

## November 12, 2019 Easy Hike: Old San Pablo Trail

**The hike starts at 10:00** at the EBMUD trailhead at Camino Pablo / Bear Creek Road .



**Hike Description:** This 1.5 hour hike is an easy 3.5 miles (or longer if you'd like) with an elevation gain of 240 feet - fairly flat. EMBUD Permit Required. (Dave Davis has a group permit) The trail is a nice walk parallel to San Pablo Creek with nice views of the San Pablo Reservoir. No dogs are allowed.

We start the hike zig-zag down the short, rocky trail into the wooded riparian habitat of San Pablo Creek. After about 2/10ths of a mile we'll reach an intersection with the Oursan Trail. We can go out on the bridge and check out the creek before continuing. The San Pablo Creek flows for 18.7 miles and drains one of the largest watersheds in the East Bay with 34 named tributaries. The creek was dammed in 1919 forming the San Pablo Reservoir. If you continue on Oursan Trail you'll reach a meadow with large pine trees and a few scattered picnic tables. We will continue on Old San Pablo Trail.



After a half mile we'll reach EBMUD Watershed Headquarters. Before long, you'll begin enjoying wonderful views of San Pablo Reservoir. The Reservoir was built in 1919 by the East Bay Water Co., a predecessor of EBMUD. The reservoir refused to fill up during the first ten years until they started piping water from the Pardee Reservoir in the Sierras. Today it provides water for 20% of EBMUD's customers. You may notice ducks and geese who winter here and herons and egrets who raise their young along the shores.

The trail winds through a combination of oak, Monterey pine, and California bay trees. At 1.7 miles (and roughly 45 minutes) you'll reach Old San Pablo Dam Road. This is where we turn around.

To make the hike longer you cross the road to reach the intersection with Inspiration Trail. If you're looking for a more rigorous hike, you can take that trail to the left (which is mainly fire roads) for about 2 miles and you'll climb up to Inspiration Point (1040 feet of elevation) or you can go right and continue on Old San Pablo Trail for almost four more miles, passing the marina, all the way to the dam and Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area.

**Bring:** Water, hiking boots, hat and trekking poles if you use them. There are no toilet facilities at the trail head. There are some restrooms and water available along the Old San Pablo Trail.

**Directions to the Trail Head:** Take CA24 west to the Orinda exit. Turn north on Camino Pablo, which becomes San Pablo Dam Road. Take it to Bear Creek Road. Take a right on Bear Creek and you'll see a small parking area immediately to the left. This is the Orinda Connector Staging Area.

**Ride Sharing:** Ride-sharing is highly recommended since the trailhead parking lot is small. There's some additional parking on the street leading to the Wagner Ranch School across from the trailhead.

**Optional Lunch:** in downtown Orinda at the Europa Hofbrau, 64 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA..

**Hike Leader:** Jan Persson, C: (206) 618-9865 [zpersson@msn.com](mailto:zpersson@msn.com)

**Coordinator:** Dave Davis, H: 838-1753 [dav.davis@comcast.net](mailto:dav.davis@comcast.net)