

GREEN PARTY OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
2014 ENDORSEMENT DECISION

Name: Katy Foulkes

Phone: 510-655-0854

Email: katyfoulkes@gmail.com

Website: coming this week

1. We are now in the midst of one of the worst droughts in California's recorded history, with many reservoirs at very low levels. East Bay MUD's reservoirs haven't been hit as hard, partly because EBMUD is using water from the Sacramento River under its federal water contract. Nevertheless, EBMUD has taken little action to reduce its customers' water use, and has devoted no resources to enforcing the few mandatory regulations it has finally adopted.

Our customers have continued to conserve since the last drought, and have complied with our request to voluntarily cut back another 10 % (we're at 11% now). A major promise when I first ran was to provide additional water for droughts, and I kept that promise. We have adopted all of the Governor's recommendations and are planning now for a rate structure for mandatory rationing if this drought continues.

a. Do you feel that EBMUD has been doing enough to address the serious drought California is experiencing? If so, why? If not, what else should EBMUD have already done?

I feel our added emphasis on conservation, included representatives who respond to reports of water wasting by visiting and walking customers through how they can conserve, our dedication to water recycling, our new Freeport project, which is bringing additional water to our customers, our investment in local groundwater storage and our pilot program for conjunctive use with San Joaquin County along with the voluntary cut-back by our customers is adequate for our customers at this time. We need to consider mandatory rationing if this drought continues.

b. In past major droughts (e.g., 1990-1992), EBMUD adopted a drought rate structure with significantly higher rates for those who continued to use large quantities of water, to send a "price signal" promoting water conservation. Would you support instituting a drought rate structure now? Please explain. If the drought continues through next spring, would you support instituting or toughening a drought rate structure? What other drought measures would you support instead or in addition? How would you proposed to address any loss of revenue due to decreased customer water use?

Because of Prop. 218 and the process that we must go through to change rates, immediate enforcement of a drought rate structure is impossible. We are discussing structures now to be sure we do it fairly and with adequate notice to our rate-payers. The Board promised our customers that we would not punish those who made efforts to voluntarily cut back use, and that needs to be built into the structure. I favor retaining a low rate for the 1st 4 units or so, the amount needed for indoor health and safety. I

favor raising the rates in the higher tiers to send a "price signal", as long as we educate our customers about that impact before they start.

c. Currently, the District's drought planning places a 15% limit on drought rationing for planning purposes. Do you feel this is the appropriate limit? If so, why? If not, what do you think the limit should be and why?

An over-all 15% rationing is actually much steeper for single family residents --- closer to 35%. With the conservation efforts our customers are already making, this is a very tough goal.

2. As noted, EBMUD now has a supplemental supply for drought periods from the Sacramento River. In addition, EBMUD is looking at several other possible supplemental supply sources, including buying into an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir, pursuing conjunctive groundwater use in the Central Valley, purchasing supplemental emergency supplies from other water districts, or joining in a regional desalinization project for the Bay Area. Other options for addressing potential future water supply deficiencies include increasing customer conservation efforts, increasing water recycling for irrigation, and looking at water recycling for human consumption. Please rank these various options based on what you feel is the priority for pursuing them, and indicate which, if any, you do not feel the District should pursue. Please explain briefly the reasons for your choices.

I think ALL efforts to improve water supply in California, not just for EBMUD, should be explored by all agencies and the state. Those supplies are not just for humans, but also the environment.

For EBMUD, working cooperatively with our adjoining agencies to help each other out in emergencies is of top importance. Conjunctive use is a very important tool that would help us and another county-a win-win as Freeport is. Encouraging responsible grey-water use as well as conservation measures is always important.

3. Currently, EBMUD has an "inclined block" rate structure that charges customers who use more water somewhat higher rates. Do you support continuing that structure? Would you favor any of the following:

- Emphasizing the inclined rate structure in customer bill inserts to point out that customers can save money by using less water;
- Adding a fourth "water hog" tier for very high water use, with a considerably higher per gallon charge;
- Providing for a greater price differential between the blocks, so that the price incentive for conservation is increased?
- Adding a very low "water miser" rate for very low water use;
- Indexing the rate structure based on the need to conserve (i.e., higher rates and bigger rate differentials as water supply decreases)
- Geographic indexing of the rate structure, with larger allowances for areas with higher temperatures?

Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Yes, I favor an "inclined block" structure - it encourages conservation. I support changing our bills, and inserts, to promote more conservation. I would support a 'water hog' super tier as long as it was combined with consideration of Evapo-Transpiration (ET), which recognizes that the same drought-tolerant plant requires more water in hotter, windier areas. Our 1st tier is already less than the cost of service, which we can justify as the incline block rates encourage conservation, but artificially

lowering those rates could be considered a 'gift of public funds' and needs to be studied carefully. Indexing would be an interesting tool to explore, especially if droughts become more common, but I believe our customers would rather have the discussion and outreach before automatic adjustments are made at this point.

4. Should the District take any responsibility for maintaining adequate water flows for firefighting within the District? (In the 1991 Oakland Hills fire, it was found that some District hydrants had flows of less than 200 gal/min., when the minimum firefighting standards were over 1000 gal/min.) If so, what form should that responsibility take? *We improve the water flow to current standards when we replace pipes at this time. We are increasing the rate of replacement because many of our pipes are reaching the end of their useful life. My understanding is that much of the problem with water in the Oakland Hills fire was that the electric lines went down and we could not pump water up to the reservoirs. This is a problem throughout the District, particularly in the older sections, and can only be solved by replacing the total pipeline, a very costly and time-consuming effort. Increased pipe replacement is the best solution to this problem.*

5. The District has an "ultimate service boundary" that defines the area where the District intends to provide water service. The District also has a current service boundary, the area in which it currently provides service. There is continuing pressure from Contra Costa County politicians and developers for EBMUD to expand both boundaries. Do you feel that EBMUD should get involved in deciding its service boundaries, or is that meddling in land use issues properly left to cities and counties? *EBMUD has resisted efforts in the past to expand our current service boundaries and will continue to do so. I believe the responsibility for land use decisions is delegated to cities and counties, but that water districts have the responsibility to assure that they have enough water to service their current customers and should be able to block expansion if it would impact that ability.*

6. There has been some discussion about EBMUD possibly expanding its range of services to include electricity production/distribution to parts of its service area. (The District currently generates electricity at Pardee Dam and its wastewater treatment plant, but sells that power to PG&E.) Would you favor or oppose such expansion? Would it influence your decision if some cities in the District offered to form a joint powers authority with the District to facilitate such a community power system option? *We no longer sell our power to PG&E. Our Pardee power is sold to SMUD, and our excess wastewater power to the Port of Oakland. I understand that the County of Alameda has agreed to facilitate a community power system locally. Our staff indicated that there could be high risks involved in EBMUD trying to undertake this.*

7. Do you feel the District is being sufficiently "green" in its operation of its water and wastewater facilities? In particular, are you aware of the current status of the District's compliance with AB 32 (which required California to reduce its production of greenhouse gases [e.g., CO₂, methane] to 1990 levels by 2020 and achieve much greater reductions by 2050? Explain. What (if anything) do you feel the District needs to do to improve its "green profile"? *We are continuously striving to reduce our production of greenhouse gases. Becoming completely free of the grid and producing over 100% of our need for clean, green energy at our wastewater treatment plant is a true success story. We have made sizable investments in solar energy and are exploring more usage. We are looking to reduce the impact of our motor fleet, a vital part of our service. I would*

welcome any suggestions, but feel we are looking into every avenue that would help us achieve our goal.

8. Since the passage of Prop. 209, many affirmative action programs have been challenged and invalidated by the courts. The district currently has an affirmative action program in its hiring policies, as well as policies to promote the use of minority contractors. Should the District try to maintain these programs as-is, expand them, or perhaps re-evaluate them to reduce the risk of being sued?

When Prop. 209 passed, our legal team very carefully looked at our options, and I feel we have the best, most defensible program possible. I support continuing it until Prop. 209 is overturned by the voters.

9. PG&E recently replaced most of its customers' gas & electric meters with so-called "smart meters" that automatically collect and send usage data by telemetry and eliminate meter readers. Should EBMUD do the same? What is your general attitude on using automation to reduce District labor costs and save money for the District?

We currently have a pilot program using meters that supply homeowners with time of use info on their current status (by going on line). This has proved very popular and helpful in customers' efforts to conserve. Modern technology should be employed when it is helpful for our customers and staff, but not if the only reason is to reduce labor costs.

10. After last year's BART strike, proposals surfaced to have the legislature prohibit strikes by public workers in sensitive positions, such as bus and train drivers, and perhaps water treatment operators or pipe repair crews. Would you support or oppose such legislation? If strikes are prohibited, should those workers be entitled to mandatory arbitration of labor disputes?

I believe in a worker's right to strike. Health and safety are important considerations, and there may be times when a strike might need to be prohibited (I believe there is already a process at the state level). If so, yes mandatory arbitration should be required.

11. EBMUD has fairly generous retirement benefits. However, it appears those benefits are nowhere near being fully funded. How would you address EBMUD's unfunded retirement benefit liability? Should EBMUD Directors get the same benefits as regular employees? Explain .

"Fully funded" is an important need if you are a company who might any day go out of business and thus have no means to continue funding future revenue. Water will always be in demand, and, as a government agency, EBMUD will always be there to supply it. Our future employees will assure that retirees receive their benefits. That being said, our Retirement Board is working with new financial staff to improve our status.

I was not on the Board when the decision was made to consider Board members as full time employees, but support the decision. I often spend 40 hours in a week on EBMUD business, much of it on line, reading or on the phone, which is similar to other employees. Our salaries are low, and the percentage taken out for our deductibles is huge compared to fully salaried employees. This 'perk' is often the carrot that persuades qualified candidates to run.

12. What endorsements have you received so far?

KATY FOULKES ENDORSEMENTS

EAST BAY MUD

Hon. John Coleman
Hon. Frank Mellon
Hon. William B. Patterson
Hon. Lesa McIntosh

CITY OF PIEDMONT

Hon. Margaret Fujioka (Mayor)
Hon. Jeff Weiler (V. Mayor) (& Jean)
Hon. Bob McBain
Hon. Teddy King
Hon. Tim Rood
John & Maggie Chiang (former Mayor)
Dean & Karen Barbieri (former Mayor)
Valerie Matzger (former Mayor)
Michael Bruch (former Mayor)
Craig Lundin (former Mayor)
Patty White (former Mayor)
Al & Barbara Peters (former Mayor)
Skip Rhodes (former Mayor)
Susan F. Hill (former Mayor)
Alice Creason (former Mayor)
Jon & Ann Reynolds

CITY OF ORINDA

Hon. Sue Severson (Mayor)
Hon. Victoria Smith
Hon. Amy Worth
Bobbi Landers
Don Perata, Former Senate President Pro Tem

TOWN OF MORAGA

Hon. Ken Chew (Mayor)
Hon. Dave Trotter (V. Mayor)
Hon. Mike Metcalf
Hon. Phil Arth
Hon. Roger Wykle

WEST COUNTY (El Sobrante, Pinole, Richmond)

Tom Owens, MAC Chair
Eleanor Loynd, Co-chair E.S.V. Plan& Son. Adv. Comm.
Irma Anderson (former Mayor, Richmond)
Maria Allegría (former Pinole CC)

OTHERS

Hon. Nancy Skinner, State Assembly
Hon. Keith Carson AC Bd. of Supervisors
Hon. Beverly Lane EBRPD
Hon. Doug Siden, EBRPD
Hon. Ayn Weiskamp, EBRPD
Hon. Michael G. Harris, Pleasant Valley CC (former Moraga CC)
Hon. Gail Murray, BART Director, Dist. 1
Annie Eagan
Joel Fried
Teamsters Local 853