carbon at both conventional treatment plants. Zone 7 is conducting a pilot study for improved taste and odor control through the use of ozone or ozone peroxide.

Groundwater sources in general can be vulnerable to releases from chemical/petroleum pipelines, leaking tanks (i.e. at gas stations or dry cleaners), groundwater contaminant plumes, machine shops, photo processing/printing facilities, septic tanks, and wastewater-collection systems. Any one of these activities has the potential to contaminate groundwater supplies, but no organic contaminants from these activities have ever been found in the wells Zone 7 pumps for drinking-water supply.

Copies of the source-water assessments and sanitary surveys are available by calling Gurpal Deol at (925) 447-0533.

Watershed Management Program

In 2005, the three South Bay Aqueduct contractors (Zone 7, Alameda County Water District and Santa Clara Valley Water District) began meeting with stakeholders – including members of the public – to cooperatively develop a voluntary watershed management program for the SBA. This work, funded by a Proposition 13 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board, is coming to a close. The primary focus of the project for 2007 was twofold: 1) to provide public education through workshops, and 2) to distribute brochures/pamphlets covering a variety of watershed-protection topics. Educational workshops held in Fall 2007 were well-attended by the public and provided a forum for residents to become better acquainted with practices that can help protect the watershed. Educational brochures have been distributed to Del Valle Regional Park, Zone 7 and all other project participants to use for public outreach. A final brochure mailing for watershed residents is under review and will be mailed out this year. CD-ROMs with the Watershed Protection Program Plan and project materials will also be produced and made available to the public this year.

Our Primary Water Sources:

- Sierra Nevada snowmelt via the Delta and the State Water Project's South Bay Aqueduct
- Rain runoff stored at Del Valle Reservoir (Lake Del Valle)
- Groundwater pumped from the aquifer that underlies the Livermore-Amador Valley

Terms Used

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the Public Health Goals or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (see below) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set for constituents having no health impacts, such as odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG)
The level of a primary contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL (MRDL)
The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL GOAL (MRDLG)
The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PUBLIC HEALTH GOAL (PHG)
The level of a primary contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD (PDWS)
MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting, and water-treatment requirements.

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT)
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NOTIFICATION LEVEL (NL)
These advisory levels are not enforceable standards. If a chemical is detected above its NL, certain notification requirements apply.

ACTION LEVEL (AL)
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

What's in Your Water?

The table at the right shows the average level and range of each detected regulated contaminant. Detected secondary standards, unregulated chemicals and additional parameters are also listed. In 2007, Zone 7's water delivered to our retailers met all state and federal drinking water regulations and, in most cases, was significantly better than those standards.

Note: Additional information for our direct customers (those not served by one of our retailers) can be found in the box on the next page.

There are some issues we know our customers may be particularly concerned about, including:

TURBIDITY is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We are required to monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system for surface-water treatment.

TOC (Total Organic Carbon) has no health effects. However, TOC contributes to the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include THMs (trihalomethanes) and HAAs (haloacetic acids). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, including liver or kidney problems, nervous-system effects, and increased cancer risk. Regulatory TOC-removal requirements are applicable to conventional water-treatment plants only. Treatment operation is optimized for maximum TOC removal and Zone 7 THM and HAA levels are well below MCLs. Zone 7 TOC removal typically exceeds regulatory requirements.

NITRATE in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Nitrate levels in Zone 7 surface water supply are typically very low (less than 5 mg/L) as compared to groundwater, but both sources meet all standards.

SODIUM is an essential nutrient that is found naturally in drinking water. Zone 7 also adds sodium hypochlorite as part of its disinfection process and as sodium hydroxide for corrosion control. Sodium is not regulated because sodium levels in drinking water are usually low and are not likely to cause adverse health effects—even for those watching their salt intake. However, Zone 7 monitors sodium levels because some consumers are concerned about their sodium levels and may be monitoring their diets.

HARDNESS is caused by naturally occurring minerals such as calcium and magnesium. Hard water does not pose a health risk, and is not covered by state and federal drinking water regulations. Groundwater is typically harder than surface water, but it is just as safe.

WHERE DO CONTAMINANTS COME FROM?

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water), include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2007 WATER QUALITY DATA - CONTAMINANTS DETECTED IN WATER SUPPLY

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLs, established by the State of California Department of Public Health

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

CONTAMINANT	MCL	DLR	PHG MCLG MRDLG		
Total coliform bacteria	More than 5 % of monthly samples are positive		0*	Highest Percentage Of Monthly Positive Samples	
				1.6%	
Total trihalomethanes (TTHMs), ug/L	80	NA	NA	Highest Quarterly Average	Range of Individual Samples
				39	26 - 54
Haloacetic acids (HAAs), ug/L	60	NA	NA	18	10 - 20
Chloramines as Chlorine, mg/L	Maximum Residual Disifectant Level (MRDL) = 4.0		4**	Running Annual Average (RAA)	Range of Monthly Average Chloramines
				2.3	2.2 - 2.4

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH PRIMARY MCLs, established by the State of California Department of Public Health

CONTAMINANT	MCL		PHG MCLG	DEL VALLE WATER TREATMENT PLANT		PATTERSON PASS WATER TREATMENT PLANT		MOCHO WELLFIELD		STONERIDGE WELL		HOPYARD WELLFIELD	
Turbidity	TT = 1 NTU Maximum		NA	Highest Level Found = 0.25 NTU		Highest Level Found = 0.17 NTU		Average 0.11	Range 0.05 - 0.32	Average 0.14	Range 0.05 - 0.32	Average 0.07	Range 0.06 - 0.08
	TT = 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU		NA	% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU = 100		% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU = 100		Not Applicable		Not Applicable		Not Applicable	
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)	TT = Quarterly RAA Removal Ratio ≥ 1.0	0.3	NA	Lowest Quarterly RAA Ratio = 1.4		Lowest Quarterly RAA Ratio = 1.5		Not Applicable		Not Applicable		Not Applicable	
Inorganic Chemicals				**Average**	**Range**	**Average**	**Range**	**Average**	**Range**	**Average**	**Range**	**Average**	**Range**
Arsenic (µg/L)	10 (EPA MCL as of 1/23/06)	2	4	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND-2	ND	ND	ND	ND
Barium (ug/L)	1000	100	2000	ND	ND	ND	ND	220	140 - 310	230	210 - 250	130	100 - 170
Chromium (µg/L)	50	10	100*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 10	ND	ND	ND	ND
Selenium (ug/L)	50	5	50*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 7	ND	ND	ND	ND - 7
Fluoride (mg/L)	2	0.1	1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nitrate (as NO3) (mg/L)	45	2	45	2.2	ND - 4.2	2.3	ND - 4.3	20	13 - 32	17	16 - 19	12	10 - 14
Radionuclides (a)													
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	3	0*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 3	ND	ND	ND	ND
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	4	0*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 12	ND	ND - 6	ND	ND
Uranium (pCi/L)	20	1	0.43	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 3
REGULATED CONTAMINANTS WITH SECONDARY MCLs, established by the State of California Department of Public Health													
Conductivity (µS/cm)	1600		--	498	323 - 667	526	360 - 696	855	720- 1020	706	560 - 851	768	649 - 849
Chloride (mg/L)	500		--	84	45 - 136	101	54 - 154	90	71 - 122	51	43 - 55	67	46 - 86
Sulfate (mg/L)	500	0.5	--	27	14 - 41	28	15 -47	58	45 - 82	34	31 - 36	68	42 - 94
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)	1000		--	275	161 - 379	290	177 - 370	548	440 - 646	392	368 - 435	515	457 - 570
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS REQUIRING MONITORING, established by the State of California Department of Public Health													
Boron (ug/L)	NL = 1000	100	--	130	ND - 210	110	ND - 230	510	340- 920	330	280-370	400	300 - 460
Vanadium (ug/L)	NL = 50	3	--	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND - 4	ND	ND-3	ND	ND
Additional Parameters - Included to assist consumers in making health or economic decisions, i.e. low sodium diet, water softening, etc.													
Corrosivity (Aggressive Index), (a)	--		--	12.1	11.9 - 12.3	11.9	11.5 - 12.2	12.3	11.9 - 12.5	12.1	12.0 - 12.1	12.1	12.0 - 12.3
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate (mg/L)	--		--	83	62 - 122	70	60 - 81	286	214 - 343	238	225 - 255	292	267 - 323
Total Hardness as calcium carbonate (mg/L)	--		--	98	61 - 137	88	66 - 109	348	226 - 426	264	237 - 288	330	320 - 350
Calcium (mg/L)	--		--	20	14 - 26	19	13 - 27	68	45 - 81	47	44 - 53	67	61 - 74
Magnesium (mg/L)	--		--	12	6 - 17	10	6 - 13	43	28 - 54	35	31 - 38	39	37 - 41
Potassium (mg/L)	--		--	2.7	1.9 - 3.9	2.8	1.9 - 3.9	1.9	1.1 - 2.7	1.7	1.5 - 1.9	2.0	--
Sodium (mg/L)	--		--	63	36 - 82	72	40 - 99	65	42 - 83	49	46 - 52	76	--
pH (Units)	--		--	8.5	8.2 - 8.8	8.3	8.2 - 8.4	7.5	7.2 - 7.7	7.4	7.4 - 7.5	7.4	7.4 - 7.5
Silica (mg/L)	--		--	11	6 - 14	12	6 - 15	24	20 - 28	26	25 - 27	24	23 - 25
Total Radon (pCi/L), (b)	--	100	--	NA	NA	NA	NA	250	200 - 290	290	280 - 300	260	160 - 320

* = MCLG, ** = MRDLG

Abbreviations/Units: MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level, DLR = Detection Limit for Purposes of Reporting (CDPH established), PHG = Public Health Goal, MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal, NA = Not Applicable, TT = Treatment Technique, NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, µg/L = Micrograms per liter, mg/L = Milligrams per liter, pCi/L = Picocuries per liter, µS/cm = Microsiemens per centimeter, NL = Notification level, ND = Monitored for but not detected at or above DLR. ND or value in range column indicates more than one analysis was performed.
(a) Zone 7 strives to supply non-corrosive water (Aggressive Index > 12) by pH adjustment on treated surface water. (b) Data collected in year 2004.

Everyday Equivalents

One milligram per liter (mg/L) = a single penny in $10,000

One microgram per liter (ug/L) = a single penny in $10,000,000

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

MICROBIAL CONTAMINANTS, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from wastewater-treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural-livestock operations, and wildlife.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

ORGANIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production. They can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Public Health prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. More information is available on the EPA's website, *www.epa.gov/safewater/*.

MAJOR SOURCES OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Major sources of regulated contaminants detected in Zone 7 water supply are listed below:

TURBIDITY Soil runoff.

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON Various natural and man-made sources.

ARSENIC Erosion from natural deposits; runoff from orchards; and wastes from glass and electronics production.

BARIUM Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; and erosion of natural deposits.

CHROMIUM Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits.

SELENIUM Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; and runoff from livestock lots (feed additive).

FLUORIDE Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

NITRATE Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; and erosion of natural deposits.

GROSS ALPHA Erosion of natural deposits.

GROSS BETA Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

URANIUM Erosion of natural deposits.

How Does Zone 7 Manage the Water Supply and Protect Its Quality?

Working to Protect Our Water at the Source: The Delta

Zone 7 typically receives 75-80 percent of its water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which originates as Sierra Nevada snowmelt. The Delta is facing an environmental crisis that threatens its ability to continue providing a long-term, reliable supply of fresh water to 25 million Californians (including nearly 3 million here in the Bay Area). In addition to this use of the Delta for conveyance, numerous other factors are stressing the ecosystem, including toxics, invasive species and other diversions. Also, the Delta levee system is fragile and subject to failure in an earthquake. This, along with rising sea levels from global climate change, could lead to flooding and seawater intrusion of drinking-water supplies. A federal judge reduced pumping by state and federal water projects for 2008 while state and federal agencies work on a plan to protect endangered Delta smelt. Pumping reductions could be extended to other species that live or migrate through the Delta. Water conservation alone will not provide long-term water reliability if court-ordered reductions in supply become permanent or more stringent. New ways of transporting water need to be explored to protect water supply, water quality and the ecosystem.

One option being studied on a statewide level is a new "dual conveyance" system, consisting of strengthened levees with a second conveyance facility physically separate from the Delta itself. This could provide the operational flexibility needed to accommodate the needs of fish as well as the water-supply needs of the state, and give us better source water quality freer of contamination.

We're Improving Water Hardness

As water moves through soils underground, dissolved minerals can build up over time in the main groundwater basin, which contributes to the water hardness that some Valley residents experience today. As part of Zone 7's Groundwater Management Plan, we monitor the salt balance and adopt measures to protect groundwater quality, while facilitating regional recycled water projects. Zone 7 is implementing a three-pronged strategy for improving the salt balance and long-term usefulness of the groundwater basin:

- Reducing the amount of salts in runoff from residential and commercial irrigation that percolates into the Basin;
- Removing salt from the groundwater at wellfields using reverse osmosis technology before blending the groundwater with other supplies for delivery to customers (our first demineralization plant will open in 2009); and
- Replacing groundwater with surface water that is recharged into the Basin via Valley arroyos.

Water Quality Improvement Projects

Although all of the water Zone 7 supplies to retailers meets state and federal primary (health-related) drinking water standards, we are working on several projects to improve the taste, odor and/or appearance of the water you get. Our planned water-quality upgrades include:

Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant (under construction): will remove those chalky-looking salts and minerals (measured as total dissolved solids) from underground drinking water supplies delivered primarily to the western side of Zone 7's service area in Pleasanton and Dublin. This will also decrease boron levels.

- Completion: 2009
- Cost: $36.7 million, funded by water rates and connection fees on new development
- A second plant of comparable size and cost, funded entirely by new development, is planned for 2013.

Altamont Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline Project: will accommodate planned Valley growth, provide additional overall water-system reliability and improve overall water quality by reducing the agency's reliance on groundwater supplies.

- Capacity: 24 million gallons a day (mgd) initially, expandable to 42 mgd
- First phase: in design review, with project timing to be based upon agency water-supply needs and funding availability
- Cost: $195 million (phase 1); $55.6 million (phase 2), both phases funded by connection fees on new development (may include short-term debt financing)

Taste and Odor Treatment Improvements: will be added to our existing treatment plants.

- Completion: as early as 2012
- Cost: $6-7 million (estimate could be refined by current feasibility study), funded by water rates

Invasive Species

Quagga and Zebra mussels are destructive invasive aquatic species that arrived in the United States from Ukraine and Europe in the late 1980s. Other invasive species are already upsetting the Delta ecosystem, as discussed above, but these mussels reproduce quickly and in large numbers. Their establishment in California waters could result in an environmental and economic disaster. Massive colonies can block water intake and threaten water supply, agricultural irrigation, and power plant operations. In 2007, Quaggas were discovered in several Southern California reservoirs receiving water from the Colorado River.

State and federal agencies have initiated a unified response to the Quagga mussel invasion in California. Actions include: increased inspections at border stations, survey teams, monitoring plans, portable wash stations, and public information and education. Additional information is available on the Quagga hotline – 866-440-9530 – or at *www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel*.

In February 2008, Zone 7 hosted a South Bay Aqueduct Mussel Vulnerability Assessment workshop organized by the state Department of Water Resources. Groups also inspected SBA facilities and Zone 7 treatment plants to identify ways to minimize risks from mussels. No mussels have been detected so far in Delta water supplies. Zone 7 and other SBA contractors are requesting DWR to implement boat inspection, washing, and education programs at Lake Del Valle as soon as feasible.

Pharmaceuticals, Personal Care Products and EDCs in Water

The presence of extremely low levels of pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and Endocrine Disruptor Chemicals (EDCs) in water is not new. They likely have been present in water-supply sources for as long as such products have been in use. What is new is that advances in laboratory technology have made it easier to detect and measure them in extremely miniscule, trace levels. These lab methods are still experimental and under development. People regularly consume or expose themselves to products containing these compounds in much higher concentrations through medicine, food and other beverages. Zone 7 has participated in an American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF) nationwide study of pharmaceuticals and other emerging contaminants in water. An AWWARF report is expected to be published this fall.

Public water agencies, including Zone 7, are committed to protecting public health. While research has not demonstrated human health impacts from these compounds, the ongoing conversation should remind us of how precious our source waters are and of the need to protect them. For information on safely disposing of medicines, people can log on to *www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper_disposal.html*.

Lead and Copper Rule

This rule is applicable to Zone 7's direct customers only (i.e. those who receive their water bills from Zone 7). Per the CDPH-approved Compliance Monitoring Plan, a second round of sampling was conducted on June 20, 2007 and data is summarized below. Zone 7 will conduct a third round of sampling in June 2008.

No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Lead	No. of Lead Samples Above Action Level of 15 ug/L	90th Percentile Copper	No. of Copper Samples Above Action Level of 1300 ug/L
22	17 ug/L	3	270 ug/L	1

The 90th percentile lead-sampling results for Zone 7 direct customers exceeded the action level (AL) of 15 ug/L. As Zone 7 water supply has been historically free from lead and copper, internal corrosion of customer water plumbing is most likely causing these high lead and copper detections. All three samples that exceeded the lead AL were from VA Hospital buildings. These sample locations are primarily used by an adult population, who face minimal risk from lead exposure. We are working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to mitigate the problem.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap from 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

About Zone 7 Water Agency

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 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 providing flood protection in eastern Alameda County, Zone 7 is the wholesale water supplier for 196,000 people served by local retailers, including the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, the Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the California Water Service Company. In addition to being a wholesaler, Zone 7 also serves a small number of customers directly. Zone 7 also distributes untreated water to local agriculture operations and golf courses.

Este Informe Contiene Información Muy Importante Sobre Su Agua Potable. Tradúzcalo O Hable Con Alguien Que Lo Entienda Bien. (This Report Contains Important Information About Your Drinking Water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)

To speak directly with someone about the information in this report, please contact Gurpal Deol, Zone 7 Water Quality Manager, at (925) 447-0533.

Public Participation

Zone 7 Water Agency is committed to providing you up-to-date water-quality information. We offer numerous opportunities to participate in decisions about local water quality and supply. The Zone 7 Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Zone 7 office, located at 100 North Canyons Parkway, in Livermore. Meetings are open to the public, and community input and participation are welcome. Special meetings, also open to the public, are held as needed. Meeting agendas are posted online at *www.zone7water.com*, or can be obtained by calling (925) 454-5007.

CONTAMINANTS AND DRINKING WATER

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. Both federal and state laws establish limitations on contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit the EPA's website at *www.epa.gov/safewater/*.

INFORMATION FOR SENSITIVE POPULATIONS

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy or who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune-system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. Advice about drinking water for these individuals should be sought from their health care providers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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