

Drought drags on

Our water reserves are half empty. This is the driest four-year period in EBMUD's history. In addition to drought worries, many customers have noticed changes to the taste and smell of tap water, caused by decreased reservoir levels, increased algae levels and

different drought supplies. Your water is safe to drink and use. These changes are in place to make sure people and businesses in the East Bay have water if we face another dry year.

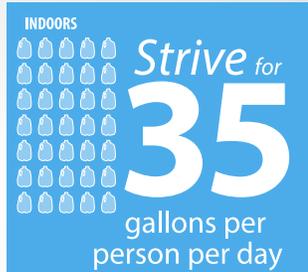
We're all wondering whether this winter will bring enough rain to California to pull us out of the drought. Please keep saving as much water as you can in case storms this winter don't bring as much snow and

rain as we need. The good news: with your water savings, plus drought supplies and snow and rain from Mother Nature, we're in great shape to weather the drought.

Here's some things you can do:

- Chill your water before you drink it. Your water is clean and safe, even if it tastes different from what you're used to.
- Inside your home, strive for 35 gallons per person per day. That's one five-minute shower per person, a few toilet flushes and hand washes, and one full load of laundry or dishes.
- Don't water your garden if it has rained recently. The California State Water Resources Control Board banned it, and EBMUD says it's just common sense to save that clean drinking water for yourself instead.
- When you turn your clock back for daylight saving time, also turn down your irrigation timer to once per week. And when it rains, turn off your irrigation completely. Hand-water if necessary.
- Keep your trees alive by deep-watering once a month. Visit ebmud.com/watersmart to see how to care for trees during drought.

Thank you for your help and patience. EBMUD will continue to manage this slow-moving natural disaster with as little impact to you as possible.



Look to the skies

Ninety miles from where you turn on your faucet is a great vantage point to watch the migration of birds. Bald eagles, golden eagles, raptors and red tail hawks command the skies over Lake Camanche and Pardee Lake. This January, EBMUD is proud to once again host guided eagle tours, and welcomes you to take a self-guided bird-watching tour along the Mokelumne River. Photographers, birders and the curious can join experienced EBMUD rangers on free boat tours of the lakes. Rangers also can help you map out your own bird-watching adventure this winter, which is when hundreds of migrating eagles arrive in California.



For more information visit
ebmud.com/recreation/sierra-foothills



Fix your sewer pipe

Help save the Bay and save yourself the hassle of calling a plumber every time your toilet clogs. Fix or replace your sewer line today.



Most homes in the Bay Area were built decades ago and still have the original pipes that connect the home to the sewer line in the street. Over time, these private sewer laterals crack, which allows your sewage to seep out into the ground around your home and allows rain water to seep into the sewer system. Although these days it may seem as if it never rains, El Niño storms this winter could cause your cracked pipe to fill with water, tree roots and mud. Those things can clog your pipe and, farther down the line, can lead to sewage spills into the San Francisco Bay, polluting our ocean.

By law, you now must prove your sewer line is leak-free when you sell or remodel your home or when you change your water meter. But if you've had to call a plumber to come unclog your drains, that might mean your pipe is cracked. Fixing it now could save you the inconvenience and, in the long-run, the money it takes to repeatedly unclog your pipes. By fixing your private sewer lateral, you are doing your part to protect the Bay. A clean Bay begins with you.

Visit eastbaypsl.com for more information on certifying that your sewer line is leak free.

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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.