

Help in Place for Next Drought

Clearly visible from Interstate 5 in Sacramento near the Pocket exit, a sleek white structure along the river's edge stands adjacent to a hovering silver, old-fashioned water tower. One old and familiar, the other new and fresh, both vital for delivering precious water.

The newly dedicated Freeport intake and pumping facility is a key part of a billion-dollar plan to provide a much-needed water supply for the Sacramento area and deliver a critical supplemental supply for EBMUD's 1.3 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties during the driest of times.

Forty years ago, these two communities were engaged in a battle that was so hard fought that even a 17-year courtroom confrontation could not resolve their differences. At issue were EBMUD's federal contract rights to take water from the American River. Sacramento leaders vowed to fight what they said was an unfair infringement on the American River – considered an invaluable recreational asset by many in the area – until the bitter end. EBMUD sought to get some of the water it had been paying for since 1970 to protect its customers against the devastation of a severe drought.

For three decades, there seemed little hope for peace. But then, about eight years ago, old enemies sat down, talked and became

new partners. They figured out the best way to benefit their communities was to work together rather than continue fighting. Thus sprang forth the Freeport Regional Water Authority, made up of EBMUD, Sacramento County, and the City of Sacramento, and governed by leaders from these agencies.

The Freeport Project will provide up to 85 million gallons of water a day to the Sacramento area to protect its fragile ground-water basin. For EBMUD, the project guarantees a dry-year supply of up to 100 million gallons a day to guard against a harsh drought. EBMUD's part of the project is near complete and could serve customers as soon as it is needed (although water rationing is not needed this year, wise water use is always a good practice).

The Freeport facilities will also provide an opportunity for other communities, especially during times of need, to move water more easily throughout the region. The project has been hailed as a model for regional collaboration and benefit. Much credit for this achievement must go to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who stepped in at the most critical time to help leaders from both communities recognize the inherent value of this regional partnership.

The Freeport Regional Water Project "intake" structure (center, left) represents an end to a long and contentious California water war.



Money Saver Returns Coupons Make Mulch a Bargain

To encourage water savings, EBMUD is working again with local nurseries and landscape supply centers to offer 5 to 25 percent discount coupons for bags or bulk



purchases of organic mulch. It's easy to participate. Just visit www.ebmud.com and look for the mulch coupon link on our home page. To get your discount, download a coupon from the business of your choice and present it at the time of purchase. If you do not have internet access, please call 1-866-403-2683 and EBMUD will mail a coupon to you. The program expires November 30, 2010.

EBMUD has long championed using mulch, the gardener's "Secret Weapon" for water conservation

in landscaping. Many benefits come from applying a three-inch layer of organic material such as shredded or chipped bark over bare soil. Mulch retains moisture in the soil, moderates soil temperature, suppresses water-stealing weeds, and protects drip irrigation components from sun damage. Soil texture also slowly improves as the mulch breaks down. As a bonus, mulch also gives a finished look to any landscape.

A Clean Flush – All the Way to the Bay

Appealing to our convenience button, many products indicate they are "flushable," such as sanitary wipes, diapers, toilet cleaning sponges and kitty litter. As handy as that might seem, flushing these products (or items like cotton swabs, paper towels, and dental floss) can clog your pipes, costing you time and money, and plug up equipment at EBMUD's wastewater treatment plant. Not so convenient after all!

Other everyday products that can wreak havoc on your plumbing and plug up the treatment plant's equipment are labels, wrappers, and other plastic items. Plastics also can break up into tiny pieces too small to be removed by treatment plant screens, ultimately flowing out into the Bay. Protect your pipes and the Bay—dispose unwanted items in the trash can, not the toilet.



Remember – a clean Bay begins with you! For information about what you can do to keep our Bay healthy, please visit www.ebmud.com/cleanbay or contact EBMUD's Environmental Services hotline at (510) 287-1651 or cleanbay@ebmud.com.

"Dispersible" = OK

Toilet paper is unwoven and disperses quickly - "dispersible" and thus flushable. Think of tissues that fall apart in the washing machine as dispersible—they break down and won't cause a clog. Woven materials and other products that keep their shape in water should go in the trash can and not down the drain.

customer Pipeline



Printed on recycled paper



**EAST BAY
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**
P.O. Box 24055 • Oakland, CA 94623
www.ebmud.com

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Board meetings are open to the public and held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1:15 pm in the EBMUD Board Room, 2nd Floor, 375 Eleventh Street, Oakland.

Dennis M. Diemer, *General Manager*

Where to call for...

- Questions about your EBMUD bill
- Emergencies or open hydrants (24 hrs.)
- EBMUD street work information
- Water conservation questions

Call toll-free 1-866-40-EBMUD (1-866-403-2683)

- Jobs Hotline: (510) 287-0742
- TTY/TDD for hearing impaired: (510) 763-1035