

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

DATE: June 5, 2025

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Clifford C. Chan, General Manager CCC

FROM: David A. Briggs, Director of Operations and Maintenance DB

SUBJECT: Follow-up Wildfire Preparedness and Response

SUMMARY

At its May 27, 2025 meeting, the Board requested information regarding the use of plastic pipe materials in the distribution system in designated high-risk fire zones and coordination with the City of Berkeley regarding Woods Reservoir which was removed from service in 2018. This memorandum responds to the Board's request.

DISCUSSION

The District has nearly 4,200 miles of water distribution piping in the service area. Most of the pipelines are made of steel, cast iron or asbestos cement. About 13 percent of the pipelines are made of plastic, nearly all polyvinyl chloride (PVC). A small portion of pipelines (less than one percent) are made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE). In high-risk fire zones, 51.6 miles of all types of plastic pipe (1.2% of system) are in CAL FIRE designated high risk fire zones and 26.6 miles (0.6% of system) are in very high-risk zones.

Woods Reservoir was removed from service in 2018 to reduce water age in the Berkeley Hills. Water demand in the service area decreased about 25 percent in the last 20 years. The Board determined the facility and underlying property to be surplus in 2024. The City of Berkeley and local residents have expressed interest in purchasing the property and reservoir to supplement firefighting capabilities. On May 30, 2025, staff contacted the Berkeley Fire Department to discuss potential uses and ownership of the reservoir.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue meeting with the Berkeley Fire Department to discuss sale of the Woods Reservoir facility.

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