

This water year, resolve to conserve



September and October are among the warmest months in California, and they bring the transition from one water year into the next.

For planning purposes, water providers across the state monitor the natural water cycle on a 365-day calendar that begins October 1, the normal start of the wet season. After months of drought, we're prepared to make a big move in the coming months in case the next water year is also dry.

EBMUD is planning to pull water from the Sacramento River for the second time in our nearly 100-year history using the Freeport Regional Water Facility. This \$500-million investment is one of EBMUD's most significant efforts to broaden our water supply portfolio. We first used these facilities during the 2014-16 drought.

While the current drought has the potential to be severe, EBMUD is in a strong position to weather the challenge. We'll use recycled water, leak detection, supplemental water purchases and more to manage this dry spell. But we'll need your help, too.

Conservation is the best way to make sure the water we have will last. If you haven't yet, please check your faucets, toilets, and irrigation systems for leaks. Replace your thirsty landscape with drought-tolerant plants. And eliminate water waste. It's time to flex our water-wise muscles and brace for whatever's ahead. Find tips and resources at ebmud.com/watersmart.



The average showerhead releases two gallons of water per minute. EBMUD provides showers (and baths) to 1.4 million people daily. If we all shave off one minute of shower time, together we could save two million gallons of water every day.



Warm weather and low water levels can lead to algae blooms, which can affect the taste or smell of water. If you detect a difference in the taste of your water, rest assured that it has been treated to the highest level and is safe to drink.



Skies are dry and fire risk is high

Drought affects our services in more ways than just the water supply. Dry periods increase the threat of fire in our watersheds surrounding and protecting our reservoirs. Monterey pine trees on our watershed lands in the East Bay and the Sierra foothills are dying, leading EBMUD to escalate our efforts to remove dry vegetation that can contribute to fuel load during a fire.

EBMUD has been reducing fuel and mitigating wildfire for over 40 years. We partner with local and state agencies, cities, and fire districts to coordinate efforts and share resources. Year round we remove vegetation by hand, mow, remove trees, conduct prescribed burns, release animals to graze on dry vegetation and create fuel breaks. We limit this work seasonally to avoid areas and times when birds nest, including our local eagle population. We're asking visitors to care for these lands as we do and never use fire on the watershed.

Illegal trash dumping on the protected watershed has been on the rise. EBMUD is working with regional law enforcement to curb the problem, and we've redirected contracts for tree-trimming to clean up instead. Not only is trash removal expensive, but dumping can harm the watershed and pollute our water supply. If you see illegal dumping, please contact local law enforcement or report it via our partner, StopWaste, at resource.stopwaste.org/tools/curbside-details.



We're prepared for Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Generators are in place at critical pumping plants to ensure that an electrical power outage won't adversely affect water operations. If a power shutoff is called near you, please conserve water during the outage. When a power shutoff is in effect, go to ebmud.com to see if your address is affected.

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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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