



NEWS

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EBMUD URGES GREATER CONSERVATION

Dry year runoff will not refill water supply reservoirs this year

OAKLAND – The winter of 2007 has been one of the driest in EBMUD’s 84-year history, yielding less snow and rain than necessary to adequately refill the District’s water supply reservoirs next fall. On Tuesday, the District’s Board of Directors declared a water shortage and urged its 1.3 million water customers to cut back on water use until further notice.

Fortunately, last year was a wet year and EBMUD came into the winter with full storage. But with less than half of normal runoff forecast this year, the District projects it will begin the next rain year with our reservoirs about 80 percent full. And if the winter of 2008 is dry as well, it could lead to further dwindling water supplies and a drought scenario that would require mandatory rationing.

EBMUD anticipates a water supply shortfall of 15,000-acre-feet by October 1, the start of the new rain year. The District outlined a plan to the Board of Directors that will recover 10,000 acre-feet of water through additional conservation by September 30.

That plan calls for residential customers to only irrigate three days a week, never consecutively, and only at night or early morning before dawn. Customers should also check for indoor leaks and other ways to reduce unnecessary water usage. Large irrigators will be asked to reduce their water consumption by 25 percent and other non-residential customers will be asked to upgrade plumbing and irrigation systems, check for leaks or waste and to cut back on discretionary water use.

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Dry Year (2)

Customers who use water in their business processes will be asked to look for ways to recycle or reuse water. The District will also reemphasize its basic water conservation tips, which can be found at www.ebmud.com under water conservation, or can be obtained by calling 1-866-403-2683.

EBMUD is keenly aware that for many of its customers, in all classes, comprehensive water conservation practices are already in place. For these customers, the District is appreciative and requests your help in assisting neighbors and acquaintances who can make better use of their water.

The District hopes that by declaring a water shortage now and cutting demand enough to cover most of the projected shortfall, there will be a cushion if next year proves to be dry as well, and the results will not be as harsh.

“Our customers have proven time and again, as they did with the Claremont Tunnel outage this winter, that they are ready to rise to the occasion,” said Lesa McIntosh, president of the EBMUD Board of Directors. “We are confident that they will do all they can do to position us as best they can for whatever hand nature deals us. Thank you in advance for your continued support.”

EBMUD will closely monitor its demand and supply and report to its Board on any changes in projections.

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