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September 20, 2016

MEDIA ADVISORY

Pipe in the Sky: EBMUD Uses Helicopter for Challenging Berkeley Hills Pipeline Replacement

WHAT: East Bay Municipal Utility District will undertake a unique airlift to deliver 2,500 feet of pipe to the Berkeley Hills north of the Claremont Hotel. This operation will allow EBMUD to replace aging water mains in the steep Panoramic Hill neighborhood in a timely manner. Up to 15 bundles of pipe will be flown from Fernwald Road at Dwight Way to Panoramic Way at Dwight Way.

To ensure safety in the neighborhood, the helicopter will not fly over any homes during the pipe delivery. Adjacent neighbors and facilities have been notified. Drones are prohibited within the flight path.

WHEN: **Wednesday, September 21, 2016 10:30 a.m.**
Lift operation: 10:30 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m., weather and visibility permitting. EBMUD staff will be available for interviews from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Access to the lift location is at Dwight Way and Hillside Avenue. Road closures at Dwight Way and Panoramic Way during lift operations prohibit vehicle access to the upper drop-off location.

SEE ATTACHED MAP FOR MEDIA ACCESS POINT

BACKGROUND: With more than 4,200 miles of water pipelines in EBMUD's service area, replacing aging pipelines is a continuous challenge. The Panoramic Hill Improvements Project will replace more than 7,000 feet of water pipeline in the Berkeley Hills. The project also includes the replacement of University Reservoir and University Pumping Plant, which will begin in late 2017.

EBMUD is bringing innovation to pipeline replacement in the seismically-active, geographically complex Bay Area. Through the Pipeline Rebuild program, EBMUD is using new installation practices, materials, and techniques to speed pipeline replacement. Tomorrow's delivery of pipe by helicopter lift is just one example.

EBMUD has a proud history of providing high-quality drinking water for 1.4 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The District's award-winning wastewater treatment protects San Francisco Bay and serves 680,000 customers.