Do your sprinklers need an upgrade? Consider converting to in-line drip irrigation—a more durable, water-efficient and low-maintenance option.

Hundreds of customers like Karen Giorgianni of Lafayette are installing drip irrigation and cashing in on EBMUD rebates of up to $2,500. With in-line drip, emitters are pre-installed in plastic tubing to help distribute water evenly.

“I’m a survival-of-the-fittest type of gardener,” Giorgianni said. “I want my landscape to thrive with minimal water, especially during the drought.”

Drip is always a great option, particularly if you have small, narrow, or steep areas or if your current system is prone to wasteful overspray. Drip irrigation applies water slowly, drop by drop, infiltrating deep into clay soils and watering the entire root zone of plants.

After removing 1,200 square feet of lawn last year, Giorgianni was amazed at how easy it was to install her drip system. She’ll wait until fall (as all EBMUD customers should) to plant Bee’s Bliss Sage, Prairie Junegrass and Lilac Verbena to achieve her drought tolerant native landscape. Fall is the best time to plant, when rain helps establish plants and days are shorter and cooler.

**Step 1: Fill out a rebate application**
Go to [ebmud.com/rebates](http://ebmud.com/rebates). Before starting work, submit your application to EBMUD. We will contact you to review and approve your project.

**Step 2: Create a planting plan**
Ask these questions: Are your plants spaced close together or spread out? What is the mature size of your plants? What areas are sunny, partly sunny or shady? Are plants with similar water needs grouped together?

**Step 3: Choose your tube**
Select the proper tubing, considering the flow rate and spacing of emitters. For clay soils, typical in the East Bay, select tubing with the lowest flow rate with emitters spaced 12 inches or 18 inches apart.

**Step 4: Select a layout**
A snake layout winds through a mixed planting. For larger shrubs and tree, install concentric rings around plants. Use a grid layout for densely planted, more uniform plantings.

**Step 5: Installation**
Install the drip tubing beginning at the valve, or by converting an old spray head. Don't forget to install a flush valve for periodic cleaning.

**And on ebmud.com**
Check out our how-to video on installing drip irrigation. Go to [ebmud.com/watersmart](http://ebmud.com/watersmart)
Your next sip of water may come from the Sacramento Valley as supplies from the region replenish EBMUD’s local reservoirs this year.

Most years, most of EBMUD’s water comes from Sierra snowmelt above the Mokelumne River. Currently, district reservoirs are about half-full and are expected to drop further by the end of summer.

Since conservation alone is not enough, EBMUD is also purchasing emergency water supplies through a federal contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Central Valley Project. But this year, water available for purchase was cut drastically to 25 percent of historic use.

To bridge the gap, EBMUD knocked on the doors of three agencies located 100 miles away in the Sacramento Valley. Like a puzzle, EBMUD pieced together a plan to purchase a four-month supply of water. The extra drought supplies equal 58,500 acre feet or about 19 billion gallons of water, including supplies from the Central Valley Project contract.

Water transfers underscore the importance of collaborative partnerships during this drought. That’s the framework EBMUD established with Placer County Water Agency, Sycamore Mutual Water Company and Reclamation District 1004. Water transfers help urban water users while preserving and protecting the natural resources of the lower American River and Sacramento Valley.

Purchasing emergency water supplies comes at a cost of about $50 million. A temporary drought surcharge of 25 percent on all customer bills, which took effect July 1, will pay for the extra supplies. With these water transfers, EBMUD is better positioned to protect customers and the local economy in the driest of years.

To learn more, go to ebmud.com/about-us/investors/budget-and-rates/.

EBMUD initially launched a year-long pilot of the water report in June 2012 with nearly 10,000 customers. Following successful completion of that pilot, in which customers reduced their water use by five percent, EBMUD launched the formal program in 2014. Now, more than 50,000 EBMUD customers receive home water reports and over 7,000 visit the online portal.

Now customers living in single-family residences can opt-in to this program. Sign up at ebmud.com/mywaterreport with your account number and a password.

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.