

# East Bay Watershed Forest Health

EBMUD/EBRPD Liaison Committee  
May 17, 2021

# East Bay Watershed Forest Management Objectives



- Protect water quality, biodiversity, and other resource values during forest management program implementation
- Manage trees in areas of high public use to ensure visitors safety and maintain aesthetic value

# East Bay Watershed Forest Management Objectives



- Implement a long-term plan for managing non-native forest species that includes maintenance of stand health and vigor and phased conversion of selected stands of non-native forests to native forests or other ecologically suitable habitats
- Use forest management as a tool to achieve strategic fire management goals, biodiversity goals, and other resource goals

# Watershed Forest Resources



- 11,960 acres native forest, consists mostly of coast live oak, Bay laurel, and madrone
- 730 acres of non-native forest, consists mostly of Monterey pine and eucalyptus
- 30-year Monterey pine management program in place, removing dead trees since 2001
- Approximately 1,500 dead Monterey pine trees and 500 Bay laurels identified in January 2021
- Likely due to age, disease, and drought

# 2021 Monterey Pine Death



# Pine Forest 2021 Die-back



# Bay Laurel Die-back



# Monterey Pine Removal



- Pine removal program began in 2001
- Used draft horses for first 8 years
- Average about 250 trees removed annually to keep up with tree mortality
- Since December 2020 EBMUD spent more than 3,800 hours on fuel reduction of pine trees, felling 229 trees and burning 256 slash piles





# Next Steps



- Continue working with CalFire on determining cause and monitoring spread.
- Increase tree removal to reduce dead standing trees. Protect water quality, soils, and sensitive species during harvesting operations.
- Collaborating with Moraga-Orinda Fire District on a CalFire grant to address increased pine mortality.

# Questions

