

customer Pipeline



May · June 2022

New tools for a deepening drought



An EBMUD water conservation technician shows a homeowner how her flowmeter device provides instant alerts.

It seems like drought is now the rule rather than the exception in California. As we move into another parched summer, you may be able to guess our request: **Make every drop count.**

make every drop count

Climate change is making drought a greater challenge than ever before, but EBMUD has new ways to help you save. Flowmeter devices, for example, send real-time water usage data to your computer or smartphone; alerts can let you know right away of a spike in use due to a new leak or a broken sprinkler. They are small and easy to install on your water meter. EBMUD offers rebates to offset their cost and expertise to assist you with questions.

EBMUD also provides rebates to replace your lawn with beautiful, drought-tolerant plants and to install efficient irrigation. We can help you audit your water use and check for costly leaks. Our water conservation experts hold virtual office hours, and we're getting back out in the community as public health has stabilized.

Water conservation is essential. At the end of December, we measured 150 percent of average precipitation, thanks to a few substantial atmospheric rivers. But that was followed by the driest first three months of the year in EBMUD history, and our rain and snow season is over. Mother Nature will not refill our reservoirs this year. Instead, we are looking at next steps to preserve water supplies.

We recognize our customers' long commitment to water-use efficiency, which has resulted in 46 million gallons per day of water saved since 1995. However, this year we've fallen short of our voluntary water-savings goals. Many of us turned on sprinklers and hoses earlier than usual because nature hasn't watered our yards, parks, and gardens much since December. So, we're asking everyone – residential customers, businesses, cities and schools – to keep working hard to conserve. We're here to help you protect this most precious resource. Learn more at ebmud.com/watersmart.



ALERT: Drought rules are changing
For the latest, visit ebmud.com/drought

Recreation for all

From waterside walks to ridgetop hikes, freshwater fishing to horseback rides, kayaking and boating to camping and stargazing, EBMUD lands and reservoirs provide abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation for millions of annual visitors.

It wasn't always that way. When voters formed the East Bay Municipal Utility District nearly a century ago, tensions developed between EBMUD and those seeking recreational access to the District's watersheds. There were concerns that offering EBMUD open space as parkland would conflict with our top priority of water quality protection.

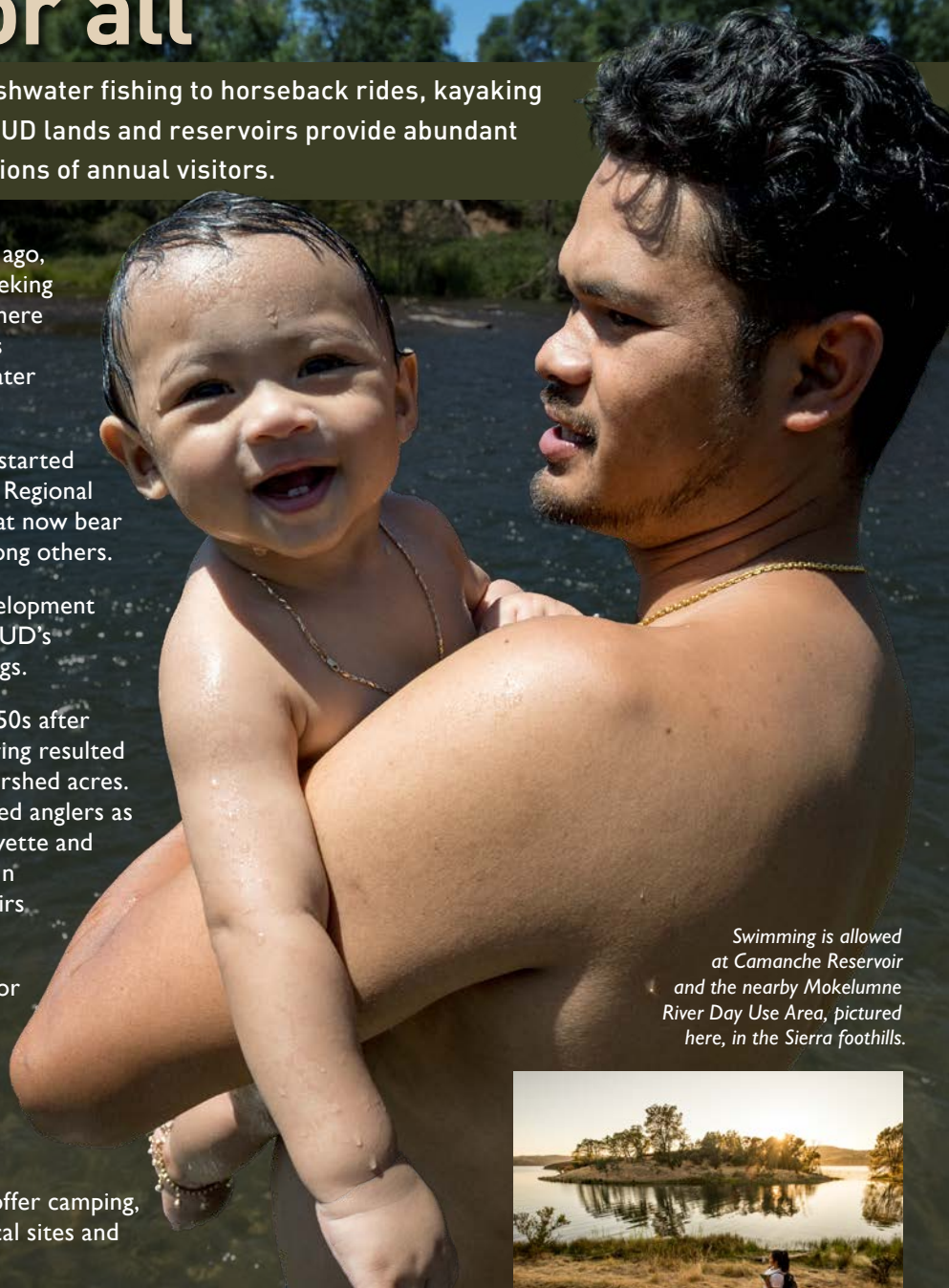
An early compromise came in 1936 when EBMUD started selling surplus tracts to the newly formed East Bay Regional Park District for the development of local gems that now bear the names Wildcat, Tilden, Sibley and Briones, among others.

Yet, as the region's population grew and urban development spread, outdoor enthusiasts lobbied to fish in EBMUD's reservoirs and seek respite on our vast land holdings.

A significant shift in district policies came in the 1950s after public relations campaigns and legislative maneuvering resulted in regulated public access to EBMUD's 57,100 watershed acres. Pardee Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada foothills lured anglers as soon as it welcomed recreational use in 1958. Lafayette and Chabot reservoirs drew huge opening day crowds in June 1966, as did Camanche and San Pablo reservoirs soon after.

Today, EBMUD balances open space maintenance for public enjoyment with water quality protection and environmental stewardship as a part of our multi-purpose mission. We offer 90 miles of East Bay trails to explore the beauty of our reservoirs, redwood groves and oak woodlands. Local recreation areas invite you to picnic, play, birdwatch and fish. In the Sierra foothills, Pardee and Camanche offer camping, boating and shooting sports, plus access to historical sites and the growing Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail.

So come out and see us. Many areas offer free admission, and participants in our Customer Assistance Program receive free trail permits to reduce financial barriers. Learn more at ebmud.com/recreation as we work to increase access for everyone.



Swimming is allowed at Camanche Reservoir and the nearby Mokelumne River Day Use Area, pictured here, in the Sierra foothills.



A hiker enjoys a sunrise at Pardee Reservoir.

 **EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**
P.O. Box 24055 • Oakland, CA 94623
1-866-403-2683
www.ebmud.com

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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