

CUSTOMER



# pipELine

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

EBMUD took action in 2006 to help protect our customers' health-and that of all California water consumers-from lead. A new law EBMUD sponsored will reduce exposure to lead from drinking water in customers' homes, workplaces and schools by phasing out the lead in drinking water plumbing sold in California.

## GETTING THE LEAD OUT

*EBMUD Advocates Higher Standard*

We asked Assembly member Wilma Chan to introduce Assembly Bill 1953 to reduce exposure to lead at the customer's tap, which was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last September. Lead levels in EBMUD's water are consistently low, well below state and federal limits for drinking water, because our source is virtually lead-free. We use modern treatment technologies and install only lead-free plumbing in our distribution system. But after water moves through EBMUD's distribution system, it can still come into contact with brass plumbing in your home that contains lead. Current law allows up to eight percent lead, which can leach into the water at the faucet.

While AB 1953 maintains the strict regulatory testing requirements

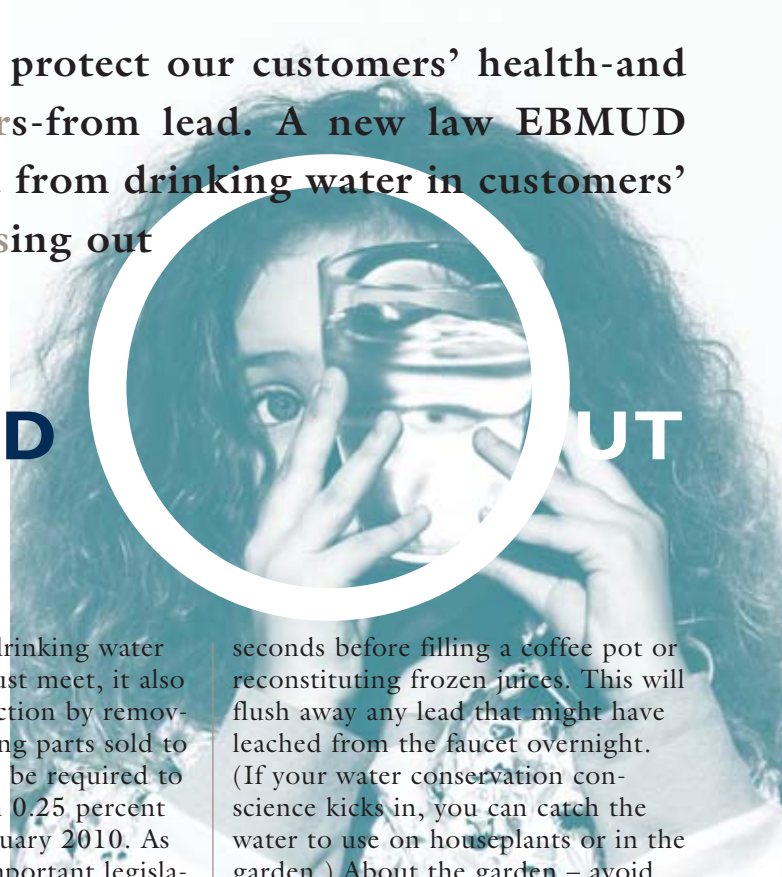
for reducing lead in drinking water that water utilities must meet, it also provides added protection by removing lead from plumbing parts sold to customers, which will be required to contain no more than 0.25 percent lead beginning in January 2010. As the sponsor of this important legislation, EBMUD is proud to help our state become the first to truly "Get the Lead Out" of drinking water.

### **Tips On Keeping the Lead Out**

Some very simple steps can keep your family safer from lead. First, while making soups or hot beverages, or even boiling anything in water, always start with cold water, not hot. Lead is leached faster by hot water. Avoid drinking hot water from the tap. Also, first thing in the morning, run each faucet about 30

seconds before filling a coffee pot or reconstituting frozen juices. This will flush away any lead that might have leached from the faucet overnight. (If your water conservation conscience kicks in, you can catch the water to use on houseplants or in the garden.) About the garden – avoid drinking water from garden hoses. The hose ends, hose bibs and brass valves typically contain lead. Also, older hot water heaters can cause elevated levels of lead. Actually, your exposure to lead is less likely from water than from other sources, such as old house paint. To learn more, call a Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: in Alameda County, call (510) 567-8280, and in Contra Costa County, 1-866-349-5323.

**Lead should not be in your water. EBMUD took steps to keep it out.**

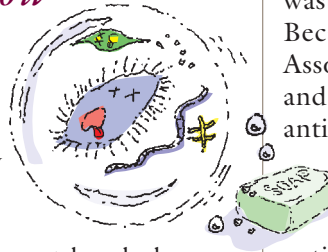


# POLLUTION PREVENTION CORNER

## *Antibacterial Soaps, the Bay, and You*

Antibacterial compounds are turning up in all sorts of consumer products – from hand soaps to toothpaste, dish detergents, cleaning products, and cutting boards. With the flu season upon us, frequent handwashing and careful sanitation are good choices. But did you know that two active ingredients common-

ly found in many antibacterial products, Triclosan and Triclocarban, may harm the Bay? Studies show that these chemicals do not break down quickly and can harm aquatic life.



Wastewater treatment was designed to remove human and food wastes, not synthetic chemicals. Because the American Medical Association says that regular soap and water are just as effective as antibacterial soaps at preventing the spread of bacteria in a normal household, EBMUD is currently phasing out its own purchases of antibacterial soaps. Before we scrub away, we think about the Bay.

# HALF OF WEST OF HILLS CUSTOMERS

## *Please Practice Practical Water Saving*

EBMUD has shut down the Claremont Tunnel pipeline to install a new bypass tunnel and make critical earthquake repairs. The tunnel typically serves 800,000 customers west



**The Claremont Tunnel bypass will help our water system survive a 7.0 earthquake.**

This modest reduction in water usage is necessary to provide a sufficient operating margin to ensure water

reliability for these communities. The following are some easy ways to help out, and to avoid mandatory rationing:

**OUTSIDE YOUR HOME**

- Turn off irrigation clocks and timers
- Irrigate less frequently
- Eliminate discretionary water use:
  - Use a broom, not a hose, to clear driveways and walks
  - Use commercial carwashes (which recycle water)

**INSIDE YOUR HOME**

- Check for leaks, mainly in toilets
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads only, or adjust the water level to match the size of the load
- Don't leave water running when brushing teeth, washing your hands, shaving, or doing dishes
- Use a wastebasket, not the toilet, to dispose of trash

of the Oakland-Berkeley hills in Alameda County and West Contra Costa County. Studies show the old tunnel could be severely damaged by a 7.0 earthquake on the Hayward Fault, leaving west-of-hills customers without water for up to six months. Building this new earthquake resistant tunnel is the last and most critical piece of the District's \$200-million Seismic Improvement Program. The shutdown is expected to continue through mid March. During the shutdown, customers west of the Oakland/Berkeley hills, north of Highway 24 are asked to voluntarily reduce their water usage by ten percent. The affected communities are:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Albany</i>         | <i>Richmond</i>   |
| <i>Berkeley</i>       | <i>Rodeo</i>  |
| <i>Crockett</i>       | <i>San Pablo</i>  |
| <i>El Cerrito</i>     | <i>Oakland North of Highway 24</i>                                |
| <i>El Sobrante</i>    | <i>Pinole</i>   |
| <i>Emeryville</i>     | <i>Unincorporated Contra Costa County along the I-80 corridor</i> |
| <i>Hercules</i>       |   |
| <i>Kensington</i>     |   |
| <i>North Richmond</i> |   |



- Take shorter showers
- Use the garbage disposal only if you must
- Install water-saving devices like low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, all available free from EBMUD
- Go to: [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) for many more ideas, or call toll-free, 1-866-40-EBMUD

## CUSTOMER **pipELine** is brought to you by:

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Dennis M. Diemer, *General Manager*

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- Brian McCrea, *Editor*
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### Where to Call For . . .

- ◆ Questions about your EBMUD bill
- ◆ Emergencies or open hydrants (24 hrs.)
- ◆ EBMUD street work information
- ◆ Water conservation questions
- Call toll-free 1-866-40-EBMUD (1-866-403-2683)**
- ◆ Jobs Hotline  
510-287-0742
- ◆ TTY/TDD for hearing impaired  
510-763-1035



East Bay Municipal  
Utility District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623  
[www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com)