

San Pablo Clearwell Replacement and Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project New Perimeter Security Fence Replacement Q&A

1. Can EBMUD provide details regarding the new fence (height, color, material, etc.), a mock-up/drawing/photos of what the fence will look like?

As a secured facility, the San Pablo Water Treatment Plant will be surrounded by the required security fencing, the same fencing used at Orinda Water Treatment Plant pictured below. The fencing will be eight feet in height, black vinyl-coated metal mesh.



2. EBMUD cleared a 15 to 20-foot area within its fence line for construction purposes before the new electrical shed was put in at the Stratford entrance. That area of tree stumps could easily hold a bench for folks resting on their way up the hill.

EBMUD will not install any seating or decorative features in relation to this project. This would be considered a municipal improvement and consequently, an illegal gift of public funds.

3. Is there any way you could pull the fence in a bit closer to the trees up between Lexington and Stratford?

The new fence will be placed back a few feet back from the existing fence line around the perimeter of the facility. All trees close to the fence will be trimmed back to prevent them from being used as an anchor to breach the security of the facility.

4. The area within the EBMUD facility in upper Kensington has a nice, landscaped border with arbors and benches. Can you do the same here?

There are no plans to place benches with arbors in this project. This would be considered an improvement and consequently an illegal gift of public funds.

5. The right-angle fence on Coventry Road could also be replaced with a fence that leaves a public triangle, that increases visibility for both pedestrians and cars.

The Contra Costa County engineering department has reviewed and approved all aspects of this project including visibility, there will be no further changes to the angle of the fence line.

6. Will EBMUD plant new trees to replace those that were removed? Will you remove the new naturally growing trees close to the fence line? Aren't native trees protected under the law?

EBMUD removed trees that were dying and/or obstructing the area where the new equipment would be placed. EBMUD cannot plant or place any vegetation, including trees, over buried pipelines or close to equipment. Should the District need access to the underground infrastructure, the trees and vegetation would have to be removed.

15-gallon Coast Live Oaks will be installed as part of the project. They will provide the balance of immediate visual screening with adaptability and a good growth rate over the long term. While larger trees provide more immediate impact, they are prone to failure, grow more slowly, and may not thrive when planted on site. Smaller trees (e.g., trees in five-gallon and 15-gallon containers) adapt more quickly within the first couple of years.

PG&E removed trees around the electrical substation which it owns and operates on property it leases from EBMUD. Per California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) fire safety regulations, those trees will not be replaced. PG&E's tree removals are not part of EBMUD's San Pablo Clearwell Replacement Project.

7. Can I meet with gardening staff to provide input?

Landscape plans were made available at the beginning of the project and can be viewed at ebmud.com/spclearwell. You can share questions and concerns with EBMUD's community affairs team which will allow the facilities staff to work without interruption.

8. Will EBMUD remove the ivy from the old fence when they demolish the old fence?

EBMUD will be cutting and removing all vegetation that has grown over the fence and cutting that back to its property line. The new fence will be placed a few feet back from the old fence and any vegetation along will be cut or trimmed to allow placement of the new security fence.

9. Will EBMUD be doing more landscaping around the main entrance on Berkeley Park Blvd.

Four 15-gallon Coast Live Oaks will be planted at the Berkeley Park/Ocean View entrance behind the fence, between the entrance and the existing pumping plant. Two 15-gallon Coast Live Oaks (one on each side) will be planted behind the fence at the Colusa entrance.

10. Will the area/site be cleaned, and equipment removed (debris, fencing material, stakes, cones, and other materials)?

After the completion of the any project EBMUD removes all equipment and debris from the area, this may take place over several days or weeks depending on the amount of equipment at the location.

11. Can EBMUD provide access to the site as an escape route in case of an emergency such as a wildfire?

The San Pablo Water Treatment plant is a secured facility, and public access is not possible. Consult with your local fire department and fire council for best practices in an emergency.

12. There is a big dirt pile on Coventry Road that was placed there as you excavated the area where your two new water tanks will be. Will you be removing that dirt and the white cement blocks in the back?

The mound of soil created due to excavation during the project will be used to shore up the landscape around the new tanks. Soil that cannot be restored will be trucked out of the site for use at a different location.

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