

The



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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SERRANO PARKWAY AND BASS LAKE ROAD PROJECT COMPLETED

The welcome improvements to the intersection of Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway are complete. The improvements included the realignment of Sienna Ridge Road (formerly old Bass Lake Road), and the installation of traffic signals at the resulting four-way intersection of Bass Lake Road, Serrano Parkway, and Sienna Ridge Road. The signals are generally set on default green for Bass Lake Road, with demand-actuated green for the cross street.

The stop signs on Bass Lake Road at the old Sienna Ridge Road intersection (near the El Dorado Irrigation District yard entrance) has been removed. The redundant portion of Sienna Ridge Road, once known as Bass Lake Road, has been abandoned and has been removed.

The intersection improvements were not required to be made until the start of the final phase of the proposed commercial project at the intersection. However, the perceived need for traffic controls at the intersection and current low construction costs prompted Parker Development to accelerate the schedule into 2013.

Elsewhere, right and left turn lanes and bike lanes were recently added to the intersection of Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road at a cost of about \$1.3 million.

The construction of a portion of the new Silver Springs Parkway and its three-way signalized intersection at Green Valley Road, next to Pleasant Grove School, is proceeding on schedule. The northern section of the road is expected to cost about \$8 million, while the signals at the Green Valley Road are

expected to cost about \$1.7 million.

The southern portion of Silver Springs Parkway, which will link to Bass Lake Road, is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$6 million to construct. Right-of-way and funding issues have delayed construction of the southern portion of the road. ~



BALLOT INITIATIVES SEEK TO CURB COUNTY HOME GROWTH

Two initiative measures seem destined to be included on the El Dorado County ballots this November, both aim at limiting growth in the county.

Rural Communities United, backed by former El Dorado County supervisor Bill Center and accomplished political pollster Jim Moore, the most visible faces behind Measure Y, has filed a county ballot initiative titled "Fix Highway 50 Traffic First/Keep Us Rural." Moore has been quoted as saying, "Our goal is to stop approving parcels for at least 10 years, and save the existing road capacity for jobs projects, granny flats . . . for the people that are here. All five supervisors are in agreement on that." Center and Moore base their opposition on the fact that the General Plan's Housing Element designates "20,000 approved housing units that haven't been built yet," said Moore. "If they approve any more it will just make traffic worse."

Proponents of the initiative say that the 'Fix Traffic First' policy will require county staff to abide by the Caltrans determination of Highway 50 traffic levels. They say that here will be no more redefining of the rules to get around the law: if Caltrans determines Hwy 50 to be at LOS F (stop & go/gridlock), then El Dorado County must acknowledge it and stop approving major subdivisions.

The Shingle Springs Community Alliance, by residents who are opposed to the proposed San Stino and Tilden Park development projects, have filed "Protect Rural Communities/ Fix Community Region Line Flaws." The Community Region Lines initiative seeks to amend the 2004 El Dorado County General Plan, "to change the community region designations for the communities of Pollock Pines, Camino, Cedar

VOLUNTARILY REDUCE WATER USE SAYS EID

Board Stops Short Of Surcharges

The El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors last Tuesday declared a Stage 2 Water Supply Warning, passing up Stage 1, and unanimously asked customers to voluntarily reduce water consumption 30 percent.

Because recycled water is often supplemented with potable water, the water savings request also applies to recycled water customers.

The resolution took effect immediately, said General Counsel Tom Cumpston at Tuesday night's meeting.

The resolution declaring "the existence of an emergency" will enable the district to reduce fish flows from its Kyburz Diversion Dam and from its four alpine reservoirs as well as Jenkinson Lake in Sly Park.

The board did not enact a drought surcharge, a worry that brought a large audience to EID's meeting room at its Mosquito Road headquarters.

The board put off discussion of drought surcharges until the March 10 board meeting, though there was little enthusiasm on the board at the Feb. 4 meeting for a surcharge. Also on the March agenda will be a discussion of whether to switch from voluntary to mandatory water cutbacks.

During its earlier January meeting, the El Dorado Irrigation District board had received an update from staff regarding the district's water supply in relation to the ongoing dry conditions. The district's service

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

I am sure that everyone is as happy as I am to see the winter rains finally arrive. It's been too dry too long.

I was also glad to see that Bass Lake seems to be recovering from its depleted state. No doubt the wildlife there is glad to see the rain and the lake filling. Reports that I have seen say that the lake is home to a number of birds, including geese, pelicans, and eagles.

I have been looking into the history of Bass Lake. Preliminary study has revealed that the American Reservoir, now called Bass Lake, was created around 1855 to serve as the western terminus of what was then called the Crawford Ditch. The Crawford Ditch, often known by other names, such as the Eureka Ditch and the Park Canal Extension, originated near Sly Park on the North Fork of the Cosumnes River and went through Diamond Springs before emptying into the American Reservoir. The ditch was originally built to serve the gold miners of southwest El Dorado County. Later it furnished agricultural irrigation water to farms and orchards around what was then the town of Clarksville.

After changing hands several times, in 1969 the reservoir and the ditch were sold to El Dorado Irrigation District. EID rebuilt the dam a few years later, but the ditch fell into disrepair and little or no traces of the ditch remain. But we still have the American Reservoir, which is now called Bass Lake.

It's nice to know that we have a bit of Gold Rush history right in our back yard.

And let's hope we get a lot more rain and snow this winter.

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President

DROUGHT (continued)

area has experienced two consecutive dry years, with calendar year 2013 being the driest on record.

The relief from fish flow requirements by the U.S. Forest Service, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is needed to save the water EID has in its four alpine reservoirs—Caples, Silver, Aloha and Echo lakes. Otherwise its FERC license would require EID to release 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) from its Kyburz Diversion Dam, escalating to 60 cfs through June and 40 cfs in July.

Instead, with the emergency declaration, EID will release 15 cfs below the dam. The release from the alpine reservoirs will be dropped from 5 cfs to 2 cfs. That would save 5,000 acre-feet, said General Manager Jim Abercrombie.

EID is not solely dependent on water from Folsom Reservoir, since EID also draws water from other sources. As a result, the District has not experienced the same devastating consequences as other water purveyors who are reliant on Folsom Reservoir.

EID's Drought Preparedness Plan, adopted by the Board in 2008, describes various stages of drought. Each stage outlines steps for the district and its customers to take if water shortages become progressively worse. In a stage one drought where water supplies are slightly restricted, customers are asked to reduce their water use—voluntarily—to help achieve up to a 15 percent reduction in demand. In order to prepare for potential continued dry conditions this winter, the District is moving forward to implement several operational strategies to minimize future impacts and conserve its supplies to the extent possible.

EID is encouraging customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by following the following suggestions: turn off your irrigation system for the winter or irrigate your landscape only one time per week if needed; inspect your irrigation system, repair any leaks, and adjust spray heads to prevent overspray; take advantage of EID's irrigation efficiency rebates; request complimentary plumbing retrofits for self-installation; fix all plumbing leaks promptly; sweep paved areas rather than washing with a hose; run dishwashers and clothes washers only when full; and turn off the water while shaving or brushing teeth.

Learn more about EID's response to the drought and water efficiency information at eid.org/drought. ~

Credit: Michael Raffety, Mt Democrat

INITIATIVES (continued)

Grove, Shingle Springs and the Green Valley Road corridor of El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park." Further, their proposed initiative states: "These communities have established rural commercial, residential, agricultural and recreational character that are not compatible with new 'high intensity urban and suburban type development' projects."

Supporters of the 'Keep us rural' policy say it will help retain the very valued open space lands remaining in and around the Community Regions, and prohibit changing low density residential land into high density. High density projects can no longer be forced into incompatible areas. They also claim that the proposals for projects such as Dixon Ranch, Central EDH (golf course rezone), Marble Valley, Lime Rock, and San Stino, will be stopped by this initiative if it is approved. This initiative is a pretty sure-fire answer to "what can we do to stop this?" they say.

Rural Communities United spokesman and Measure Y co-creator Bill Center said the second initiative might confuse voters—or worse, detract from the two groups' common goal. Both groups have to gather enough signatures to place their initiatives on the ballot.

Parker Development spokesman Kirk Bone said that Measure Y requires Parker to pay their fair share, and the 2011 Marble Valley Project Briefing Book estimates Marble Valley will have to pay \$80 million in road fees—a fact that the measure proponents often fail to mention. Those funds go to construct road improvements contemplated in the General Plan, according to Bone. "To the extent that our project triggers additional needed improvements, we pay for those too," he said. ~

Credit: Mike Roberts, Village Life



*Happy
Valentine's Day*



SUPERMARKETS UNDER SIEGE

Discount stores and boutique grocers threaten traditional chains

In Sacramento and beyond, niche retailers are threatening the future of traditional grocers.

"Smaller-format grocery expansion is the rule of the day, but nearly all of it is coming from niche players," according to a 2013 forecast from ChainLinks Retail Advisors. "Against this backdrop, it is only logical that the pace of grocery consolidation picks up and that most of the victims will be traditional grocers."

Discount stores factor prominently among those niche players, as do dollar-store chains, most of which are bolstering their grocery aisles.

"A number of major dollar-store chains are adding more freezer and refrigerator space as they seek to expand their offerings of consumables and compete more directly with traditional grocery players," according to a 2014 forecast from Cassidy Turley.

Existing retailers have beefed up their grocery offerings, too. Walmart Neighborhood Markets, the big-box retailer's grocery store concept, are popping up in the Sacramento area and beyond. Cassidy Turley calls its growth expansion "a game changer in the grocery world."

According to the ChainLinks report, "The arrival of yet another non-unionized grocery player, much less the largest retailer in the world and one which has infinitely greater buying power than even the strongest active grocery players, is the last thing that traditional grocers need."

Nevertheless, many specialty grocers continue to thrive. In December, Whole Foods executives announced plans to triple the number of stores to 1,200 across the U.S.

The expansion is consistent with a growing national focus on the healthy foods associated with these specialty stores. Consumer analyst Phil Lempert said interest in healthy eating isn't going away.

"Healthy options are on the rise. Look for supermarkets to replace high-sugar, high-fat snacks at the checkout with healthier on-the-go offerings," Lempert wrote in his 2014 forecast.

Lempert also expects global cuisine flavors, a prominent offering at many specialty markets, will be popular this year. "From school cafeterias to the dining room table, global flavors are sprouting up everywhere," Lempert said.

Credit: Sonya Sorich, Sac. Bus. Journal



SILVA VALLEY INTERCHANGE PROJECT BEGINS

Construction activity has begun on the long-awaited Silva Valley interchange, which will carry Silva Valley Parkway over Highway 50 and give motorists a chance to access Highway 50 at a location other than Bass Lake Road and El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

Phase 1 of the Silva Valley interchange project is planned just east of the current Silva Valley Parkway-White Rock Road thruway. The first phase includes building a new four-lane road and a six-lane bridge over Highway 50, as well as on-ramps and off-ramps and signalized intersections. Tong Road will be shifted to the north and the current Silva Valley Parkway and White Rock Road will remain a two-lane road.

Initial work, once scheduling and water pollution control plans are complete, will focus on footings for the new Silva Valley over-crossing and ramps as well as tree removal (before the birds can build nests), according to DOT Deputy Director, Engineering, John Kahling. When the spring construction season begins crews will tackle more heavy-duty roadwork, he said.

El Dorado Hills residents, Highway 50 commuters and visitors can expect construction to continue for about two years. Kahling said that if everything goes perfectly the first phase could be done in late 2015, but

realistically completion is probably sometime in 2016.

The Silva Valley interchange has been on many county maps since 1988. In anticipation of massive growth in El Dorado Hills, plans for the interchange were approved by Caltrans and county officials in 1991. The environmental review process began in 2010, and the supervisors unanimously approved the project's EIR in June 2011.

In October 2013, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved a \$29.715 million Silva Valley interchange construction contract with Myers & Sons Construction, a maximum \$3 million construction support services contract with Vail Cooper and Associates, and a maximum \$338,000 design support services contract with Mark Thomas & Co., the firm that designed the interchange.

Funding for the \$33 million phase 1 comes from a State and Local Partnership Program grant, two Silva Valley interchange set-aside funds, Highway 50 traffic impact mitigation fees, and El Dorado Irrigation District reimbursement. Developer-advanced funds provided by West Valley LLC (made up of AKT Development Corp. and builder Lennar Communities, the companies behind the Blackstone project on Latrobe Road), picked up a majority of the cost, \$22 million. The Board of Supervisors and West Valley reached a prepayment deal in 2004.

The Silva Valley interchange is the easternmost component of the 35-mile Capital Southeast Connector, a roadway designed to connect El Dorado County to Interstate 5 south of Elk Grove.

Phase two of the Silva Valley interchange project, currently in the planning phase with construction at least a decade out, calls for reconfigured onramps to accommodate the area's projected growth. The design of that second phase was recently the subject of a memorandum of understanding among the interchange designers, Clarksville Region Historical Society, and the US Corps of Engineers, to prevent the interchange from impinging upon historical artifacts in Old Clarksville, such as the Tong Family cemetery. ~

Credit Don Chaddock, EDH Telegraph

Happy Valentine's Day



PROPANE PRICES SPIKE

Many homeowners who heat their houses with propane have become sensitive to its recent price fluctuations. Roller-coaster prices of propane over the last few months has reflected an unusual demand for propane in other parts of the US due to unusually cold weather there.

In the Midwest, propane is used for both drying agricultural crops and heating homes and businesses. With the onset of severely cold weather seen over the past weeks, propane supplies in the Midwest are extremely tight. The high propane prices in the Midwest are the result of both increased demand for crop drying in November and

increased demand for space heating in the current cold weather.

Overall US propane prices, as tracked by the US Energy Information Administration, showed the wholesale rate as \$2.075 per gallon and the retail price as \$3.891 on February 3. These prices are a weighted average in the 48 contiguous states.

The wholesale rate at the Mont Belvieu, Texas, hub as of February 5 was \$1.5866 per gallon. Last year at this time it was \$0.8582.

The February 7 price for Bass Lake homeowners who contract with JS West Propane was \$2.50 per gallon, based on a fifty-cent markup over the wholesale price plus up to ten cents per gallon transportation charge. ~



BLAC AND EDHCS LLAD ASSESSMENT TALKS CONTINUE

The ongoing discussions relating to the charges to the Bass Lake Village Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD), which includes Hills of El Dorado (Zone A) and Woodridge (Zone B), continued last month with El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD). CSD Director Terry Crumpley is spearheading the effort to identify direct costs and indirect cost allocations.

It is hoped that we will be able to report their findings in a future Bass Lake Bulletin.

The LLAD assessments maintain the entry landscaping and the street lights of villages such as Woodridge and Hills of El Dorado under the management of the CSD. ~

BLAC BOARD MEETS

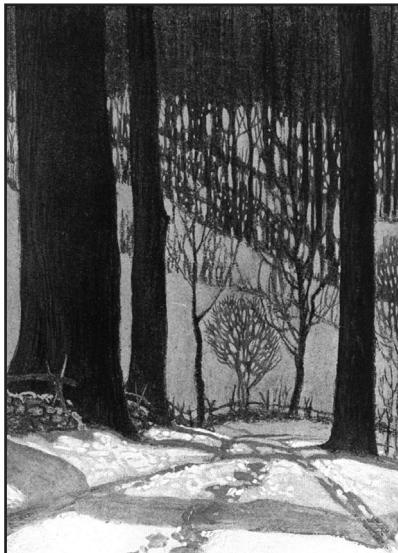
The first BLAC board meeting of 2014 was held on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills. It was announced that the Board of Directors has appointed Linda Sinnwell to the BLAC board of Directors as Director at Large pursuant to the BLAC Bylaws.

The meeting included a brief presentation by Ellen Van Dyke on the "Fix Traffic/Keep Us Rural" initiative recently filed by the Green Valley Alliance.

The next BLAC meeting will be held on May 5, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

BLAC members are reminded that the Board now meets quarterly during the year. Special meetings may be announced from time to time, and the annual membership meeting will continue to be held in December.

All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all BLAC board meetings. For additional information, contact Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~



February Twilight

I stood beside a hill
Smooth with new-laid snow,
A single star looked out
From the cold evening glow.
There was no other creature
That saw what I could see—
I stood and watched the evening star
As long as it watched me.

—Sara Teasdale

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