

## Repairs and replacements continue beneath your streets

Ongoing maintenance is an important part of managing your water infrastructure.

Under streets and highways, beneath playgrounds and parks, every day EBMUD maintains the East Bay's vast water infrastructure. More than 4,200 miles of pipeline deliver water to your home and work.

Perhaps you have woken up to a water main break on your block and a busy EBMUD crew at work making urgent repairs. Or, you were notified of upcoming water pipeline improvement work in your neighborhood that may block traffic and parking for a few days.

Over decades, corrosion, ground movement, soil conditions and other factors underground can affect water pipes. Eventually this causes some to crack, leak or burst. EBMUD crews quickly repair broken pipelines to protect public health and the environment.

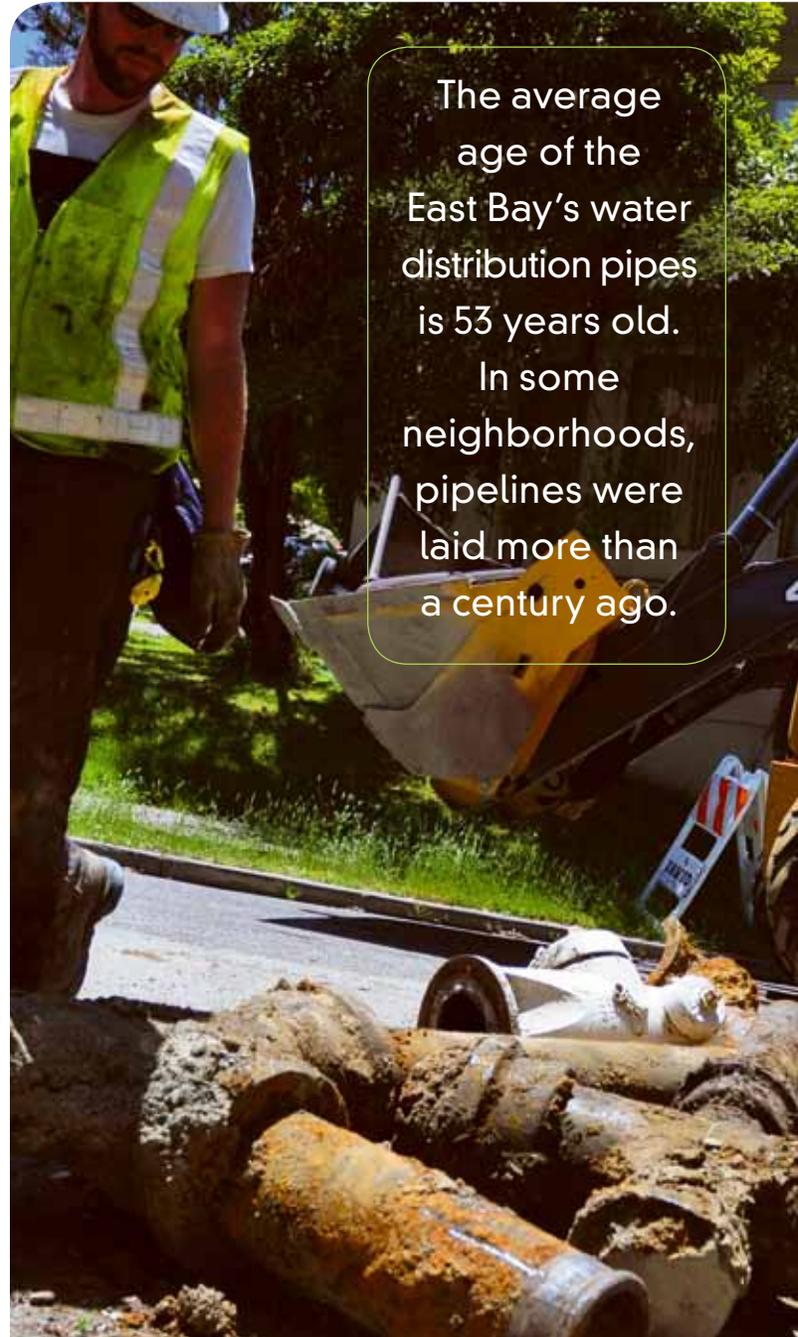
Because water main breaks can be messy and unpredictable, EBMUD does what it can to minimize disruptions to your water service. Sometimes, replacing a deteriorated pipeline is better than repairing it each time it breaks. In other cases, pipeline replacements take place to improve water pressure and flow in your neighborhood. EBMUD replaces more than 13 miles of pipeline each year. As pipelines continue to age, more may need replacement, sooner and faster.

As often as possible, EBMUD coordinates with local cities and agencies to plan pipe replacements at the same time as other utility and street projects. This reduces the impact on neighborhood traffic.

Today, about a third of investments in your local water infrastructure are for pipeline replacement in your community. Upgrading and replacing infrastructure is becoming a higher priority as the East Bay water and wastewater system ages.

Do you have questions about infrastructure projects in your community? Visit [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) for construction project updates and more information.

*EBMUD crews remove aged and corroded cast iron pipes in an Oakland neighborhood and replace them with plastic-coated steel pipes.*



The average age of the East Bay's water distribution pipes is 53 years old.

In some neighborhoods, pipelines were laid more than a century ago.

# Volunteers lend a hand on the watershed

EBMUD's beautiful watershed lands offer a haven for wildlife and people.

Throughout the year, EBMUD rangers and biologists team up with volunteers of all ages. Together they clean up river banks, cut trails, monitor wildlife species and improve wildlife habitat by replanting native trees like California redwoods and valley oaks.

It's tough physical work but the rewards are plentiful. For example, this past spring, more than 100 volunteers in the Sierra moved 29 tons of rock and soil for a new section of the Coast-to-Crest Trail.

Last fall, dozens of families joined EBMUD rangers in Pinole Valley to clean up the Bay Area Ridge Trail and remove invasive non-native species.

Each year, volunteers prepare and maintain more than 100 wooden nest boxes near East Bay reservoirs to encourage nesting by the western bluebird and the wood duck.

EBMUD protects the natural resources that it has been entrusted with and provides access to public lands while protecting water quality. EBMUD manages 54,000 acres of public lands, recreation areas and reservoirs in the East Bay and in the Mokelumne River Basin in the Sierra. The Mokelumne River is the source of 90 percent of your drinking water and the remainder comes from the local East Bay watershed.



Enjoy your summer outdoors. Visit [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) for schedules, permits and information about activities like hiking, fishing, boating, camping and picnicking at EBMUD's recreation areas in the East Bay and on the Mokelumne River.

*Nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts and people of all ages volunteer to improve wildlife habitat in the East Bay watershed. To learn more about local volunteer opportunities on the watershed, contact EBMUD Natural Resources at 510-287-2032.*

## Rate update

This July, a six percent rate increase went into effect for all customer classes and meter sizes.

Starting with your next billing cycle, typical single-family residences will see their total monthly water charges increase about \$2.50. Wastewater customers will see their monthly wastewater charges increase about \$1.

The primary reason for increasing rates is the rising costs of operating and maintaining an aging water and wastewater system. Second, in recent years bonds were issued for additional water supplies for future droughts and these investments must be repaid in the coming years.

EBMUD is controlling its expenses this budget cycle by entering the fourth year of a hiring freeze, providing no general salary increase, delaying equipment and vehicle replacement, refinancing debt, using reserve funds and postponing long-term infrastructure projects as long as possible. Still, EBMUD must spend to provide you the highest quality water and protect San Francisco Bay from sewage spills.

For many customers, some charges seen on your bill are not EBMUD charges. Rather, they are fees set by and collected on behalf of other municipalities and agencies, such as utility user taxes and sewer service charges.

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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.