

# customer Pipeline



January • February 2019

## Seen and Unseen

The ground beneath us sustains everything we can see. We walk, run, and drive on it every day. Our houses, gardens, stores, and schools are all built on it. But the surfaces of pavement and earth block our view of what's below: a complex, intricate network of infrastructure that brings water to our 1.4 million East Bay customers every single day.

This underground network of more than 4,200 miles of pipeline could stretch the distance from Oakland to New York to Miami – yet most of us barely know it's there.

EBMUD's water system starts in the Sierra Nevada mountains where large pipes bring high-quality water to every customer, hydrant, and fire service within our 325 square-mile service area. Along the pipes are tens of thousands of valves. The valves are concealed by valve covers that look like small manholes, dotting our streets in different diameters and materials.

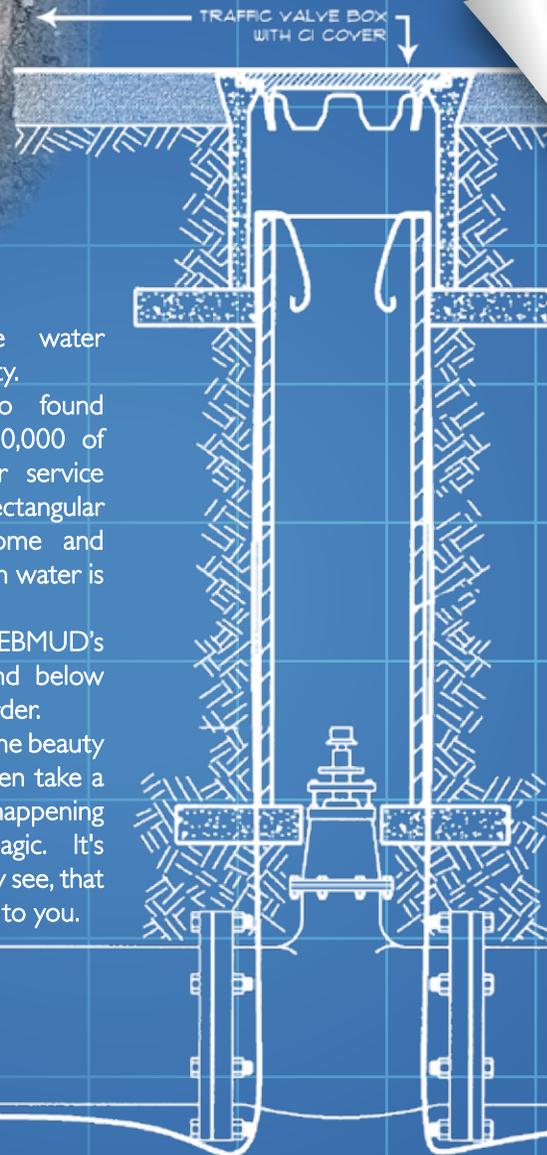
On any given street, water quality test stations also hide in plain sight. As innocuous as mailboxes, these slender, white test stations draw water from key spots in

EBMUD's system to ensure water everywhere is of the highest quality.

Meter boxes, too, are also found underfoot. With more than 400,000 of them dispersed throughout our service area, meters lie below small rectangular removable covers at every home and business. They measure how much water is used by our customers.

And sometimes, you may see EBMUD's field crews out there, above and below ground to keep it all in working order.

So as you step out today, enjoy the beauty of everything you can see, but then take a moment to consider all that is happening under your feet. It's not magic. It's infrastructure, in a world you rarely see, that brings safe, reliable drinking water to you.



# Wild and Scenic

We've all been there. A place so sublime we wish it could remain that way forever.

This past year, EBMUD and partners in the Sierra Nevada foothills accomplished a rarity. Together, with leaders in state government, 37 miles of the Mokelumne River became the newest entry into the California Wild and Scenic River system. Only one percent of California's nearly 200,000 miles of rivers enjoy this level of protection.

The designation preserves 37 miles of the river above Pardee Dam, protecting it from new projects that would impact natural river flows or the extraordinary scenic and recreational values of these areas.

For nearly a century, the Mokelumne has been the primary source of high-quality

drinking water for the East Bay. Further inland, it provides water to Amador and Calaveras counties and to San Joaquin County agriculture. It also generates energy for the electric grid and it inspires boatloads of recreational and scenic delights. For California as a whole, it hosts one of the state's most successful chinook salmon fisheries, contributing significantly to California's multimillion-dollar commercial and recreational fishing industry.

EBMUD and partners continue to fine tune our water and power operations not just to limit the impacts, but to enhance the whole river ecosystem. Our work included securing this Wild and Scenic designation so generations to come can benefit from the beautiful Mokelumne.

Our partners in this historic feat include Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, Calaveras Public Utility District, Jackson Valley Irrigation District, Foothill Conservancy and Friends of the River, among others.

The Mokelumne is the 12th California Wild and Scenic River.

## Did You Know?

The fall Chinook salmon return runs from October through January. In 2017-18, the Mokelumne River experienced its largest-ever Chinook Salmon return on record. Nearly 20,000 adult salmon returned to the Mokelumne riverbanks to spawn. This year's return has been nearly as strong.



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### 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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