

EBMUD Declares Water Shortage

By Sophie Braccini

Our situation today

Every year in April, the East Bay Municipal Utility District estimates its reserves until the end of the “water year” (end of September). This winter has been the driest since 1988 and the projected level in our reservoirs falls below 500 Thousand of Acre-Feet (TAC): 80% of their capacity. The first part of EBMUD’s drought plan has been activated, and on April 24th the Agency released a statement urging for voluntary water conservation. The biggest area of water consumption is outdoor use. Users are urged to water their lawns only 3 times a week (not consecutively) at night or very early morning, and to check for leaks. Large irrigators, such as golf courses and parks, are asked to reduce their usage by 25%.

Where does our water come from?

In 1923 EBMUD was formed by voters weary of an inadequate water supply; the fresh water creeks in our area were no longer providing enough water. The utility company set its sights on the Sierra, diverting water from the Mokelumne River and the Pardee Dam. Today, the water from the Mokelumne pipeline feeds EBMUD’s water treatment plants and is piped to our homes and businesses. The Sierra water, along with run-offs, feeds the Briones, San Leandro, and Upper San Leandro dams that store a 6 months emergency supply. The Lafayette and Chabot reservoirs are primarily recreational.

The long term challenge

Water supply and usage is a long term question. In ways of water rights, the more ancient user has priority; local residents around the Mokelumne River have seniority and might reclaim more of their water some day. Recent climate change studies have shown that an elevation in the average temperature in California will raise the demand for water, increase the evaporation and reduce the water supply from the snow pack. EBMUD is aware of these challenges and has been engaged in studies and planning for years. The conclusion is that our water supply needs to improve in two areas: the amount of surface water that is channeled here and the quantity of water stored.

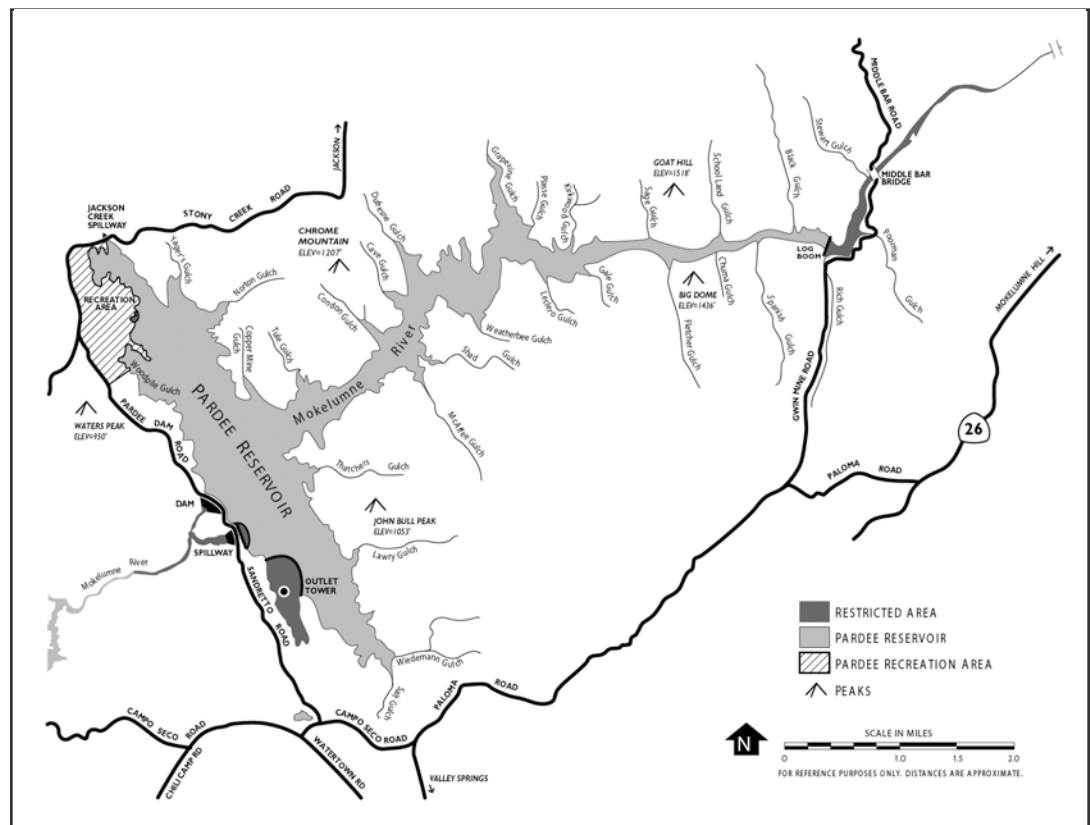
Tips to save water:

- water your garden 3 times a week
- water after sunset
- find and fix all leaks
- install a high efficiency washing machine (and get a rebate)
- install a high efficiency toilet (and get a rebate)
- install a WaterSmart Irrigation Controller (and get a rebate)
- plant a drought-resistant garden (and get a water-smart landscape rebate)
- dry wash your car or have it washed in a place that recycles water
- get free conservation devices from EBMUD such as low-flow showerheads or faucet aerators

EBMUD’s long term plan

We, as tax payers, have been financially contributing to the Sacramento water system since the 1970’s. Only recently, after years of legal battles, has EBMUD finally won the right to use that water in times of drought. The plan is called the Freeport Regional Water Project and by 2009 we will be able to use the Folsom South Canal to get water from the Sacramento River. As far as storage is concerned, our capacity is still too limited; we do not have the means to store during wet years. Several projects have been studied, including an underground aquifer under southwest San Leandro and San Lorenzo, but residents don’t want to see water collection under their homes. Dams are very controversial and it is quite unlikely that any will be built in our area. That leaves us with desalinization and recycled water. The North Marin Water District is relying on recycled water to offset potable water demand. It is scheduled to deliver irrigation water from its recycling facility by this summer. It will service a golf course and the Novato Fire Department District and reduce the demand on the fresh water from the Russian river. EBMUD wants to use all possible venues to secure our water supply: conservation, ground water storage, surface storage, recycled water and collaborative projects with other water districts. EBMUD’s Charles Hardy from EBMUD explains: “We will never have enough water, we will never have enough storage. EBMUD has to use many different tactics and techniques to secure the future. Collaboration between water districts is the only way. Right now, we are partnering with 3 other water districts on a desalinization project and after 5 years of study, we are very close to mapping it out.”

Conservation is the only instrument in our own individual hand. EBMUD has been advocating it for years, providing rebates for water saving hardware, granting seed money for schools that include conservation in their projects, publishing books on drought resistant landscaping. Some home and business owners have started to collect rain water in tanks – take the “Barn Tour” in Moraga on May 5th to see an example of this technique. For now, if we watch our usage and 2007/2008 winter isn’t too dry, our Utility agency expects it will prevent us from reaching the 450 TFA level at which it can decide to implement mandatory rationing and raise the rates.



The Pardee Reservoir is about 80 miles east of Lamorinda



SUE

LARA

BEN

The Olsen Team

VILLAGE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

Contact Sue, Lara & Ben

925.253.2530

View Current Listings - Search the MLS - Meet the Team

— www.TheOlsenTeam.com —



3320 Woodview Ct. Lafayette OPEN SUNDAY
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths—Large Lot with views



Skin Enhancements

Professional Skin Care By Myrna Tairiol

Myrna Tairiol
Licensed Esthetician

1040 Brown Avenue
Lafayette, CA 94549

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday
By Appointment

925.212.3150

www.skinenhancements.com



- Facials
- Peels/ultradermabrasion
- Waxing
- Tinting
- Ear Piercing
- Skin Tag Removal



Marilyn Mather
Photography

40% discount
on sitting & print package with this ad

www.marilynphoto.com
925-934-3942

Sharp Bicycle

- Road Racing • Road Touring
- Comfort Road • City Bikes
- Womens Specific Designs
- Bike Path • Cruisers
- Mtn. Cross-Country
- All Mountain
- Kids Mountain
- Kids Road
- Little Kids

Over 250 Bikes on Display

Full Service Bike Shop:

- Repairs, Tune-ups
- Biomechanical Fittings
- Re-Fittings
- Re-Furbishing

Major and Minor Brand's from:

- Santa Cuz - Colnago
- Independant Fabrications
- Moots - Calfee - Parlee
- Lemond - Gary Fisher
- Trek Womens Specific
- Ellsworth - Co-Motion



969 Moraga Rd. Lafayette in La Fiesta Square

284-9616 • M-F 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5

www.sharpbicycle.com

THE SUREST WAY TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR 1031 EXCHANGE IS TO START LOOKING FOR ONE

- Diversification
- Tax Deferral
- Tax Depreciation
- Single Tenant Triple Net



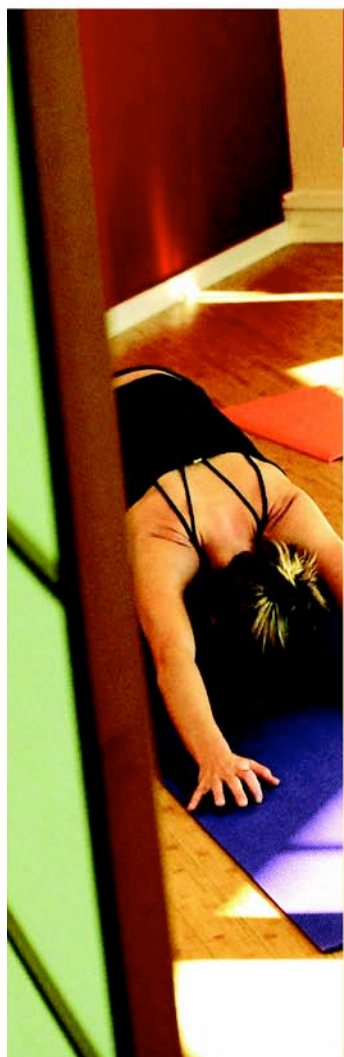
David Waal, Principal
(925) 407-4747
 2950 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 300
 Walnut Creek, California 94597

We help 1031 Exchange Investors and Private Clients acquire Net Leased and Tenant-in-common properties.



Lamorinda Resident for 31 Years

Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member/NASD SIPC



PILATES, YOGA, RECONDITIONING

CLASSES

Pilates
 F.I.T.
 Yoga

WORKSHOPS

Pilates Innovation
 Intro to Yoga
 Teen Yoga

SERVICES

One-on-One Training
 Postural Assessment
 Pro Shop

Our approach to reconditioning is based on helping clients achieve their goals by integrating Resistance Training, Pilates, and Yoga. Our studio offers a personal and professional environment, perfect for those seeking the knowledge to help themselves understand and implement their full potential.

www.absolutecenter.net



"The Source of Intelligent Fitness"

3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Ste 101 Lafayette, CA 94549 [925] 299.9642