

EBMUD LAC Project Committee Meeting

DATE: Monday, July 20, 2026

TIME: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

LOCATION: Online or at EBMUD WCD

AGENDA

Attendees: Kristin Bowman, Lindsay Kinsler, Nicolle Patterson, Dona Wessells, Ann-Marie Benz, Dave Phelps, Rebecca Pollon, Helmut Winkelhake, Eric Santos - AI notes

2:00 pm

Welcome – What's on your mind?

2:10 pm

Project Updates

- East Bay Public Gardens Open House
 - Most asked questions, who showed up, takeaways.
 - Native and low water plants, compost and mulch, rebates, irrigation, pests, site history
 - Ann-Marie suggested working with local CNPS chapters to table at the event since there were so many questions about native plants.
 - 540 garden experts and participants from residential, commercial, neighbors, and interested individuals attended.
 - Most people came to the gardens to get landscape questions answered and for inspiration.
 - New [Sustainable Landscape Experience Map](#) - created for the event now available for all the sites. EBMUD continues to add new locations.
 - [EBMUD Nature Discovery Challenge](#) (iNaturalist)- created to help bring attention to these hidden gems.
 - Maybe this data can be used to support the gaps in knowledge CNPS is looking to fill in on urban garden biodiversity.
 - [CNPS BUG](#) - Biodiversity in Urban Gardens (iNaturalist)
 - BUG created to help better understand how native plants support pollinators. Data from iNaturalist can be filtered by native and non-native plants. Helps to fill in the data gaps such as in the Central Valley and Sierras. CNPS will also do a literature review to learn more about the role of natives in supporting local biodiversity.
 - Does CNPS have any methodology for monitoring the changes in biodiversity of a residential garden/commercial garden i.e. a church going from denuded landscape to natives?
 - CNPS may be interested in this site to learn more about increase in biodiversity by planting native plants.
 - Conversion Funnel – Awareness to Action
 - EBMUD is interested in learning more about how to measure water conservation adoption/conservation culture using the Conservation Funnel method. Interested in learning more about CNPS approach to using the Conversion Funnel approach to measure how building awareness can lead to taking action.

- Protecting Mature Trees Through Lawn Conversion Projects at Calwep Peer to Peer (Eric Santos, Joanna Solins, Andrew Johnson)
 - o Most highly attended Peer to Peer session.
 - Emphasized concern for increased heat if we lose tree coverage, protecting rootzone, sheet mulching, and 4 different irrigation approaches to transition from lawn to tree irrigation.
 - o Chino Basin AB 1572 report –emphasizes irrigating feeder roots as part of the protocol (as opposed to just the dripline).
 - o As a reminder, here is the presentation provided to the LAC on [Protecting Mature Trees Through Lawn Conversions](#) last March.
- Irrigation Controller/scheduling focus
 - o [Controller video](#) (Rachio and more coming)
 - Created based on the most popular controller for residential customers.
 - Helmut commented that during a drought Marin called for people to turn off their smart controllers and use manual since during high temperatures the smart controller would be use more water than manual settings.
 - Helmut also supports the idea of controllers having a manual setting, particularly if Wi-Fi access is undependable.
 - Lindsay commented that for residential, overall, she has not seen a problem with Wi-Fi access though it can be challenging if the only way to program your controller is through an app.
- Spanish training materials
 - o Rebecca reported Hunter provided an irrigation training to her staff in Spanish. She found her staff fully engaged and learning at a level she had not seen before with most of her staff having English as a second language.
 - o Hunter presented on head-to-head coverage, pressure readings etc. Cooperative Extension provided a catch can/DU test. Rebecca hopes to do more landscape/irrigation training in Spanish to impart deeper understanding for her crew.
 - Discussed the possibility of offering Hunter Training in Spanish to a larger audience and include wire tracing.
 - Rebecca to follow up with Hunter and UC Cooperative Extension to expand training to EBMUD service area and beyond.
- Rebates
 - o USBR Grants - focusing on Federal Lands.
 - o 5k bonus for CII ended June 30th.
 - o Irrigation repairs – a lot of late spring submittals. About 30% down from last year.

2:20 pm

Discussion

- How the Nonfunctional Turf Water Ban (AB 1572) interfaces with the CA Long Term Framework (SB 606 and AB 1668)
 - o AB 1572 focused on the property- level; SB 606 AB 1668 focused on the Water District level.
 - With the outdoor landscape water budgets being reduced overtime, the concern is about maintaining a healthy urban forest

of mixed water use trees. As trees increase in size, water use can increase. Not providing enough water can result in disease, pests, and trees failing.

- Concern with tree health and NFT conversion – cutting off water too quickly etc.
- Discussed the need to continue to expand dripline and move bubblers as the tree expands. All too often the emitters are not move and the tree can start to encapsulate the emitter – could harm the tree, increase the likelihood of leaks, and the tree does not get the water it needs.
- Tree Irrigation -Dripline vs Rootzone
 - Is there a way to make the rootzone formulaic and site specific? How about using the tree protection zone formula described in ISA's *Best Management Practices: Managing Trees During Site Development and Construction*, a 2nd edition.
 - Helmut and Dave made the point the tree care should be part of the Landscape Architect design and maintain plans. For instance, overhead spray should never hit the trunk of the tree.
 - In addition to adhering to these laws, Dave commented that people also need to consult their local MWELD for irrigation protocol for trees.
 - Calweb Maintenance App for residential landscapes; Investigating irrigation Tree app to include transitioning trees from lawn to waterwise.

2:45

Events

- Let's Talk Shop – Controllers-, 1:00p.m. on Oct 7th featuring Lindsay Kinsler and Eric Santos
- ReScape, EBMUD, Valley Water, CCWD, and Schools – AB 1572/Fall
- Controllers Workshop/ReScape - Before spring irrigation season
- City Hall West as a site for a garden workshop on plant ID and maintenance?

3:00 pm

New Business – Meeting schedule

- The group requested to maintain hybrid option for Project Committee.
- Will set up a schedule to include with at least 6 meetings for the Project Committee each year.
- Additional meetings are created for Task Force and Focus Groups.

3:15 p.m.

Adjourn