



Print Page

## Aug. 29, 2005- Serrano, Bass Lake connector open

By NOEL STACK, City editor

EL DORADO HILLS - White doves fluttered out from under a fractured clock and flew into the clear blue sky to mark the opening of the Serrano Parkway-Bass Lake Road connector Friday morning.

A crowd of about 30 applauded.

"This is going to be a huge help to traffic," Supervisor Rusty Dupray said before the ceremony. "It's a well-planned project."

The connector is 2,200 feet long and extends Serrano Parkway to intersect with Bass Lake Road, giving drivers an alternate route to and from Highway 50 and Cameron Park. The only other route is to travel west on Serrano Parkway and take El Dorado Hills Boulevard, which in some sections handles 36,035 cars per day - the highest in the county, according to recent traffic counts.

The connector was expected to open to the public no later than 5 p.m. Friday.

The \$1.8 million price tag was paid by Serrano Associates and the county will later reimburse the developer for the cost.

"Someday," Dupray joked.

Contractor Lorang Brothers of Colfax completed the job with the help of El Dorado County Department of Transportation staff. PG&E, SBC and the El Dorado Irrigation District also tied in projects with the new road construction.

Supervisor Baumann said staff did a great job and got right to work on the connection "when we started hollering and screaming and yelling to get the project done."

"This is one of the best (road) openings we have ever had," she added.

Baumann and Dupray represent the people of El Dorado Hills in their respective districts. Together, they released the doves.

Jill Shannon, a spokesperson for Serrano Associates, said the new connection will be great for the people who live in the Serrano community. It's been tough, Shannon said, because Bass Lake Road was right there but people had to drive all the way around.

Dupray said he wished the connection had been built years ago, when he had to drive his children from Cameron Park to Rolling Hills Middle School, taking the long route around.

Now drivers can just zip on through.

The connection also provides emergency crews with another way to access the Serrano community. Sheriff Jeff Neves, who attended Friday's ceremony, said that while the connection is labeled as a traffic relieving project, it's also a public safety project.

"It will help with response times," Neves said.

In addition to connecting Serrano Parkway and Bass Lake Road, DOT staff and contractors are working on realigning Bass Lake Road and providing shoulder space. That project should be complete sometime in October.



TIME FLIES was the theme of the Serrano Parkway-Bass Lake Road connector project. To mark its opening, Supervisors Rusty Dupray and Helen Baumann released about 40 doves from beneath a clock at a ceremony Friday. The doves are trained to return to their Sacramento home. See story "Serrano ..." Democrat photo by Joanne McCubrey