

# customer Pipeline



March • April 2012

## Pipeline repairs reveal water legacy

**B**eneath local streets lies a complex network of water pipes. Cast iron, steel and cement—although the materials vary and the dates the pipes were installed span many decades, the story below ground is the same. Our local communities could not have grown and flourished without the major infrastructure investments made by past generations of East Bay residents.

Water travels more than 90 miles from the Sierra to your faucet through aqueducts, tunnels and an underground distribution system, most of which is decades, and in some neighborhoods, a century old. The water distribution system currently serves more than 1.3 million people through more than 4,100 miles of pipeline and 170 neighborhood reservoirs.

Across the nation, leaks and breaks in aging water distribution systems are occurring with increasing frequency. As pipes age, they can be more susceptible to cracking, corroding and even bursting. EBMUD places high value on cost-effective plumbing system improvements.

In the coming years, as our infrastructure continues to age, decisions about where and how to increase investments in water and wastewater systems will shape our generation's legacy.

*Learn more about your water infrastructure and pipeline replacement at [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) and future editions of this newsletter.*

*When a pipe breaks in the East Bay, EBMUD works quickly and efficiently to protect public health and the environment and to restore water service to customers. While this crew (right) repaired an 86-year-old pipe in Oakland last month, they unearthed a still-functioning cast iron water line from 1885. Major expansions of the East Bay's distribution system took place from the 1930s through 1960s.*





No matter how much it rains any winter, it's always prudent to be water efficient in the Bay Area.

Leaks and excess water use indoors or outdoors waste water and money. Take the time this spring to evaluate your household's water use and investigate if your home has some of

## Be WaterSmart indoors and out

the most common household leaks and inefficient fixtures.

EBMUD's new *WaterSmart Home Survey Kit* includes

worksheets, dye tabs, a flow meter bag and step-by-step instructions to help you find leaks and identify inefficient fixtures.

Return your survey results to receive, if needed, a free, water-saving showerhead, faucet aerator or garden hose nozzle. Devices will be mailed directly to your home.

If the time is right for a yard or garden makeover this season, EBMUD's beautifully photographed plant book *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region* is an excellent

resource for homeowners and gardeners looking to reduce their outdoor water use. Use the award-winning book to select among more than 650 native and low- and moderate-water using plants that can thrive in our climate.

To request a survey kit or order a plant book, visit [www.ebmud.com/watersmart](http://www.ebmud.com/watersmart). EBMUD customers receive \$5 off the plant book's price of \$34.95 (soft cover) or \$49.95 (hard cover). Home survey kits can also be requested by telephone at 1-866-40-EBMUD.



## 7 steps to a clean house and cleaner Bay

For more than 60 years, EBMUD has protected public health and the environment with its rigorous programs to clean the East Bay's waste stream, prevent pollution at the source and protect San Francisco Bay.

Just as EBMUD finds new ways to reduce and reuse wastes, you can take action, too. Many common household cleansers that end up going down the drain include harsh chemicals that are not easily removed by the wastewater treatment process and can be harmful to the plants, animals and marine life that depend on the Bay.

To protect the Bay every day, make your own household cleansers and reduce the amount of harsh chemicals that are rinsed or flushed down your drain.



- 1. All-purpose cleaning spray** Dilute biodegradable liquid soap, such as castile soap, with water and pour into a clean spray bottle.
- 2. Carpet odor remover** Dust carpet with baking soda or cornstarch and then vacuum.
- 3. Drain clog remover** Combine one part baking soda followed by two parts vinegar in a nonreactive container before pouring down clogged drain.
- 4. Glass cleaner** Mix equal parts vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Also, use lemon juice to remove greasy fingerprints from windows.
- 5. Oven/stovetop cleaner** Mix baking soda, salt and just enough hot water to make a paste. Use this to scrub your oven or stovetop.
- 6. Surface disinfectant** Combine 2 cups of water, 3 tablespoons biodegradable liquid soap, such as castile soap, and 25 drops of tea tree oil. Pour into a clean spray bottle and use.
- 7. Toilet bowl cleanser** Sprinkle Borax in the toilet bowl and scrub to remove stains.

Be sure to check out the online **Clean-It Guide** at [www.ebmud.com/cleanbay](http://www.ebmud.com/cleanbay) for more cleaning tips.



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### EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.



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