

Seeking the source

Most of EBMUD's drinking water makes an incredible journey to arrive at our taps. As drought and climate change generate renewed interest in where our water comes from, some people are taking extraordinary steps to seek the source.

We've been following adventurers tracing the entire length of the Mokelumne River, EBMUD's primary water supply, flowing from the Sierra Nevada. These "water walkers" seek a more personal connection with this life-giving resource that allows us to thrive back home. Through media coverage, social media posts and educational outreach, they are calling attention to the value of our water supplies, conservation and responsible watershed management.

An EBMUD water walk involves an arduous trek through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, across the Central Valley and beyond Pardee Reservoir to track the snow-fed Mokelumne high into the Sierras. It's a 200-plus-mile journey, and in many places there is no clear, public path to follow.

Although such expeditions are out of reach for most, they can inspire other connections with our water sources and the natural environment we all depend upon. Perhaps this can come by way of a camping trip in the Mokelumne watershed, or a hike along a section of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail. Closer to home, EBMUD terminal reservoirs such as San Pablo and Upper San Leandro offer recreational opportunities and trails to connect with water carried down from the Mokelumne and collected locally during winter rains.

Have you taken a water walk? In what ways have you developed a greater appreciation for the water we enjoy? Share your experiences and photos with us on Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #waterwalk.

Explore

Learn about EBMUD's many recreational opportunities, download trail maps, purchase trail permits and more at ebmud.com/recreation.

Water Walkers

Nina Gordon-Kirsch and John Silva will discuss their recent Mokelumne adventures during EBMUD's Water Wednesday webinar in November. To view the recording, visit ebmud.com/WaterWednesday, or scan this QR code to go directly to our YouTube channel.



Healthy bay, healthy communities

Stroll along the Oakland Estuary, pedal the waterfront path linking Emeryville and Richmond, or ramble at the Albany Bulb. San Francisco Bay's eastern shore beckons, its health improved by two landmark developments reaching notable anniversaries.

EBMUD's wastewater treatment plant near the foot of the Bay Bridge turned 70 this year. Wastewater is produced with every shower, wash and toilet flush, not to mention commercial and industrial processes. In the 1930s and '40s, raw sewage emptied directly into the bay and created a reeking mess known as the "Big Stench."



1940s, Berkeley: Raw sewage was discharged to San Francisco Bay without treatment.

When brought into operation in 1952, EBMUD's plant treated wastewater from six cities and marked the first coordinated effort to handle sewage generated by East Bay communities.

This year is also the 50th anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act, which regulates pollution discharges and quality standards for surface waters nationwide. In response to the legislation, EBMUD upgraded its plant with the help of state and federal funds to provide secondary treatment. This includes using micro-organisms to break down waste, settling out heavy particles, and killing viruses and bacteria before safely discharging wastewater a mile offshore.

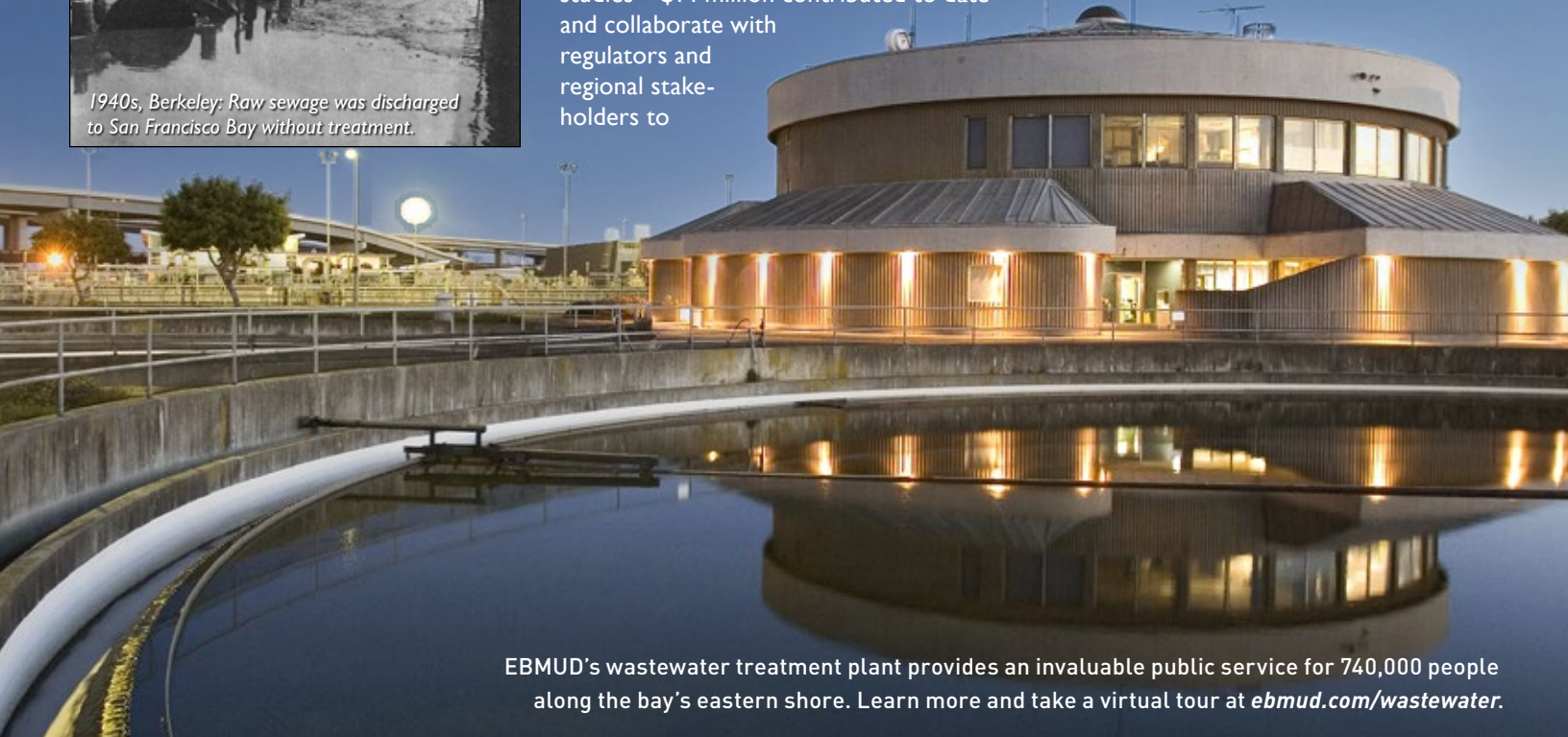
Emerging challenges require additional work. EBMUD continues to fund scientific studies – \$14 million contributed to date – and collaborate with regulators and regional stakeholders to

determine the correlation between nutrient discharges and bay water quality and to develop effective management solutions.

The best solution to pollution is to prevent it from going down the drain in the first place. That's where you can help.

- Scrape cooking fats, oil and grease into the trash rather than your sink.
- Dispose of expired and unwanted medications at designated collection sites.
- Don't flush chemicals, wipes or other garbage down the toilet.
- And if you own a home, inspect your private sewer lateral for leaks to ensure stormwater stays out.

Together we can support a healthy bay environment.



EBMUD's wastewater treatment plant provides an invaluable public service for 740,000 people along the bay's eastern shore. Learn more and take a virtual tour at ebmud.com/wastewater.



**EAST BAY
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**

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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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