

EBMUD LAC Project Committee Meeting

DATE: Thursday November 14, 2024

TIME: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

LOCATION: EBMUD Administration Building, 4th Floor and Zoom

MINUTES

2:00

Welcome

2:05

Project Updates

- [NEW! Payback lawn conversion calculator](#) - ready for use
- **NEW!** Spring Irrigation Audit rebate – coming back soon. \$30/station up to \$1000 for each account.
- **NEW!** Smart Controllers – 50% of cost up to \$1000 (instead of by stations)
- Landscape Rebates – up to \$20,000 thru end of 2026 for commercial
- Gardens at Heather Farm round robin – 60 participated – very fun! Garden is in good shape!
- **NEW!** USBR grant submitted to support commercial lawn conversions - \$500,000 to help with design, GIS, and rebates
- [Bay Area Garden Kits](#) – CNPS update?
 - Jessica to contact vendor to see if east bay nurseries are participating in this program
 - Annie is now Curious Flora – almost up and running full speed.

2:10 pm

Discussion - Revisiting the Low Water Plant List (notes from 12/2022)

- Plant list updates - The goal is to update the EBMUD plant list with more specificity to climate zones and biodiversity. Reviewed the eco-region zones listed on new Bay Area Garden Planner: <https://bayarea.calscape.org/>
- APLD Slow the Burn – Dona noted APLD will likely be doing a presentation series on grasses/groundcovers and will share info.
 - Past approach included evaluating water use; bird/butterfly friendly; summer-dry; flowering season; evergreen or deciduous; availability; not-invasive; native
 - What is the current recommended approach?
 - Is it possible to break up – east and west of the hills?
 - Review [San Diego's Nifty Fifty](#)
 - Kristin to send the excel of the top 140 for notes on east and west of the hills, fire concerns, and availability etc.
 - Based on input may make one handout for top 40 plants that would do well on either side – similar to the Nifty Fifty.
 - A large electronic list can be filter for east or west of the hills
 - Jessica to cross tabulate existing list with Calscape East Bay list
 - Stew to note availability and east west recommendations.
 - Emphasis though not totally on native plants
 - Karly to get into on current Low Water Plant list from colleagues.
 - Sell whole gardens; Group likes the idea of more pictures to demonstration before and after with the design. Maybe the garden tour, photo contest, or designer would be

willing to share. San Diego Authorities flipchart may also be handy.

- [CCWD Garden photos with plant tags](#)
- *Slider on the Landscape Rebate Page is popular.*
- *Add date to each plant list edition*
- *Add category for grasses*
- *Cross tabulate with [Orinda Firescaping list](#).*
- *Add a category for uses such as bioswales and infiltration areas.*
- *Expand groundcovers since these tend to be more fire savvy.*
- *Add cultivar instead of spp.*
- *Consider lifespan of species*
- *Consider plants that have been banned by the fire departments in the East Bay.*

- [Google Drive Folder for Top 100 plus plants](#)

3:20 pm

Lawn alternatives - best practices and tips. Any good pictures from the field?

- Below is the google drive folder to weigh in on with your experience and to upload pictures from the field on the following lawn alternatives
 - Kurapia (cultivar)
 - Lippia (native)
 - UC Verde Buffalograss
 - Seashore Bentgrass

- [Lawn Alternative Google Drive Folder](#)

Next General Meeting – February 4th 2-3:15pm NFT and Heat Island Effect with UC Extension. The online meeting will be followed up with a stakeholder focus group led by UC Berkeley Extension Service. Group suggested additional networking after the stakeholder focus group.