

Wildfire readiness is a year-round job

At EBMUD, our thoughts are with those affected by the Los Angeles area firestorms.



EBMUD partners with fire agencies on prescribed burns.

The devastation highlights the importance of our own emergency preparedness. Breakout blazes can ignite any time of year, and firefighting is particularly challenging where urban development and open spaces meet – as in parts of the East Bay. EBMUD is committed to proactively minimizing wildfire risks, securing vital infrastructure and protecting public safety.

Wind-driven fires the size of those in Southern California would stress any municipal water system, and a coordinated effort would be needed. Thankfully, we are better prepared today because of operational improvements and enhanced coordination implemented after the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire.

WE EMPLOY A MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH INCLUDING:

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- EBMUD makes water from our local raw water reservoirs like San Pablo Reservoir available for aerial firefighting efforts and works to increase water pressure to aid firefighters.
- We top off local water storage tanks on Red Flag days to maximize water availability for firefighting.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- EBMUD invests \$2.5 million each year to reduce fire risk across nearly 29,000 acres of East Bay watershed. EBMUD builds and maintains fuel breaks, removes dead trees, operates grazing programs, and conducts prescribed burns, often in partnership with fire departments.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

- We have permanent generators at critical facilities and can deploy portable backup generators and pumps to maintain water delivery.
- We perform regular hydrant maintenance and inspection, and invest in reservoirs, pumping plants and pipelines to ensure system reliability.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

- We are active in statewide assistance networks to provide help when needed and share best practices for emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

AGENCY COLLABORATION

- EBMUD has drawn on its experience to strengthen regional coordination and hosts annual fire forums to collaborate with key agencies.

LEARN MORE AT [ebmud.com/wildfire-preparedness](https://www.ebmud.com/wildfire-preparedness)

Protecting against INVASIVE species

EBMUD watersheds and reservoirs provide healthy habitats where fish and wildlife thrive. But they are also vulnerable to invasive species. The latest culprit proves significant threats can come in tiny packages.

The golden mussel, which is about the size of a quarter, was discovered in North America for the first time last October in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The mussel has not been detected in EBMUD waters, but we, and water managers throughout the state, will need to protect against and contend with its impact on ecosystems and infrastructure.

Golden mussels are efficient filter feeders that form dense colonies. They consume large quantities of microscopic aquatic plants and animals that are critical food sources for existing species and sport fish. Mussels can grow inside water conveyance pipes and clog intakes and valves – key components of EBMUD’s infrastructure.

What is EBMUD doing?

EBMUD has closed boat launches at Pardee, Camanche and San Pablo reservoirs to prevent the introduction of the golden mussel into the public water system. As we learn more about the mussels through increased environmental sampling, we will continue to coordinate with regional partners and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

We understand closures can have a significant impact on people who not only enjoy but make a living from water sports and recreation. But EBMUD must prioritize water supply protection. We appreciate your cooperation as we develop a wise path forward.

The golden mussel threat is an evolving situation. For updates, visit ebmud.com/stopmussels.



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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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