

# customer Pipeline



July • August 2019



## WATER WITHOUT POWER

Wildfire used to be a threat only in hot, dry months, and in wooded regions. Now, wildfire season is much longer and far-reaching.

During periods of high fire danger, PG&E may turn off power to broad swaths of Northern California in the interest of public safety. The outages, called Public Safety Power Shutoffs – or PSPS – may last for days at a time, with little to no advance warning. PSPS could affect all power customers, including EBMUD.

Planning for a widespread emergency power outage is a complex challenge for an agency that provides water and wastewater service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

EBMUD has dozens of portable pumps and generators for overall emergency

preparedness. Due to the extent of a PSPS, we've leased several dozen more in varying sizes to keep our pumping plants running during a power shutoff.

Pumping plants are critical links in the water storage system. They help convey water from our treatment plants, which have backup generators on site, to reservoirs and tanks at higher elevations.




As a regular practice during Red Flag Warnings, EBMUD fills up those reservoirs and tanks to be ready for fire flows. Adding generators at pumping plants helps make us as ready as possible to handle a PSPS.

But our work doesn't end there. EBMUD also manages more than 57,000 acres of open space here and in the Sierra Foothills, and we continuously work to

make that land more resistant to fires. We build fire breaks, remove highly flammable vegetation and partner with fire departments to conduct controlled burns. We also manage vegetation near EBMUD facilities and rights-of-way. The schedule of that work can be found at [ebmud.com/about-us/vegetation-management](http://ebmud.com/about-us/vegetation-management).

If and when a PSPS is announced in the East Bay, EBMUD may ask you to minimize your water use to ensure water is available for firefighting and indoor use. At these times, turn off your outdoor irrigation. And don't forget to stock up on emergency water supplies – two gallons per person per day for up to seven days.

*Photo: Controlled burns reduce the threat of severe wildfires*

EBMUD will develop and share more information on PSPS preparation later this summer. Stay tuned for more at [ebmud.com](http://ebmud.com), @ebmud on ,  and , and in EBMUD publications. We will need public cooperation to maintain critical water supply.

# Water use rises with the sun

The rainy season has finally passed and we're now ready for sunshine and heat. In the summer months, water use can skyrocket as people turn to hoses, showers and pools to cool off.

Before you wet your toes or flip on your irrigation, there are some important things to consider.

When it comes to saving water, the biggest impact can be made outside. Outdoor watering can account for about half of all your consumption, and half of that is wasted due to overwatering.

Give your landscape all the love and attention it deserves, and no more water than it needs, with a landscape makeover. Swapping out a water-thirsty lawn for one that's water wise will help you use water outside as efficiently as you do inside.

EBMUD offers mulch coupons, lawn conversion rebates of up to \$2,000, and more for an upgrade to a more efficient drip irrigation system. We can also assist you to control your irrigation system so it turns on at the optimal time: before the sun rises.

Once you've taken control of your outdoor water use, turn your attention to maintenance.

As fire season in California gets longer, firecaping is no longer an option; it's essential. This practice of clearing weeds, thinning trees and trimming bushes creates defensible space between your landscape and your home.



**REMINDER:** Effective **July 1, 2019**, EBMUD water rates will increase **6.5%**. On **July 1, 2020**, water rates will increase **6.25%**. For customers who receive EBMUD wastewater service, rates will increase **3%** this year and **4%** next. These rate increases will appear in your September/October bill, reflecting your consumption in July and August. Be mindful about your water use this summer.

 **EAST BAY  
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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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