

# 2024 EBMUD Board Candidate Questionnaire

Your answers will not be saved until you submit the form at the end. If you don't feel you can answer these questions in one sitting, you may want to [download the questions](#) and draft your answers externally, then paste them into this form.

Please record your full name below: \*

Valerie Lewis

**When you visit the EBMUD or EBRPD Open Spaces, how often do you enjoy the following activities?**

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Hiking	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling on dirt trails or natural surface roads (mountain biking, gravel riding, fire roads, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling on paved trails and roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running/Jogging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Dog walking	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnicking or other gatherings	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visiting park amenities (lakes, visitor centers, gardens, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Recreation and Access

**EBMUD stewards 29,000 acres and 65 miles of roads and trails in the East Bay and is the second largest East Bay open space land manager. Demand for access to open space and trail systems is at an all time high. In the past few years much of this demand has been driven by the increase in the popularity of mountain biking, especially among youth. High school and middle school teams are active in communities adjacent to EBMUD open spaces.**

**EBMUD provides extremely limited bike access to ~10% of the trail system on just 2 roads (Eagle's Nest & Pinole Valley multi use trails) which began in 2019. Use has been relatively low and there has not been any significant environmental or trail conflict issues with this use.**

**EBMUD could be a more active partner in providing road/trail access to bikes and improving trail experiences throughout the East Bay. Significant access is provided to equestrians which have a higher environmental impact than cycling. Road grading has a higher impact than bike use.**

What actions would you support to expand bike access to help alleviate overall trail demand issues and better serve youth in the region in light that they have less impact than some other existing trail users?

I am a long time and zealous advocate for Bay Area youth. I believe in the power of playing and interacting with others in fresh air, surrounded by trees and other plants, and clean water. While prioritizing the integrity of our water source and its delivery to EBMUD users, I would be open to exploring opportunities to use our trails in ways that protect our natural resources and those seeking to access them.

As a public land manager, what do you see as the role of EBMUD in providing outdoor recreation opportunities?

I see EBMUD as a leader in water conservation, protection and education. It should use its position as a water use leader to help recreation users understand issues associated with use of outdoor recreation areas near water assets and to identify opportunities where EBMUD can work collaboratively regarding the appropriate use of ENMUD public land.

Would you support increased access to bikes on EBMUD fire roads? Why or why not?

I am willing to review fire road access on a case-by-case basis and support use where water integrity is prioritized and increased access is safe, feasible and manageable.

### Regional Comparison

**Marin Water District has provided extensive bike access to their natural surface road system for decades. They manage comparable habitat and conservation issues compared to EBMUD. Marin Water also manages watersheds and reservoirs for public drinking water. Marin Water District is now entering a pilot program including bike access to ~7 miles of narrow trails.**

What factors do you see related to EBMUD that warrant a drastically different approach to bike access?

What actions would you support to provide a more comparable level of bike access in EBMUD open spaces?

I am eager to learn more about and review the results of the pilot program.

### Other Comments

**If you have any other comments on the topics discussed here or any related topics, please leave them below. Press Submit when you are done.**

This form was created inside of The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay.

