

# El Dorado Hills Telegraph

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## County, school district consider land deal for new school

By: *Philip Wood, The Telegraph*

The Rescue Union School District is in the early stages of negotiating with the county to purchase 14 acres of land east of Bass Lake Regional Park for a new elementary school.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors gave the go ahead for its staff to look into the possibility of selling 14 acres of the 41-acre area designated for a regional park.

"The concept the school district told us about is with some joint use facilities," said El Dorado County Director of General Services Keith Leech. "There might be some opportunity to leverage some resources like soccer fields and parking."

School district and county officials were scheduled to meet this week for the first time to discuss the concept.

"It's premature to talk price," Leech said.

The county first must assess the value of the land in question, Leech said, adding he hoped they could sit down with the district with numbers in about 60 to 90 days to see if it's worth going forward with a deal.

The new school, which would take about four years to plan and build, would be built to meet the area's growing population, and would serve 600 students.

Doug Wolcott, director of facilities and operations for the school district, said it's too early to make any decisions since they don't know the price of the land.

"We haven't made any decisions," Wolcott said. "We're just looking right now."

Leech said there are a lot of considerations the board of supervisors would have to make if such a deal were to go through, including if the county could facilitate the park minus 14 acres and still provide everything the community wants.

Some of those amenities could include lighted ball fields and soccer fields.

"It's real early in the game here," Leech said.

The new school could cost around \$16 million, however, four years down the price tag could be higher.

The idea for putting a school on land where the park is planned was first kicked around a few years ago when someone from the district approached County Supervisor Rusty Dupray with the idea.

"We do want to build a regional park there, but there is also the need for a school there," Dupray said.

He said the next step is to see about the feasibility of selling some of the acreage to the school district.

"If we do locate a school there, then there will some joint use," he said.

If the cost of the land proves feasible for the school district, Dupray said, they would seek input from the public and

keep the dealings as public as possible.

The district was also looking at land near Serrano, and still could be.

However, Wolcott said the land there is going for about \$1 million an acre.

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