



Heather Hamann

Record Heat Draws Many to Beach

With temperatures soaring into triple digits even on the Island City, Alamedans found the waters of San Francisco Bay a welcome respite. The heat remained even after the sun set behind San Francisco and cast its glow on the waters of Crown Beach.

Blackout Impacts West End, Leads to Sewage Overflow

Ekene Ikeme

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is urging people to stay out of the Oakland-Alameda Estuary after 50,000 gallons of untreated sewage was released into the water Saturday, Aug. 15.

EBMUD posted about 20 signs along the estuary Saturday morning alerting people not to swim, boat or make any bodily contact with the water due to the high bacteria levels caused by the sewage. The utility district also reached out to Bay Area news outlets; San Francisco Baykeeper, a San Francisco Bay advocacy group; local rowing clubs and the California Canoe & Kayak retail shop in Jack London Square to notify them of the potential danger in the estuary.

The advisory is still in effect as of Tuesday, Aug. 18. It will remain in effect until bacteria levels in the water drop below a certain threshold, according to EBMUD senior public information representative Andrea Pook.

"The water quality is being tested every day," said Pook. "As soon as water samples indicates it's safe, we will notify the public. We are hoping by midweek or the end of the week it will be safe."

Pook said EBMUD initially expected the bacteria levels to drop below the threshold in three to five days, but rain on Sunday morning delayed their expectations.

EBMUD notified the California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB) of the discharge of sewage. The board is responsible for preserving quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment. EBMUD has been notifying CSWRCB of the water sample results.

The discharge of sewage into the estuary was caused by equipment failure due to an unexpected power outage Friday, Aug. 14, at EBMUD's main wastewater treatment plant

in West Oakland, according to the EBMUD press release.

"The wastewater treatment received no power from PG&E between 5:10 pm and 6:50 pm. on Friday, resulting in major flooding of the pump station that transports sewage from East Bay communities via pipes to the plant for treatment," the press release stated.

EBMUD crews worked through the night to restore the pump station at the plant. They also stored excess sewage in storage basins. However, they were unable to stop the excess flow of sewage from entering the estuary.

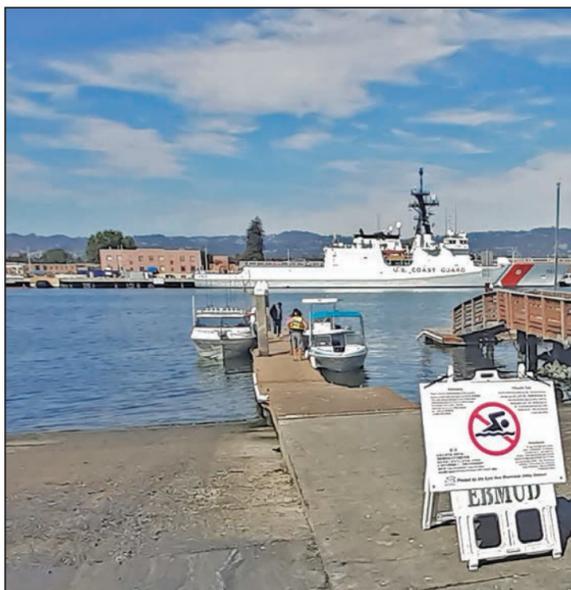
"Flows exceeded the storage capacity before full operations could be restored and EBMUD

discharged raw sewage into the Oakland-Alameda Estuary at the foot of Alice Street. Discharges occurred between approximately 4 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning," the press release stated.

EBMUD officials said they were caught off guard by the suddenness of the power outage.

"There was nothing common about this power outage," said Pook. "We don't often get power outages at the facility. Usually during public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) we are given notice before any outages so we can reconfigure wiring to become independent of PG&E."

FIRE: Page 5



Dennis Evanosky

After the sewage spill, East Bay Municipal Utility District posted some 20 warning signs, like this one at the foot of Grand Street, warning people to avoid contact with the fouled water.

Farewell, MARAD?

Sun Staff Reports

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is seeking bids for a new berthing port for a fleet of ships that are currently docked at Alameda Point.

City officials learned MARAD was seeking bids in July, according to reports. Officials were not consulted by MARAD before they began seeking bids. MARAD operates five ships (*Gem State*, *Keystone State*, *Grand Canyon State*, *Cape Orlando* and *Admiral Callaghan*) that are currently docked at Alameda Point.

If MARAD were to leave Alameda Point, they would be leaving six years before their 20-year lease agreement ends. According to the 2006 lease agreement, MARAD must give the city a 90-day notice before termination of the agreement. The City and MARAD revised the 20-year agreement in 2017 with the remaining years a series of one-year lease agreements that would last until 2026, according to reports.

MARAD is seeking a new home for the vessels because the federal government does not want to pay the estimated \$10 million cost of dredging needed so the vessels can move freely from their dock, according to reports. MARAD is responsible for paying the dredging costs, while the city of Alameda is responsible for hiring the company.

In November 2017, dredging the area cost about \$4.5 million. City officials said the price tag to dredge the area now is estimated between \$8 to \$10 million. City officials said the City Council

would be willing to carry some of the financial burden of dredging the area if the ships were to remain at Alameda Point.

MARAD currently pays the city \$725 per ship docked at Alameda Point per day, which comes to about \$1.3 million a year in rent to the city. The city uses the money to help with maintenance costs at Alameda Point. At the beginning of the agreement, MARAD paid the city about \$2.4 million in annual rent. MARAD used to dock seven vessels at Alameda Point before two larger vessels were removed from the pier.

MARAD, which is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, operates the five ships at anchor at the edge of the bay near the USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum. The MARAD vessels operate three piers at the site. The five ships are among 46 vessels that make up the Ready Reserve Force (RRF) docked at coastal spots across the country, including in Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina and Maryland.

The RRF is a subset of vessels within MARAD's National Defense Reserve Fleet ready to support the rapid worldwide deployment of U.S. military forces. As a key element of Department of Defense, the RRF primarily supports transport of Army and Marine Corps unit equipment, combat support equipment and initial resupply during critical surge periods, according to the MARAD website. RRF ships also assist with humanitarian relief and transporting supplies after a natural disaster.



Dennis Evanosky

Alameda's MARAD fleet, docked at Alameda Point near USS Hornet, are reportedly looking for a new home.

Hornet Open for Tours

Sun Staff Reports

USS *Hornet* partially reopened on Aug. 1 and has seen some 900 visitors cross its threshold since then. Last week, visitors helped the *Hornet* celebrate Victory over Japan (VJ) day. The famous aircraft carrier hosted a number of small displays and visitors were treated to a flyover. The *Hornet's* Decorated Docents were on hand to answer questions about *Hornet's* role in

World War II.

If you would like to be involved with this famous carrier, *Hornet* will hold a new Volunteer orientation from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., this Saturday, Aug. 22. To learn more about volunteering or about the *Hornet's* new hours, call (510) 521-8448 or email info@uss-hornet.org.

Contact Alameda Sun Staff at editor@alamedasun.com.

Sun Delivery Delayed at USPS

Dennis Evanosky

Each Tuesday evening, the presses roll the *Alameda Sun* right on schedule at Wesco Graphics in Tracy. Wesco employees quarter-fold more than 1,200 *Alameda Sun* newspapers for mailing. They run them through the addressing machine and sort them into mailing into bags for the postal carriers in the 94501 and 94502 Zip codes.

The press also prints an additional 2,000 newspapers for the *Sun* to distribute. Wesco then delivers the newspapers right on

time to Alameda. Joe Loparo distributes some 1,800 newspapers all over Alameda.

By 1 p.m., Wednesday, the *Sun* has delivered the papers for its subscribers to the bulk-mail center in Oakland. The employees there make certain that the papers are ready for delivery to Alameda.

At that moment both the *Alameda Sun* and the bulk-mail employees lose control over the newspaper and its time and day of delivery.

That responsibility rests entirely with the Alameda Post Office

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Betty Young

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:30	19:53
Aug. 21	6:31	19:52
Aug. 22	6:32	19:50
Aug. 23	6:32	19:49
Aug. 24	6:33	19:48
Aug. 25	6:34	19:46
Aug. 26	6:35	19:45



Photo by Richard Lewis

Waiting Their 'Tern'

Caspian terns "loaf" on an Oregon beach. Read more about these birds in the Alameda Wildlife column on page 3.

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