

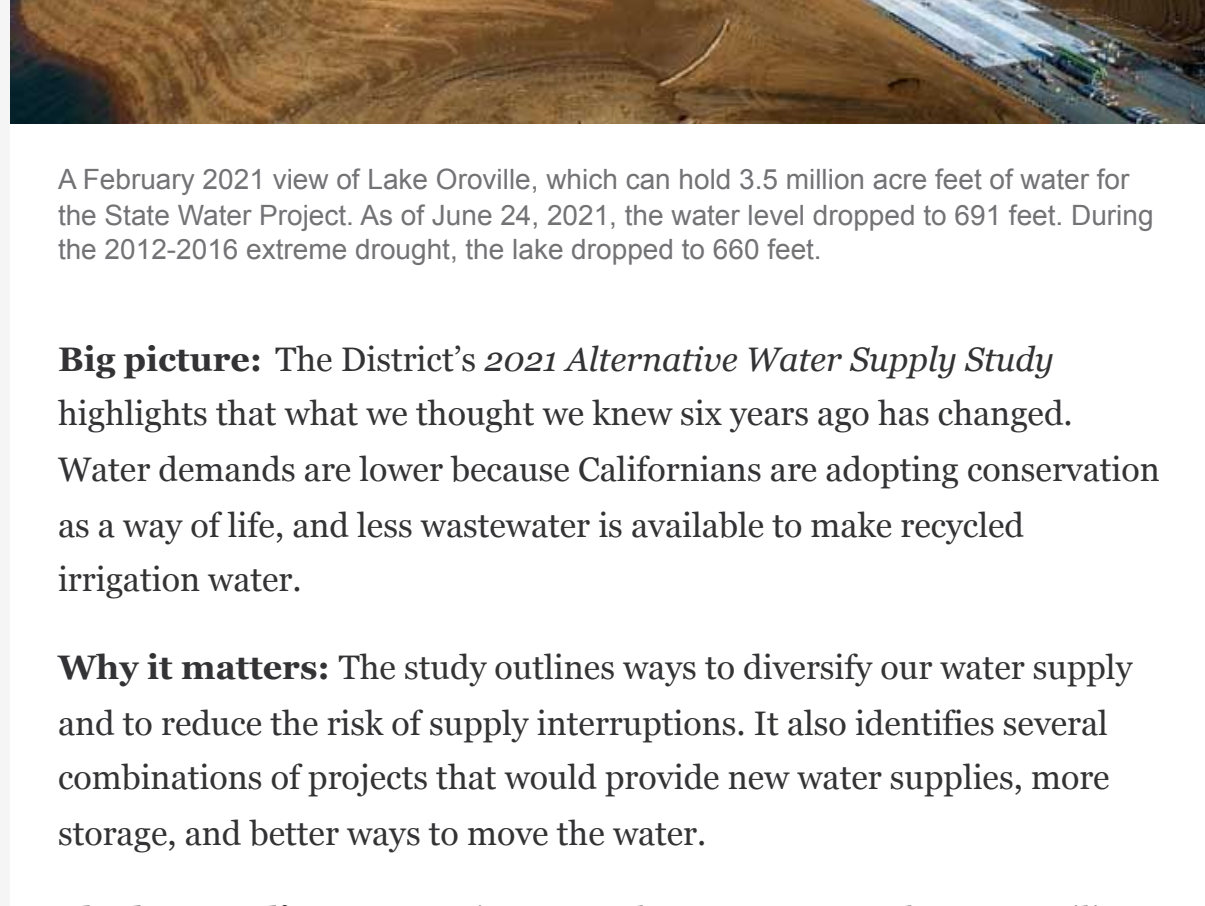
DSRSD Pipeline

By Lea Blevins • Aug 01, 2021

Smart Brevity® count — mins... — words

Happy August! As summer heat continues, please use water wisely and reduce your use 15%.

Board Adopts Policy For a Resilient & Sustainable Water Future



A February 2021 view of Lake Oroville, which can hold 3.5 million acre feet of water for the State Water Project. As of June 24, 2021, the water level dropped to 691 feet. During the 2012-2016 extreme drought, the lake dropped to 660 feet.

Big picture: The District's 2021 *Alternative Water Supply Study* highlights that what we thought we knew six years ago has changed. Water demands are lower because Californians are adopting conservation as a way of life, and less wastewater is available to make recycled irrigation water.

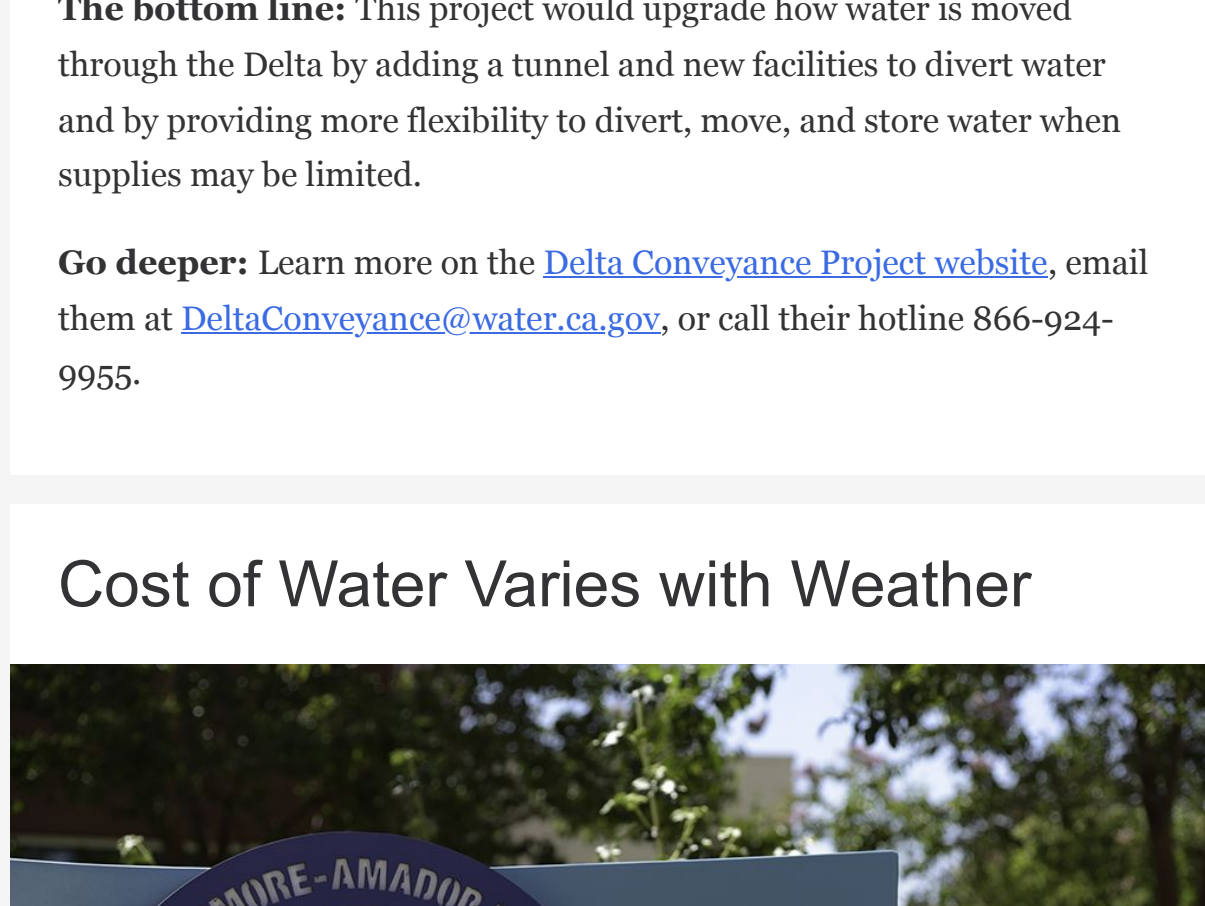
Why it matters: The study outlines ways to diversify our water supply and to reduce the risk of supply interruptions. It also identifies several combinations of projects that would provide new water supplies, more storage, and better ways to move the water.

The bottom line: Any projects to make our water supply more resilient and sustainable will cost money.

Our thought bubble: It's important for us to partner with other agencies and maintain an "all of the above" approach while exploring options for a resilient and sustainable water future.

Go deeper: View the [2021 Alternative Water Supply Study](#).

Update on Delta Conveyance Project



Aerial view looking south over the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in San Joaquin County, taken March 2019.

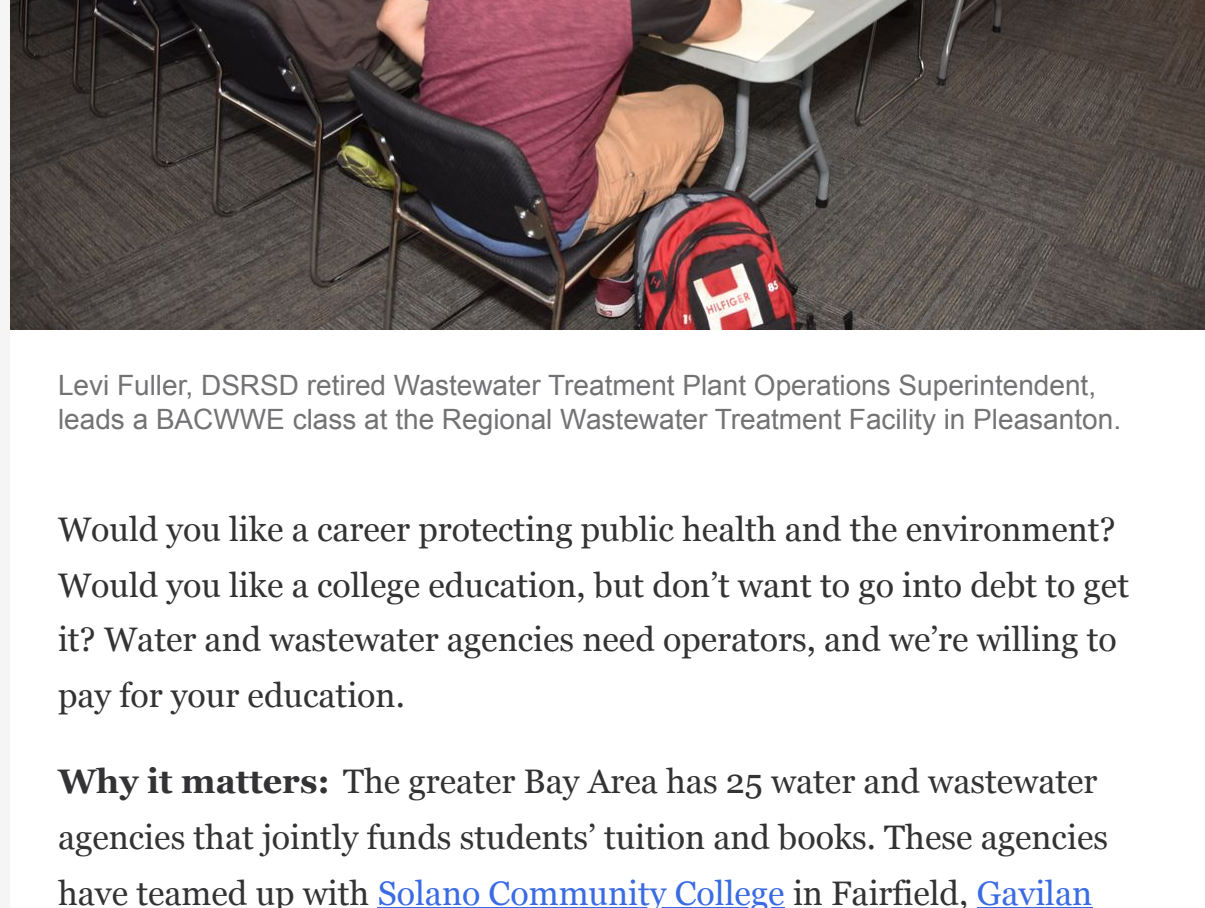
What's new: California's five-trillion-dollar economy is sustained by a reliable water supply. Twenty-seven million Californians (68%) depend on water that flows through the Delta. Tri-Valley residents are the first recipients of this water as it travels south.

Why it matters: The infrastructure that protects, collects, and moves water through the Delta is outdated and at risk from earthquakes, climate change, and sea level rise. This is according to Carrie Buckman, Program Manager for the Delta Conveyance Project, who spoke to the East Bay Leadership Council's Water & Environment Task Force on July 20. "It's time to modernize," she said.

The bottom line: This project would upgrade how water is moved through the Delta by adding a tunnel and new facilities to divert water and by providing more flexibility to divert, move, and store water when supplies may be limited.

Go deeper: Learn more on the [Delta Conveyance Project website](#), email them at DeltaConveyance@water.ca.gov, or call their hotline 866-924-9955.

Cost of Water Varies with Weather



Zone 7 Water Agency is the Tri-Valley's water wholesaler and flood protection agency.

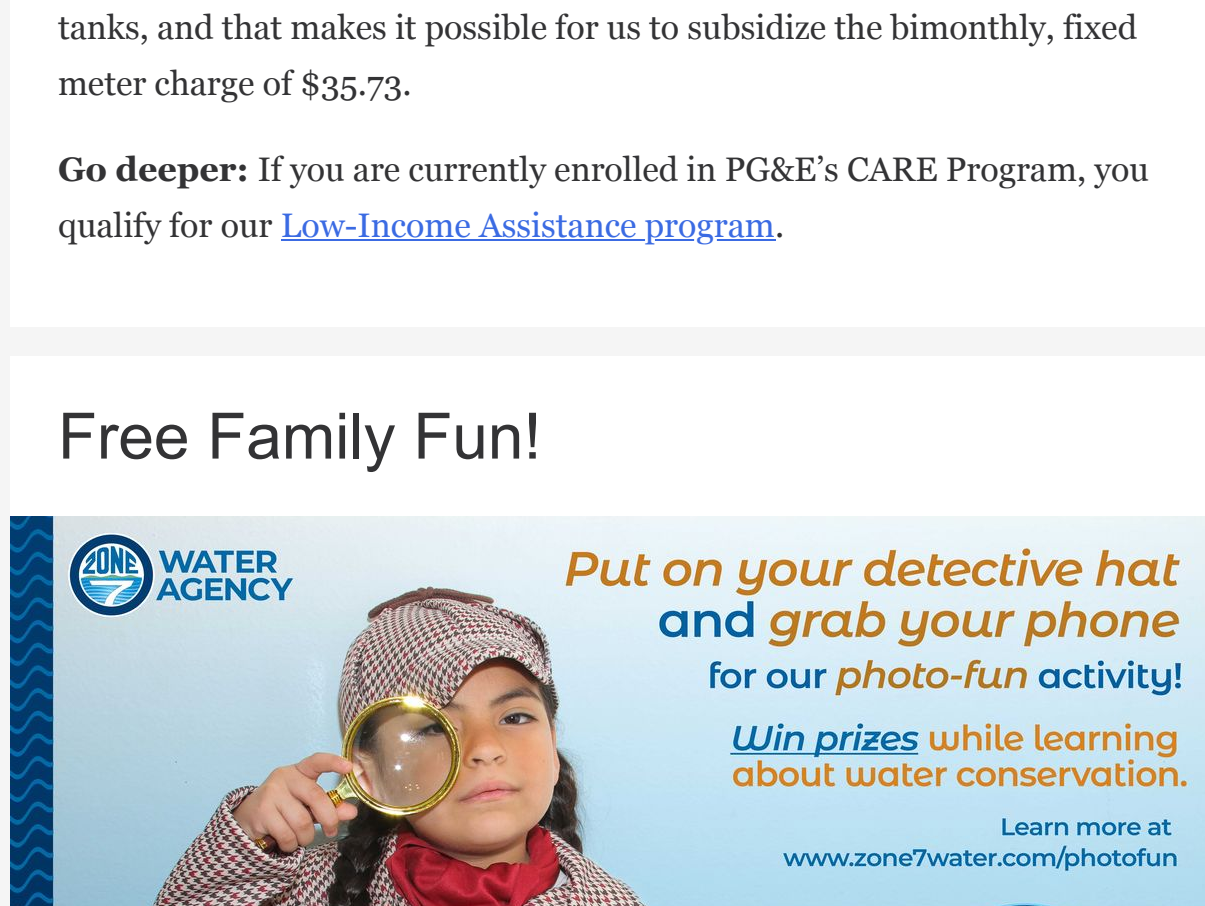
If 2022 is a critically dry year, we will have to require greater conservation and our water wholesaler, Zone 7 Water Agency, will look for other temporary sources of water.

Why it matters: In 2021, the State Water Project (SWP) only provided Zone 7 with 5% (4,000 acre-feet) of its allocation, a steep reduction from the low 2020 allocation of 20% (16,100 acre-feet).

In an average year, the Tri-Valley uses about 45,000 acre feet of water. (An acre foot of water is the amount of water necessary to cover one acre to a depth of one foot, which is equal to 325,851 gallons.)

The bottom line: To supplement the low allocation of water from the SWP, Zone 7 is purchasing \$14.1 million (estimated cost) of water at a rate more than triple the six-year average water supply cost of \$4.6 million. In 2020, a moderately dry year, the cost of water was only \$4.5 million.

Get a College Degree on Us - The Industry Needs Operators!



Levi Fuller, DSRSD retired Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Superintendent, leads a BACWWE class at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Pleasanton.

Would you like a career protecting public health and the environment? Would you like a college education, but don't want to go into debt to get it? Water and wastewater agencies need operators, and we're willing to pay for your education.

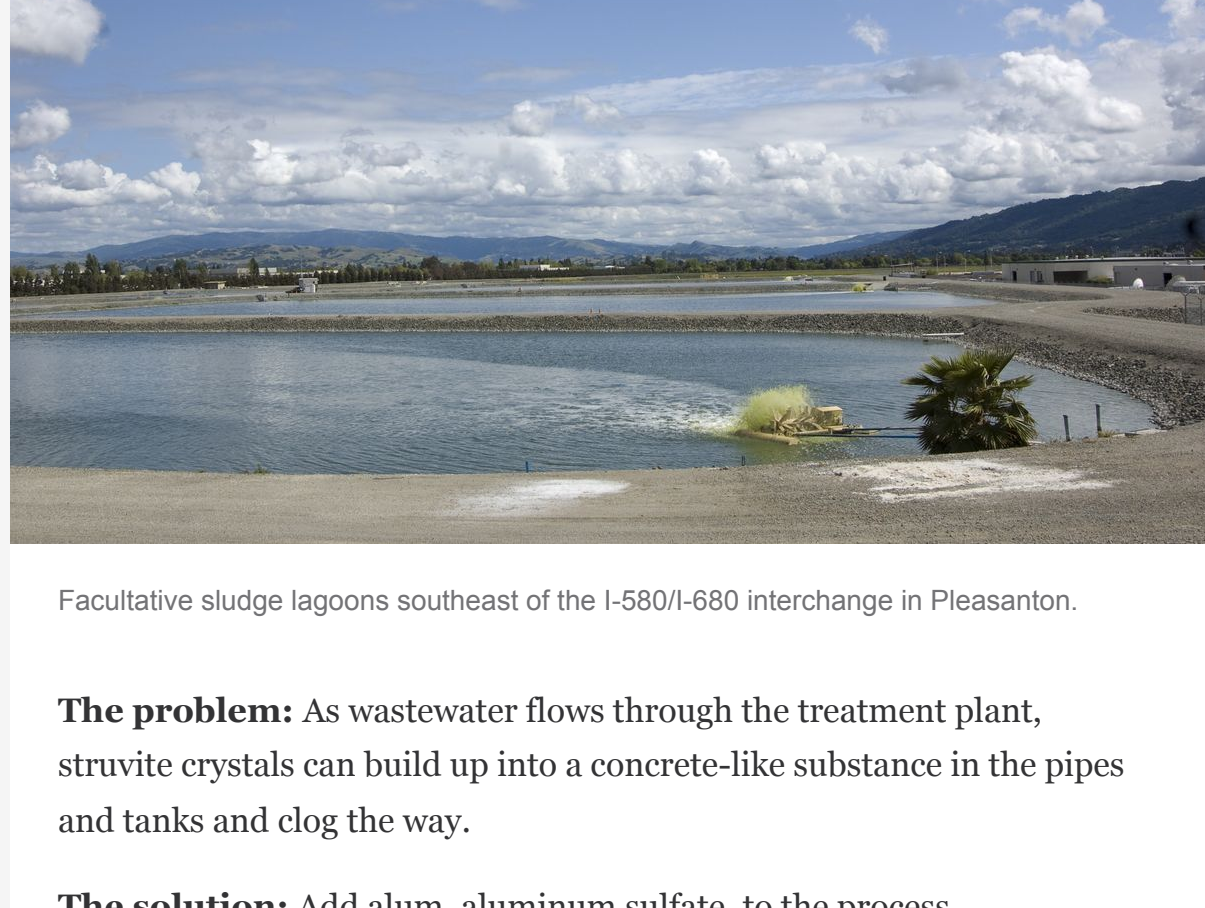
Why it matters: The greater Bay Area has 25 water and wastewater agencies that jointly funds students' tuition and books. These agencies have teamed up with [Solano Community College](#) in Fairfield, [Gavilan Community College](#) in Gilroy, and [Santa Rosa Junior College](#) in Santa Rosa to offer college-level training in water and wastewater operations.

The bottom line: Evening classes are taught at participating agencies throughout the Bay Area, including previously at DSRSD's facility in Pleasanton. The agencies also provide working professionals as instructors. Courses offered prepare students to take state certification exams.

Our thought bubble: The high your certification, the higher your pay!

Go deeper: [Learn more about BACWWE](#).

Need Help Paying Your Water Bill?



Did you know, the District has a low income assistance program?

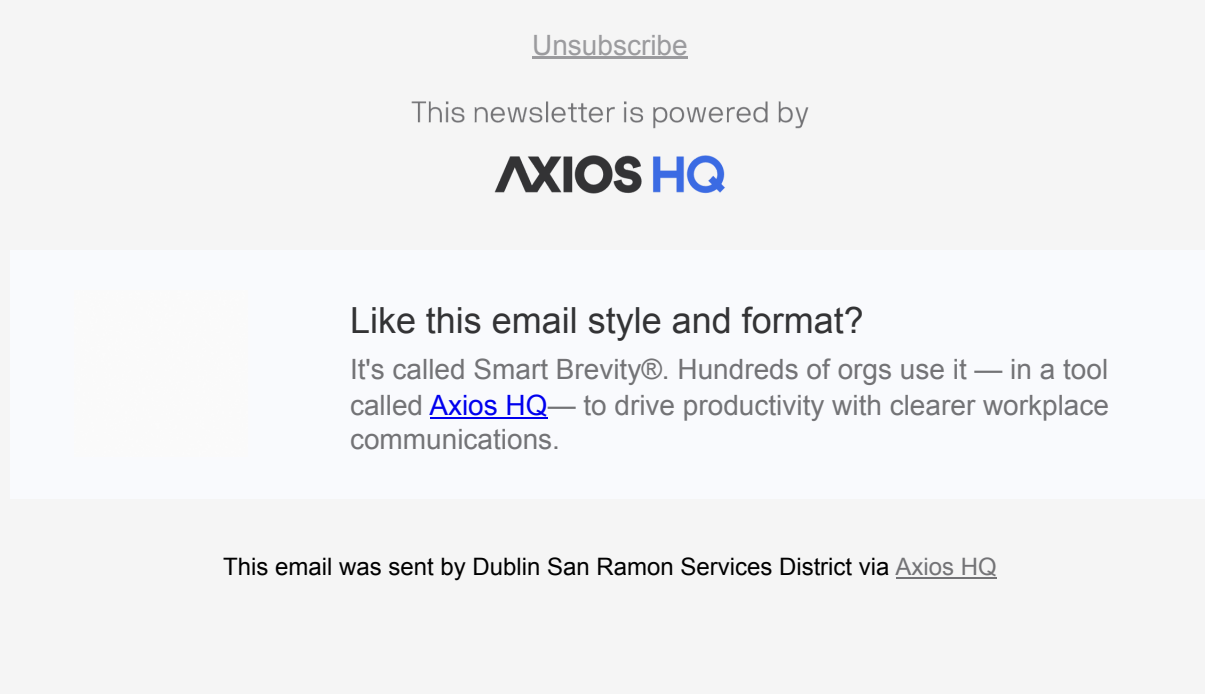
Last year, only 252 residences received low-income assistance from the District.

Why it matters: We're pretty sure there are more folks who need help paying their water bills.

The bottom line: Cell tower companies rent space on top of our water tanks, and that makes it possible for us to subsidize the bimonthly, fixed meter charge of \$35.73.

Go deeper: If you're currently enrolled in PG&E's CARE Program, you qualify for our [Low-Income Assistance program](#).

Free Family Fun!



Zone 7 Water Agency, the Tri-Valley's water wholesaler, is sponsoring this fun family activity.

The District's water wholesaler, Zone 7 Water Agency, is sponsoring a summer activity where you and your family will learn about being water wise, and you may win \$50 gift card. Grab your phone, your favorite water-wise mascot – your pet or stuffed animal – and head to a water-wise landmark. Visit [Zone 7's Photo Fun page](#) for the list of locations.

Why it matters: When you've arrived at each water-wise landmark, snap a picture of you or your favorite water-wise mascot, and post the photo to your Facebook and/or Instagram with #Z7ScavengerHunt. For a chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card, [submit an online form](#). Be sure to include your phone number and the names of those in the photo with you.

The bottom line: Visiting one water-wise landmark is all you need to qualify for the contest, but the more landmarks you visit, the better your chances of winning.

Our thought bubble: Remember, we are asking our community to reduce water use by 15% from 2020. We want to be sure water is here for years to come.

Go deeper: Visit [DSRSD's Water Conservation section](#) for water-saving tips, including information on [water-saving rebates](#) from Zone 7 Water Agency for lawn conversion, smart irrigation, and high-efficiency clothes washers.

Alum Project Will Save Future Ratepayers Millions

Facultative sludge lagoons southeast of the I-580/I-680 interchange in Pleasanton.

The problem: As wastewater flows through the treatment plant, struvite crystals can build up into a concrete-like substance in the pipes and tanks and clog the way.

The solution: Add alum, aluminum sulfate, to the process.

Why it matters: In spring 2022, when the \$1.64 million alum project is completed, operators will add alum to the wastewater stream as it enters the treatment plant from the facultative sludge lagoons. Solids decompose in the lagoons for five to six years, under six feet of water. During hot summer months, water is added to the lagoons, and during rainy months this water is removed from the lagoons and returned to the treatment plant so the lagoons don't overflow.

The bottom line: Water from the lagoons has a lot of phosphates. When phosphates combine with magnesium and ammonium, they create struvite. Adding alum prevents struvite from building up in the pipes and tanks.

Adding alum also eliminates the need to build a fifth secondary clarifier, saving future ratepayers millions of dollars.

Go deeper: Check out a [diagram of the wastewater treatment process](#), and better understand the role of secondary clarifiers.

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