

Down the drought route

Drought – It’s a road we’ve been down before, and California is there once again. This water year marked the driest year in the Mokelumne River Watershed since 1977.

On average, Mother Nature showers the Sierra Foothills with 46 inches of rain. This year, a mere 24 inches trickled into Pardee Reservoir, where 90 percent of our water supply is collected. With news that our reservoirs wouldn’t refill, EBMUD’s Board of Directors declared a drought, putting our customers on alert to save water.

“Wait a minute... I’m already saving water,” you might be thinking. Well, you’re right. Many of you are water-saving superstars, and we’re grateful for the decisions you make day in and day out—drought or not. Great job! Because of these dry times we need more of our customers to become super savers – for those who can, please strive to trim your water use 10 percent. Check your home and irrigation system for those pesky leaks which can waste hundreds of gallons each day. We offer helpful rebates and resources to get you started.

24 inches of precipitation from the Sierra Foothills this year was **52%** of average rainfall



How is EBMUD addressing the water shortage?



Buying supplemental water – EBMUD will divert water from the Sacramento River purchased through our federal water project contract, because we did not receive enough precipitation in the Mokelumne River and East Bay watersheds.



Finding and fixing our leaks – We are reducing leaks and water loss from our system using innovative techniques, and addressing water main breaks and leaks as quickly as possible. Help by reporting main breaks to 1-866-403-2683.



Investing in water conservation – EBMUD is stretching our water supply by investing in water-efficiency programs to make it easier for customers to save.



Reuse and recycle – Water is too precious to use just once. Our water recycling program saves millions of gallons of water daily by reusing water for industrial and irrigation uses.



Planning for the future – We have evaluated water supply and demand needs through 2050 and outlined actions to manage future uncertainties and multi-year droughts.



Monitor the drought situation and learn water-saving tips at ebmud.com/Drought.

Your peak heat plan

When the sun's out, water use goes up, up, up. But it doesn't have to. If you're tired of maintaining water-hungry lawns, this is the summer to let your lawn go, go, go. Now's the time to pull back on watering to prepare for a drought-friendly garden this fall.

EBMUD's landscape rebates, available at ebmud.com/Rebates, can help you achieve a colorful water-efficient garden that will beckon bursts of poppies, bees and butterflies in the spring.

Take pics to capture your landscape transformation and post your progress by tagging [@ebmud](https://www.instagram.com/ebmud) on social media with the hashtag [#heartmygarden](https://www.instagram.com/heartmygarden).



Irrigation Basics

We've got your back(yard)!
Our conservation team is ready to help you save water.

To do now

- **Look for irrigation leaks**, which are often to blame for high bills. Check your irrigation periodically by turning on each station and evaluating.
- **Water in the early morning**; the mid-day sun causes water to evaporate before it reaches roots. Place mulch over exposed soil to reduce evaporation, suppress weeds and improve the soil.
- **Water slowly to the roots** and **let the soil dry** before re-watering. Rule of thumb: water your established trees deeply once a month in the summer.

To do later

- **Switch to a WaterSense controller** that uses local weather data to adjust irrigation.
- **Apply for a flow meter rebate** to get notified within minutes of a leak.
- **Hydrozone your yard** by grouping plants with similar watering needs. Bonus points for selecting **native plants** that need little irrigation.

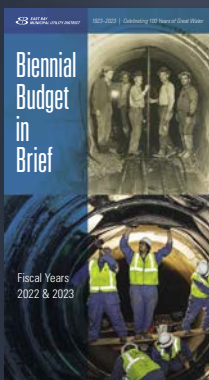


During dry weather, we're in this together!

Visit ebmud.com/WaterSmart for rebate information, resources and workshops.

New rates in effect

To continue funding vital water and wastewater operations and infrastructure improvements, EBMUD adopted rate increases of 4% for water service and 4% for wastewater service starting July 1, 2021, and an additional 4% for each service next year. Read our budget-in-brief at ebmud.com/Rates.



EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
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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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