



Tuesday, June 01, 2004

Citizen concerned about Bass Lake, Serrano connection

By Kathy Prevost, President Bass Lake Action Committee

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It was with great concern that I read this past week that Serrano Parkway is to be connected with Bass Lake Road prior to the completion of the widening and realignment of Bass Lake Road.

The opening of Serrano Parkway will bring a deluge of traffic made up of those drivers seeking to avoid the congestion of El Dorado Hills Boulevard and those looking for a speedier access to both Highway 50 and Green Valley Road.

Last Fall our organization, the Bass Lake Action Committee, specifically asked the County Department of Transportation when Serrano Parkway would be opened to Bass Lake Road. At that time we were told the parkway would be maintained as a gated fire road until the improvements and realignment of Bass Lake Road were completed.

Bass Lake Road in its present condition is a dangerous road to travel. That fact is undisputed by most people who have driven it.

According to a 2003 Engineering and Traffic Survey Report by DOT, the accident rate on Bass Lake Road is much higher than is normally experienced on similarly situated roads. DOT concluded that, based on the increase in traffic volumes, the number and severity of reported accidents, and the lack of shoulders on the road, the speed limit should be reduced from 45 to 40 MPH on Bass Lake Road.

We acknowledge that drivers would like to use Serrano Parkway to access Bass Lake Road, and vice versa.

But prematurely opening the road to more traffic is not in the best interests of the driving public when the increased risks are taken into consideration. Let's not worsen the situation for the many Bass Lake residents who must travel the road daily with a traffic burden that can only end in tragedy. More traffic should be added only when the road is improved to a safe level. Thank you for your time.

The foregoing is a summary of a letter written to El Dorado County District One Supervisor Rusty Dupray and a number of government officials. Those wishing to view the entire letter may access it on the Bass Lake Action Committee web site www.basslakeaction.org.