

EBMUD LAC Project Committee Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 2nd, 2023

TIME: 2:00pm – 3:15pm

LOCATION: Zoom and EBMUD Adm, 375 11th Street, Oakland

MINUTES

Attendees: Eric Santos, Dona Wessells, Doug Anthony, Jessica Woodard, Ann-Marie Benz, Kristin Bowman, Jolene Bertetto, Geneva Gondak, Nicolle Miller, Sundong Kwong, Dave Phelps

- 2:00 **Welcome**
- 2:05 **Drought update**
- Moving to voluntary 10% reduction, within 30 days of State action
 - Drought surcharge ends March 1st
 - Prohibition of watering non-functional turf effective per State Water Board until June 2023
 - Ebmud.com/drought
- 2:10 **Drip vs. high efficiency rotating nozzles**
- Benefits of HE nozzles for commercial landscapes
 - Ability to identify issues (leaks, etc.) is easier to see and adjust with pop up sprinklers.
 - Difficulty setting up drip scheduling appropriately (spacing, flow rates etc.) – sometimes lose plants by overwatering.
 - Importance of soil tests in determining drip emitter flow, spacing, etc
 - Mulch- 4in of gorilla hair and soak it till it turns into ½ in mat. Use with CA natives.
 - Using overhead spray with mulch chips more difficult for water to infiltrate.
 - Would be helpful to get side-by-side comparison in water use (see attachments)
 - Plants blocking sprinkler heads as plants grow in a challenge
 - Make effort to prune and adjust spray heads.
 - Similar challenge with point source drip emitters need to be adjusted as plants mature.
 - Advantage of in-line drip: water soil for uptake, under mulch, less vandalism in public spaces
 - Two irrigation and native plants studies and see Greg Rubin's synopsis attached.
 - https://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk1376/files/inline-files/Reid_et%20al_final_report_2014-2016_0.pdf
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- 2:50 **Project Updates**
- Demonstration Gardens (Rodeo, Heather Farms, Lafayette)
 - Heather Farms finalizing signage
 - Contra Costa Resource Conservation District is refurbishing an old swimming pool into a demonstration garden in Rodeo
 - EBMUD considering increasing regenerative landscapes at Lafayette Reservoir

- Landscape rebate updates (may see \$/sf reduction as we move out of drought)
- Landscape Design Assistance Program (6 completed consultations)
- Landscape Professionals – [Video Playlist](#)
- [CA's Sustainable Pest Management Road Map](#) (public review)
- [RFQ for Native plant landscaper training](#) (ongoing)
- CNPS hosting a Native plant landscaper training for professionals this Spring in English and Spanish. Eight sessions on-line and 1 onsite pruning session.
- Pacific Horticultural [Landscape Design Contest](#) underway
- Photographing landscapes – EBMUD building list of photographers
- CNPS needs user testers for Calscape. Fill out [survey](#) if interested.

Upcoming events

- March 20-26 - [Fix-a-leak week](#)
- March 23 - "[Getting started with waterwise gardening](#)" Webinar
- March 29 – [LAC General Meeting Low-water groundcovers at Tilden Botanical Garden, Bart O'Brien](#)
- April 29 - [Ruth Bancroft Garden Tour](#)
- April 15 & May 6 weekends - [Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tours](#)
- June 15 - Water Conservation Showcase, San Ramon
- June 27 - East Bay Nursery Roundtable at Ruth Bancroft Nursery

3:00pm

Presentation ideas for next General meeting (on or off site)

- Updated from the State on long-term ordinances
- Planting for Blooms year-round Spring 2023
- Changing use of outdoor space since the pandemic and water conservation. How are park depts. managing the influx of people (Ann Marie and Karly)
- Slow the Burn, Greg Rubin
- Panel of Arborists (TBD)
- Placemaking

3:15pm

Adjourn

DROUGHT UPDATE

- On February 14, 2023 the EBMUD Board of Directors voted to rescind the emergency drought declaration that was approved in April 2022. Because the District adheres to drought regulations set by the state of California, the approved changes aren't immediate but will go into effect within 30 days of the state ending its own emergency drought regulations or allowing them to expire this June.
- The Board action will allow EBMUD to move to a **stage 1 drought** and voluntary 10 percent customer water use reduction, suspend regulations prohibiting water waste, and end excessive use penalties **following state action**.
- Additionally, the 8 percent drought surcharge approved last spring will end on March 1. Prorated charges will appear on customer water bills until May.

Until State action, the following measures remain in place:

- Mandatory 10% water reduction District-wide – following state action
- 8% drought surcharge on water **ended March 1st**
- Section 28 water use restrictions found on [ebmud.com/drought](#)
 - Irrigation off during wet season
 - No more than 3 non-consecutive days of irrigation; Irrigate between 6pm and 9am
 - No irrigating public turf median strips
- Excessive use penalty in effect – above 1646 gallons/day residential. Fine \$2/unit above threshold (unit = 748 gallons)
- State Water Resources Control Board – ban on watering non-functional turf (effective until June 2023).
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/docs/emergency-reg-faq-june-22.pdf