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EID to sell Bass Lake, Forebay ballfield

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Bass Lake is for sale. So is a 14-acre parcel at Forebay Reservoir.

The El Dorado Irrigation District declared these two properties surplus in 2011. On Nov. 21, 2012, in accordance with state law the El Dorado Irrigation District issued letters to El Dorado County, Amador County and school districts notifying them they have 60 days to provide a written letter of interest.

So far EID has received letters from El Dorado County and Rescue Union School District. That starts up another 60-day period, this one for negotiating a sale or lease. The county is interested in two parcels at Bass Lake and also the Forebay property that includes a senior center and baseball field. Rescue is interested in all four properties within its boundaries, including the lake and a former sewer pond site.

EID staff will commission an appraisal of the properties, according to a Jan. 14 report by General Manager Jim Abercrombie.

EID used Bass Lake to provide backup water for the recycled water system when that system ran short. But that use of Bass Lake was discontinued in 2009, said EID General Counsel Tom Cumpston. Backup for recycled water now comes through pipes that deliver treated water instead of raw lake water.

The lake continues to have water in it from natural runoff, which Cumpston estimates at 60 acre-feet a year.

All total EID has 140 acres at Bass Lake that is surplus.

Director George Osborne indicated Jan. 14 there was a movement afoot to form a community services district in Pollock Pines to acquire the Little League field and senior center near Forebay.