

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Former Olympia Mutual Water Company Customers on Zayante Road Join San Lorenzo Valley Water District

CONSOLIDATION PROVIDES SAFE DRINKING WATER TO 51 HOMES,  
IMPROVES FISH HABITAT IN ZAYANTE CREEK AND INCREASES FIRE  
PROTECTION SERVICES

APRIL 3, 2015 — BOULDER CREEK, CA — The San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) today announced it has completed a consolidation project to supply clean, reliable water to 51 homes on Zayante Road in Felton that previously were under a state-mandated boil water order.

The area previously received water service from Olympia Mutual Water Company, a privately owned mutual water company that sourced water from a natural spring. The spring, which also feeds Zayante Creek, was classified by the State of California Department of Water Resources as “under the influence of surface water.” Since 2003, Olympia Mutual has been under a State Compliance Order, requiring the mutual to bring their source water and system into compliance with California code. Without appropriate treatment, Olympia Mutual had been operating under a state-issued boil water order for years.

Olympia Mutual proposed a consolidation with the San Lorenzo Valley Water District in 2006 that would connect the 51 homes served by Olympia Mutual to SLVWD. The District agreed and, in 2008, SLVWD submitted an application to the Department of Water Resources under the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the Olympia Mutual Consolidation Project, which would provide a loan to fund part of the new distribution system.

The total cost of the project is \$916,710. An assessment district was formed at the request of the 51 homeowners to fund the remainder of the project. Each homeowner will pay \$20,000 over a 20-year period.

The State approved the project in August 2013. Work began in October 2014 and was completed in early April, allowing former Olympia Mutual Water Company customers to enjoy SLVWD water service.

Completion of the project not only provides a reliable domestic water supply for the homes, it also increases base flows to Zayante Creek, which improves fish habitat in the San Lorenzo River.

Also as part of the project, undersized water mains were replaced and fire hydrants were added, improving fire protection services in the area.

“We now have water for fire suppression in areas where fire hydrants had been nonexistent,” Zayante Fire Chief John Stipes said. “This type of upgrade may lower homeowner’s insurance.”

Like other SLVWD customers, the new service area is subject to water restrictions due to the drought, including limited outdoor irrigation and other conservation methods.

### **ABOUT THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

The San Lorenzo Valley Water District is located in the mountains of northern Santa Cruz County. The district serves more than 7,300 metered connections. Established in 1941, the district supplies water to the communities of Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, Zayante, Scotts Valley, Manana Woods and Felton. For more information, visit [www.slvwd.com](http://www.slvwd.com) or [www.facebook.com/slvwaterdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/slvwaterdistrict)

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