



2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Estero Municipal Improvement District
100 Lincoln Centre
Foster City, California

Dear EMID Customer,

The City of Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District (EMID) is satisfied to provide you with the Annual Water Quality Report for 2025. On the following pages, you will find important information about the source of your water, the quality of your water, and the steps taken to protect the water supply.

EMID purchases all of its water from the San Francisco Regional Water System (SFRWS). The following pages include details on the origin of the water, treatment processes, and any water quality testing results or concerns related to that water source prepared by the SFRWS Water Quality Bureau. In addition to the monitoring and testing performed by SFRWS, EMID does its own monitoring and testing to ensure that the water quality in the distribution system meets or exceeds all drinking water standards.

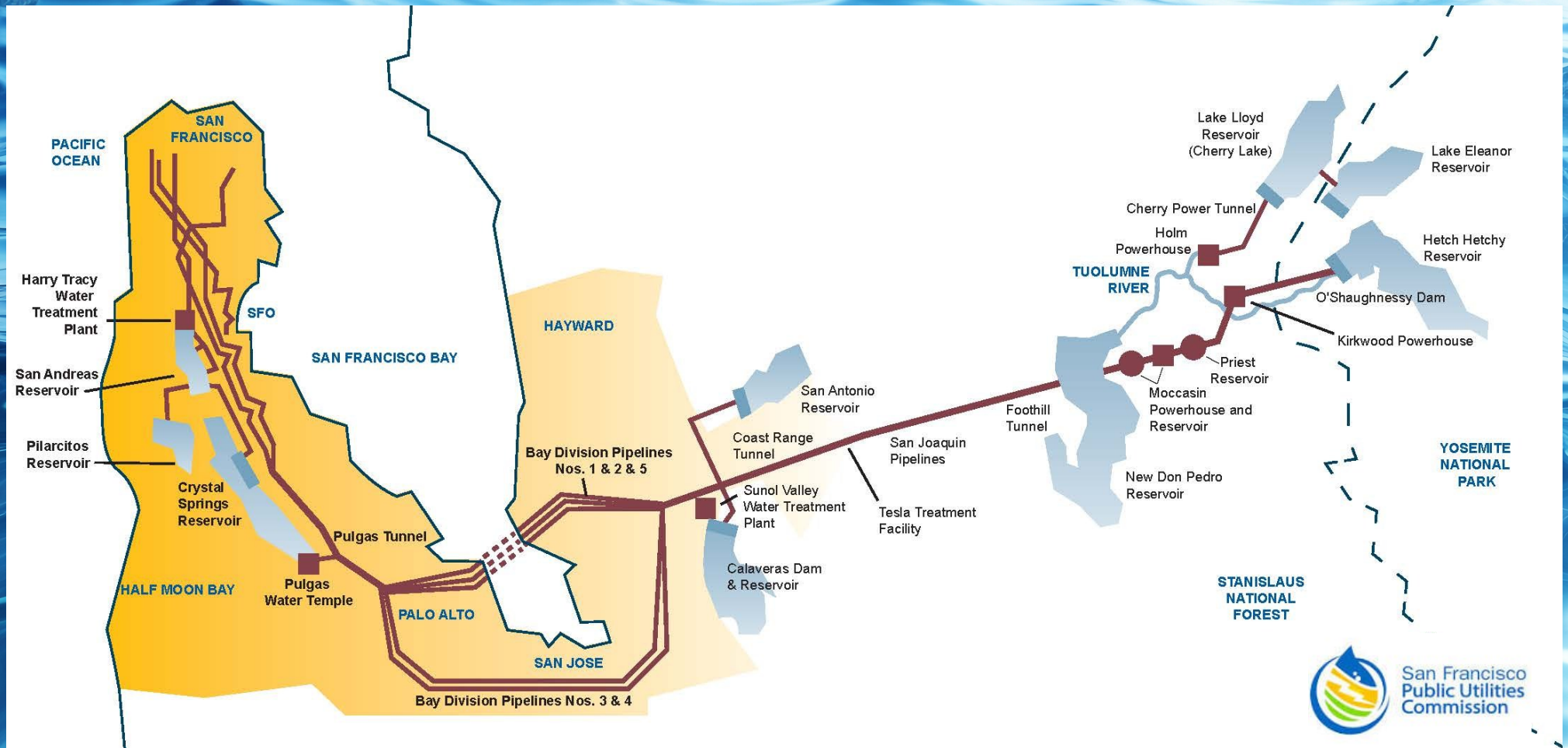
As the purveyor of your drinking water, we are proud to be able to state that the water we provide is of the highest quality, meeting or exceeding all primary drinking water standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW).

If there are any questions about the water, please call the SFRWS Water Quality Bureau at 1-877-737-8297 or visit the website at www.sfwater.org. Any other questions about the water system should be directed to EMID/City of Foster City Public Works Maintenance Manager, Zaheed Danish, at 650-286-3544.

WATER QUALITY REPORT



SFPUC WATER SYSTEM



CONSERVATION REMINDER:

EMID continues to encourage customers to conserve our valuable resource. EMID supports the message that urges: *"Make water conservation a California way of life."*



SFRWS DRINKING WATER SOURCES AND TREATMENT

The San Francisco Regional Water System (SFRWS) gets its drinking water from a mix of surface water (reservoirs) and groundwater (a deep aquifer in northern San Mateo County). Surface water comes from reservoirs in the **Sierra Nevada, Alameda County, and San Mateo County**, while groundwater comes from protected underground sources. Having multiple water sources makes the system more resilient—helping it handle droughts, emergencies, population growth, and climate uncertainty.

Treatment Process

Hetch Hetchy Water: The water is so clean that it does not require filtration, but it still undergoes **UV disinfection and chlorine, pH adjustment** (to reduce pipe corrosion), **Fluoridation** (for dental health) and **Chloramination** (to maintain disinfection and limit byproducts).

Local Bay Area Water: Water from other resources is treated at the **Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant** (Alameda County and other non-Hetch Hetchy sources) or **Harry Tracy Treatment Plant** (San Mateo County sources). These plants use filtration and disinfection, fluoridation, taste and odor control, and corrosion control.

In 2025, no groundwater was used from Non-Hetch Hetchy upcountry sources and Groundwater wells. A very small amount (0.38%) of treated water was imported from the Valley Water District during April and May.

The **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)** manages a diverse water supply to ensure long-term sustainability and protect against challenges like climate change, regulatory shifts, and natural disasters.



WATER QUALITY

The San Francisco Regional Water System conducts extensive testing to ensure water quality—over **45,550 tests in 2025 alone**, along with continuous monitoring during treatment.

As water moves through the environment, it naturally picks up minerals, possible radioactive materials, and substances from animals or human activity. These are called **contaminants**, and small amounts are normal—even in bottled water. Their presence doesn't automatically mean the water is unsafe.

To protect public health, strict limits are set by regulators like the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board for tap water, and by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (along with California law) for bottled water. These standards ensure that drinking water remains safe.

CONTAMINANTS AND REGULATIONS

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, oceans, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Contaminants present may include:

Microbial contaminants (e.g., viruses and bacteria) from sewage, septic systems, farms, and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants (e.g., salts and metals) from natural sources or runoff from cities, industry, or agriculture

Pesticides and herbicides from farms, urban runoff, and household use

Organic chemical contaminants from industrial processes, gas stations, agriculture, and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or result from energy and mining operations

To learn more about contaminants and their potential health effects, contact:

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791
or
www.epa.gov/safewater

PROTECTION OF WATERSHEDS

The San Francisco Regional Water System regularly checks the health of its water sources through **watershed sanitary surveys**:

- The **Hetch Hetchy source** is reviewed **every year**
- Other surface water sources are reviewed **every five years** (most recently in 2021)

These surveys evaluate overall **sanitary conditions** of the watershed, **water quality** in reservoirs, protection efforts carried out with partners like the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, and results of **past management and protection activities**.

They also identify ongoing **potential contamination risks**, which include wildfires, wildlife, livestock, and human activities.

BORON DETECTION

- In 2025, boron levels of **1.8–2.3 ppm** were found in raw water from **Pond F3 East** in the Alameda Watershed. This is **above California's notification level of 1 ppm**, which is a threshold for awareness—not an automatic safety violation.
- To manage this, the water was **blended with cleaner water** from **San Antonio Reservoir** before treatment at the **Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant**. This blending step **reduced boron concentrations to well below 1 ppm** before the water entered the treatment process.
- Boron itself is a **naturally occurring element**, commonly released into water when rocks and soil break down over time.



FLUORIDATION AND DENTAL FLUOROSIS

Fluoridation of drinking water is **required by California law** and is widely recognized as a safe and effective way to prevent tooth decay. The California State Water Resources Control Board recommends maintaining fluoride at **0.7 mg/L (ppm)**—a level supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as ideal for protecting teeth while minimizing side effects.

What this means for health

- At this level, fluoride helps **reduce cavities** across the population
- There is a **small chance** that infants who consume formula mixed with fluoridated water may develop **mild dental fluorosis**

About dental fluorosis

- Usually appears as **faint white lines or streaks on teeth**
- Often **too subtle to notice without magnification**
- Even when visible, it is **purely cosmetic and not harmful**

If you have concerns, talk to your healthcare provider or contact the SWRCB. For more information, visit:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html
www.cdc.gov/fluoridation
www.sfpuc.gov/TapWater

SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

Some individuals are **more vulnerable to contaminants** in drinking water, including: people undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, and some elderly individuals and infants. These groups should consult their healthcare providers about drinking water safely.

The San Francisco Regional Water System regularly tests for Cryptosporidiosis, caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium*. In 2025, it was found at **very low levels** in both source and treated water. Current testing methods used by the United States Environmental Protection Agency **cannot tell whether the organisms are alive or capable of causing illness**. Infection only occurs if the organism is ingested. If illness occurs, it may include: nausea, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and headaches.

For more information on reducing the risk of infection, contact:

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791
or
www.epa.gov/safewater



LEAD AND YOUR DRINKING WATER

Exposure to lead can cause serious health effects at any age, but especially for pregnant women and young children. Infants and children may experience: lower IQ and attention span and learning and behavioral problems. Adults may face increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney and nervous system issues.

Lead in drinking water usually does not come from the water supply itself, but from other service lines and household plumbing materials (pipes, solder, fixtures).

The San Francisco Regional Water System ensures high-quality water and works to remove lead pipes in the system, but cannot control plumbing inside individual homes.

Also, lead levels can change over time, so even if a test once showed no lead, exposure could still occur later.

For tips on checking your home plumbing, visit www.sfpuc.gov/lead

To learn more about lead in drinking water or testing options, visit www.epa.gov/water/lead

WATER QUALITY AND TREATMENT SPOTLIGHTS

Making Upgrades: Ozonation at Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant

Warmer temperatures and climate-driven changes have led to more frequent algal blooms in local reservoirs, sometimes causing an “earthy” taste or odor in drinking water. To address this, the SFPUC is installing ozone treatment at the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant. Once completed in 2028, the new system will treat water from San Antonio, Calaveras, and, if needed, Hetch Hetchy Reservoirs. Ozone effectively removes taste- and odor-causing compounds and has been used at the Harry Tracy Plant since the 1990s.

SFPUC Treatment Plants Earn National Recognition

In 2025, the American Water Works Association honored both the Sunol Valley and Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plants for outstanding water quality, recognizing 25 and 20 years of performance beyond regulatory standards, respectively.

Water Quality Strategic Plan Update

The SFPUC’s Water Quality Division continues to proactively plan for future challenges. In 2025, the division updated its Water Quality Strategic Plan, first adopted in 2008, to guide future investments and actions that protect water quality. The updated plan outlines current efforts and new recommendations, and is available at www.sfpuc.org under Water Quality Planning.



Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. *PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.*

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs or MCLGs as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring, reporting, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standard (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

Regulatory Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Turbidity: A water clarity indicator that measures cloudiness of the water and is also used to indicate the effectiveness of the filtration system. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

KEY WATER QUALITY TERMS



CITY OF FOSTER CITY - Water Quality Data for Year 2025 ⁽¹⁾

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS	Unit	MCL/TT	PHG or (MCLG)	Range or Level Found	Average or [Max]	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
TURBIDITY						
Unfiltered Hetch Hetchy Water	NTU	5	N/A	0.3 - 0.5 ⁽²⁾	[2.1]	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1	N/A	-	[0.4]	Soil runoff
	-	TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	99.97%	-	Soil runoff
Filtered Water from Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant (HTWTP)	NTU	TT = Max 1	N/A	-	[0.1]	Soil runoff
	-	TT = Min 95% of samples ≤ 0.3 NTU	N/A	100%	-	Soil runoff
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS AND PRECURSOR						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	N/A	36.3 - 52.2	42.8 ⁽³⁾	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Five Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	N/A	22.6 - 36.8	29.8 ⁽³⁾	
Bromate	ppb	10	0.1	1.9 - 4.1	[3.5] ⁽⁴⁾	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
<i>E. coli</i>	-	0 PS	(0)	-	0	Human or animal fecal waste
INORGANICS						
Chromium (VI)	ppb	10	0.02	ND - 0.1	0.0	Leaching from natural deposits
Fluoride ⁽⁶⁾ (raw water)	ppm	2.0	1	ND - 0.9	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	10	10	ND - 0.4	ND	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (including free chlorine and chloramine)	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	0.58 - 3.92	[2.52] ⁽⁴⁾	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
CONSTITUENTS WITH SECONDARY STANDARDS						
	Unit	SMCL	PHG	Range	Average	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	<3 - 19	9.8	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Iron	ppb	300	N/A	<6 - 36	12	Leaching from natural deposits
Manganese	ppb	50	N/A	<2 - 2.7	<2	Leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	µS/cm	1600	N/A	32 - 346	207	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	1 - 45	21	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	N/A	24 - 197	117	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity	NTU	5	N/A	<0.1 - 0.3	0.1	Soil runoff
LEAD AND COPPER						
	Unit	AL	PHG	Range	90th Percentile	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	15	0.2	1.0 - 3.4 ⁽⁶⁾	2.4	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems
Copper	ppb	1300	300	5.6 - 94 ⁽⁷⁾	45	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems

Footnotes:

All results met State and Federal drinking water health standards.

- (1) These are monthly average turbidity values measured every 4 hours daily at Tesla Treatment Facilities.
- (2) This is the highest locational running annual average value.
- (3) This is the highest running annual average value.
- (4) Natural fluoride in the Hetch Hetchy source was ND. Elevated fluoride levels in raw water at both SVWTP and HTWTP were attributed to transfers of fluoridated Hetch Hetchy water into the local reservoirs. The fluoride level in our treated water ranged from 0.5 ppm to 0.8 ppm with an average of 0.7 ppm.
- (5) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2025. 0 of 39 site samples collected at consumer taps had lead concentrations above the Regulatory Action Level.
- (6) The most recent Lead and Copper Rule monitoring was in 2025. 0 of 39 site samples collected at consumer taps had copper concentrations above the Regulatory Action Level.
- (7) The detected chlorate in the treated water is a degradation product of sodium hypochlorite used by the SFRWS for water disinfection.
- (9) The range and average values of the total organic carbon were from operational monitoring results at Alameda East, SVWTP effluent, and HTWTP effluent.
- (9) The range and average values of the total organic carbon were from operational monitoring results at Tesla Treatment Facilities.

Note: Additional water quality data may be obtained by calling the City of Foster City phone number at 650-286-8140.

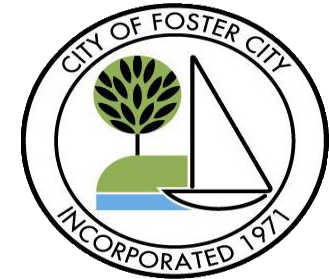
CITY OF FOSTER CITY - Water Quality Data for Year 2025 ⁽¹⁾

KEY	
< / ≤	less than / less than or equal to
Max	Maximum
Min	Minimum
N/A	Not Available
ND	Non-detect
NL	Notification Level
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
ORL	Other Regulatory Level
ppb	part per billion
ppm	part per million
PS	Number of Positive Sample
RAL	Regulatory Action Level
µS/cm	microSiemens/centimeter

WATER HARDNESS SCALE TABLE		
Classification	Hardness in mg/L	Hardness in ppm
Soft	0 - 60	less than 60
Moderately Hard	61 - 120	60 - 120
Hard	121 - 180	121 - 180

UCMR5 SAMPLING RESULTS							
Detected Contaminants	Year Tested	Unit	NL	PHG or (MCLG)	In Compliance	SFPUC Range	SFPUC Average
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)	2023	ppt	500	N/A	Yes	ND-3.0	3.0
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2023	ppt	3	N/A	Yes	ND-3.0	3.0
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	2023	ppt	6.5	N/A	Yes	ND-3.95	4.0

NON-REGULATED WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS	Unit	ORL	Range	Average
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	8 - 131	64
Bromide	ppb	N/A	<10 - 29	24
Boron	ppb	1000 (NL)	21 - 71	43
Calcium (as Ca)	ppm	N/A	3.1 - 29	16
Chlorate ⁽⁸⁾	ppb	800 (NL)	<20 - 281	88
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	cyst/L	N/A	0 - 0.06	0.01
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	ppm	N/A	8.1 - 112	62
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	0.2 - 10	59.0
pH	-	N/A	8.6 - 9.6	9.1
Silica	ppm	N/A	5.3 - 7.8	6.2
Sodium	ppm	N/A	3.1 - 29	18
Total Organic Carbon ⁽⁹⁾	ppm	N/A	1.4 - 3.1	2.1



NOTE: Additional water quality data may be obtained by calling the City of Foster City Public Works Maintenance phone number at 650-286-8140.

CONTACT INFO

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please contact EMID at 1-650-286-8140 or publicworks@fostercity.org for assistance.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua para beber. Favor de comunicarse EMID a 1-650-286-8140 o publicworks@fostercity.org para asistirlo en español con alguien que lo entienda bien.

此份水質報告，內有重要資訊。請找他人為你翻譯和解說清楚。

EMID GOVERNANCE

The EMID President and Board of Directors serve as the governing authority for the EMID water system. They hold public meetings on the **first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Foster City Council/Board Chambers**, located at **620 Foster City Blvd., Foster City, California.**

An agenda for each EMID meeting is posted on the City of Foster City website at:

<https://www.fostercity.org/agendasandminutes>



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Foster City, CA 94404