



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**

375 - 11th Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Office of the Secretary: (510) 287-0440

**AGENDA
Planning Committee
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Boardroom
375 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607**

***** Please see appendix for public participation instructions*****

Committee Members: Directors Valerie D. Lewis {Chair}, Luz Gómez, and Marguerite Young

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board of Directors is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items that are not listed on the agenda.

DETERMINATION AND DISCUSSION:

1. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Update (Cortez)
2. Purified Water Outreach and Education Plan (Towey)

ADJOURNMENT:

Disability Notice

If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in an EBMUD public meeting please call the Office of the Secretary (510) 287-0404. We will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. Some special equipment arrangements may require 48 hours advance notice.

Document Availability

Materials related to an item on this agenda that have been submitted to the EBMUD Board of Directors within 72 hours prior to this meeting are available for public inspection in EBMUD's Office of the Secretary at 375 11th Street, Oakland, California, during normal business hours, and can be viewed on our website at www.ebmud.com.



APPENDIX

Planning Committee Meeting

*EBMUD Board committee meetings will be conducted in person and via Zoom.
These meetings are recorded and live-streamed.*

Online*

<https://ebmud.zoom.us/j/94576194030?pwd=dWZlc3hNU3JNUVBQYmNKWjJSNVZQdz09>

Webinar ID: 945 7619 4030

Passcode: 925293

By Phone

Telephone: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 945 7619 4030

Passcode: 925293

International numbers available: <https://ebmud.zoom.us/u/kdmpbw1g2>

*To familiarize yourself with Zoom, please visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

Providing public comment - *The EBMUD Board of Directors is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items that are not listed on the agenda.*

- Each speaker is allotted 3 minutes to speak; the Committee Chair has the discretion to amend this time based on the number of speakers
- The Secretary will track time and inform each speaker when the allotted time has concluded
- Comments on **non-agenda items** will be heard at the beginning of the meeting
- Comments on **agenda items** will be heard when the item is up for consideration
- The Secretary will call each speaker in the order received

In person

- Fill out and submit a blue speaker card which is available in the meeting room

Via Zoom

- Use the raise hand feature in Zoom to indicate you wish to make a public comment
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/205566129-Raising-your-hand-in-a-webinar>
 - If you participate by phone, press *9 to raise your hand
- When prompted by the Secretary, please state your name, affiliation if applicable, and topic

Submitting written comments or materials


- Email written comments or other materials for the Board of Directors to SecOffice@ebmud.com
- Please indicate the meeting date and agenda item number or non-agenda item topic in the subject of the email. Contact information is optional.
- **Please email by 4 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled regular meeting;** written comments and other materials submitted to the Board of Directors will be filed in the record.


To observe the Planning Committee Meeting,
please visit: <https://www.ebmud.com/about-us/board-directors/board-meetings/>

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

DATE: May 7, 2026

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Clifford C. Chan, General Manager 

FROM: Roberto C. Cortez, Manager of Water Operations 

SUBJECT: Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Update

SUMMARY

Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) is an emerging operations strategy that uses improved monitoring and hydrological forecasts to optimize reservoir operations. FIRO has the potential to be an important climate adaptation and resilience tool to improve water supply reliability. This memorandum provides an update on the District's study of FIRO. The information will be presented at the May 12, 2026 Planning Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION

Pardee and Camanche reservoirs' operations are regulated by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' (USACE) Water Control Manual, along with a series of agreements, court decrees, and water right obligations. The USACE regulations primarily address flood control obligations that were developed in the 1960s. Since then, there have been significant improvements in precipitation and runoff forecasting. FIRO would use these improvements to advance water supply reliability by creating more flexibility in the USACE flood control requirements. Implementing FIRO would be limited to modifying the flood control manual while still meeting all other obligations.

In July 2024, the District contracted with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E) to conduct an initial pre-feasibility study to investigate whether FIRO is technically and operationally viable for Pardee and Camanche Reservoirs. The initial pre-feasibility was divided into two phases:

- Phase 1 was completed in January 2026 and focused on existing precipitation and runoff forecasts in the Mokelumne River watershed, identified data gaps that must be filled to implement FIRO, and outreach strategies with interested parties that could facilitate enhanced instrumentation. Key findings included:
 - The need for additional snow water equivalent and soil moisture stations, and potentially installing a snow level radar, to fill spatial and temporal gaps in the Mokelumne River watershed's monitoring network.

Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations Update

Planning Committee

May 7, 2026

Page 2

- Camanche Reservoir had the potential for incorporating FIRO by the USACE's national FIRO screening process.
- Phase 2 builds on Phase 1 and includes expanding the monitoring network, refining forecast tools, developing additional river flow forecast points, performing preliminary FIRO modeling, and developing a FIRO framework. Engagement with USACE and other regulatory partners will also begin.

NEXT STEPS

Phase 2 is expected to begin this year, cost approximately \$630,000, and be completed by 2028. When completed, the District could initiate the formal FIRO process with the USACE, which could take several additional years. Staff will finalize CW3E's Phase 2 proposal and will ask the Board to consider authorization in June 2026.

CCC:RCC:sd

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

DATE: May 7, 2026

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Clifford C. Chan, General Manager *CCC*

FROM: Alice E. Towey, Director of Water and Natural Resources *AET*

SUBJECT: Purified Water Outreach and Education Plan

SUMMARY

The District's Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update (RWSP) was completed in December 2024. The RWSP maintains a recycled water goal of 20 million gallons per day (mgd) and extended the target to 2050. The RWSP determined that up to 13 mgd of non-potable recycled water could be developed and concluded that potable reuse would be needed to achieve the District's recycled water goal. Implementation of a purified water project would begin when the water supply need is identified by future studies. In the near term, the District will begin a Purified Water Outreach and Education Plan to prepare for a future purified water project. An update will be presented at the May 12, 2026 Planning Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION

The 2024 RWSP maintains a 20 mgd recycled water goal, with non-potable reuse accounting for 13 mgd and purified water accounting for 7 mgd. The timing for implementing a purified water project would be determined by the District's need-for-water analysis, which is conducted in the Urban Water Management Plan and updated every 5 years.

Based on the experience of agencies that have developed or are developing purified water projects in California, advanced outreach and education planning is needed to build trust and gain support to ensure successful project implementation. The safety and quality of purified water (which are often the most significant concerns for the public) will be the focus of the District's outreach and education efforts. Based on input from other agencies with established purified water projects, the public education and outreach should begin roughly 10 years before a purified water project is implemented. The District's outreach and education plan may include surveys, presentations, purified water tastings, informational materials, participation in community events, and facility tours.

As part of the initial phase, internal outreach and education will be completed so District staff can become effective ambassadors. This will include presentations on regulations of purified water and its safety, background of other projects in California, explanations of the importance of purified water for the District's future water supply, descriptions of what a project may look like, and discussions of potential concerns and how those can be addressed.

An external education and outreach plan will also be developed over the next few years for policy makers, interest groups, schools, local communities and leaders, and other stakeholders. As part of this plan, surveys will be conducted to gauge understanding and perception of purified water. The surveys' results will inform the external outreach plan. Site tours of operational facilities will also be offered (e.g., Silicon Valley's Advanced Water Purification Center). Staff will explore opportunities to collaborate with other Bay Area agencies to develop regional messaging as well.

The District has already begun the initial steps in purified water outreach and education both internally and externally through Board presentations on the RWSP, Water Wednesday presentations, material in the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, an April 2025 Earth Day survey, and purified water tasting events at District work locations. In the District's most recent customer opinion survey, participants were asked if they had concerns about purified water. Seventy percent said they did not have concerns. The outreach plan will focus on the areas where customers expressed concerns.

Upcoming outreach and education events for District staff include presentations for the Management Team, work unit staff meetings, Brown Bags, employee events, as well as articles in Splashes, informational materials on the Splashpad, and a purified water fact sheet.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will finalize a Purified Water Outreach and Education Plan for internal staff and will schedule events and presentations throughout the District over the next several years. Staff will continue to participate in regular meetings with other utilities' communications teams developing purified water projects. Staff will also develop the external engagement plan for future implementation.

CCC:AET:asu