

# THE BASS LAKE BULLETIN

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community  
<http://basslakeaction.org>

## THE BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE

The Bass Lake Action Committee was formed by a group of concerned property owners in the Bass Lake Area and incorporated in 2003 as Non-profit organization, a 501(C)(4) corporation.

### Our Mission Statement:

To provide a voice for Bass Lake homeowners in dealing with the county and other community agencies.  
To keep homeowners informed about issues and meetings.



## EDH CSD BOARD DIRECTOR'S RESIGNATION STATUS UNKNOWN

*By John Davey*

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) Board of Directors has been the subject of recent controversy surrounding the resignation status of Director and Vice President Chuck King. King's initial communication of his intent to resign, subsequent retraction, and the district's public announcement of his resignation have created confusion regarding his current position on the board.

On January 23, King sent a letter to EDH CSD General Manager Mark Hornstra expressing his intention to resign.

*(continued on page 2)*



## EDH CSD BOARD DIRECTOR *(con't)*

However, he later rescinded this letter and maintains that he did not complete the official resignation process by submitting a resignation to the clerk of the board, as required by California Government Code Section 1750(f). King asserts that his status as a director in good standing has been confirmed by the district's general counsel.

Despite King's claims, a February 6 news release from GM Hornstra and Board President Stephen Ferry announced King's resignation and a board vacancy. Adding to the complexity, King was listed as a director on the February 13 board meeting agenda, with an asterisk noting that his office is allegedly vacant due to the purported resignation, but that he is exercising his office per the advice of the district's interim general counsel.

This situation follows a failed attempt by King to remove Ferry from his leadership role as board president. At the close of the January 16, 2025 Board Meeting King alleged that Ferry had repeatedly breached confidentiality, a claim Ferry disputed. King had requested a special meeting on the matter, but the motion failed.

King has stated his intention to address the 'misconduct' he alleges at the February 13 board meeting (*The February 13 Board Meeting was not*

*opened, following a fracas amongst the Board, and angry residents - see the Bulletin article "EDH CSD Board Meeting A No-Start In A Disappointing Turn" beginning on page 3). King cited the "immense severity" of Ferry's alleged misconduct, the board's lack of willingness to address his concerns, and personal family issues as contributing factors to his initial intent to resign. He claims he retracted his resignation before receiving any acknowledgement of his initial communication. Ferry commented that he was sorry King's time on the board was "not successful."*

*\* The EDH CSD Board of Directors February 27, 2025 Special Meeting Agenda no longer includes any reference to Director King, instead listing his Vice President position as 'vacant'.*

### SOURCES:

EDH CSD Meeting recordings  
[Village Life Feb 10, 2025 Reporting](#)

## EDH CSD GENERAL MANAGER RESIGNS

*By John Davey*

El Dorado Hills Community  
Services District (EDH CSD)  
General Manager Mark Hornstra

*(continued on page 3)*

## EDH CSD GM RESIGNS

(con't)

has resigned from his position. The announcement was made during a special meeting of the Board of Directors on February 12th.

Prior to entering closed session, Board President Stephen Ferry expressed the board's appreciation for Hornstra's leadership. Hornstra addressed the board and members of the public, stating his hope that the CSD would find a new general manager capable of addressing the district's various opportunities and challenges. He added, "I've given my all the last 13 months. I try to be fair and honest. If that's not good enough, I'm sorry."

The resignation comes amidst a period of uncertainty for the EDH CSD board, including the ongoing question surrounding the status of Director Chuck King's position. As noted on the February 13th board agenda, King is currently exercising his office "notwithstanding an unresolved claim that his office is alleged to be vacant due to his purported resignation," per the advice of the district's interim general counsel.

It was also confirmed on February 12th that EDH CSD Human Resources Manager Elise Hardy has resigned. *\*Author's opinion: I have attended dozens of EDH CSD meetings over the*

*years, and I found Mark Hornstra a breath of fresh air as EDH CSD General Manager, and committed to engaging with residents. His interactions with me, and many others that I have witnessed, have always been friendly and respectful, and our conversations always centered on his willingness to seek collaborative solutions. His departure leaves me saddened. I agree that both the aggressive, and passive-aggressive treatment of District Staff is without merit, and does nothing to benefit EDH, or to resolve disagreements or conflicts. As a community we can agree or disagree with District policies, or decisions, without attacking employees who are trying to do their jobs.*

SOURCES:

EDH CSD Meeting Recording  
[Village Life Feb 12, 2025 Reporting](#)

## EDH CSD BOARD MEETING A NO-START IN A DISAPPOINTING TURN

*By John Davey*

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 13 ended before it officially began, marking a further escalation of ongoing disputes within the board.

*(continued on page 4)*

## EDH CSD BOARD MEETING A NO-START

*(con't)*

Board President Stephen Ferry announced to the assembled crowd at the Norm Rowett Pavilion, “We're not going to start this meeting until the unelected person sitting up here at the dais leaves. Thank you.” Ferry was referring to Director Chuck King, whose status as an active board member has been in question following his initial resignation letter and subsequent retraction.

Director King responded, “I am not leaving, so it's up to him to decide what he wants to do. I am a member in good standing, and no action ... has been taken against me.” King has previously stated that personal matters contributed to his initial resignation, but that he later rescinded it. “Most importantly, I did not submit my resignation to the clerk of the board, as is required — reference California Government Code, Section 1750(f) — for the resignation to be official,” King explained. “My status as a director in good standing has been confirmed by EDH CSD general counsel.”

Interim District Counsel Derek Cole addressed the board and the public, stating, “Mr. King has a debatable, at a minimum claim, to be a member of this board. That is uncertain because of the manner in which he gave an email

regarding his resignation. I believe there is a substantial legal question whether that is, in fact, a resignation. Nobody has to agree that it is. Nobody has to agree that it wasn't. The point that I have brought to your attention, as your legal counsel, is that there's an issue and there is one person in this county who could resolve that, and that person sits in a courtroom in Placerville. So until ... such time as that remedy or right is brought to the attention of a judge in the superior court, there is no certainty on this matter.” Cole suggested that all five board members proceed with the meeting, and that any actions taken would remain valid even if King's position were later legally challenged.

Following Cole's remarks, President Ferry made no motion to open the meeting. Director Noelle Mattock then commented, “I think this is really disappointing for this board and this organization to devolve to this. We have important public business to do.”

Director King then addressed the crowd, stating, “What it really comes down to is you have a serious issue right there,” gesturing towards President Ferry. Director Heidi Hannaman countered, “Then tell us what it is.”

Cole then explained his position: “I have a member or a purported

*(continued on page 5)*

## EDH CSD BOARD MEETING A NO-START

*(con't)*

member who resigned and then unresigned. And I have to make a determination. Is that, do I have a four-member body or a five-member body?" Director Hannaman argued that no legal counsel was necessary after King's initial resignation. "What happens is, if someone resigns, there's no legal counsel to seek," she said. "It's done. You can't un-ring the bell." Cole responded that because King was asserting his right to his seat, he was obligated to provide guidance.

President Ferry then offered King a solution: "Mr. King, it would do this community a huge favor, a huge favor — because you're a huge guy — for you to just say, 'I'm going to court. Go to court, go get it done. We don't mind that, but ... this guy (gesturing at himself) is not putting you back on this board.'" King responded, "You haven't taken me off this board... I am on the board until you get a judge's order saying so or until this board votes me off. I'll take either one."

Director Mattock expressed her frustration with the proceedings: "It's mayhem, and people can continue to talk over people and members of the public can tell me to shut up and sit down. That is not good public decorum

and that is not how we should be acting."

Director Hannaman questioned King's motives: "I'm sorry that this is happening. But why are you doing this to us? Why are you doing this to the community? I mean, please, do you really want to be here on a technicality?" King responded, "I'm here because 15,000 people elected me to be here, or close to it. I'm here because this place sorely needs integrity and accountability and transparency. And these people sitting out here applauding right now have no idea what's going on in this place. Two months ago I had no idea. But I'm telling you right now, this place is a crap storm."

Assistant GM Stephanie Jantzen then pleaded with the board to proceed with the meeting: "I am sorry that all of you are going through this, but I am begging you to please continue this meeting... Our team cannot go through this anymore. I am concerned. We have more people that may be leaving this district who are serving our public... we need you as a board to come together."

The meeting ultimately dissolved without conducting any official business. Assistant GM Jantzen later stated to the Village Life that she was

*(continued on page 6)*

## EDH CSD BOARD MEETING A NO-START

(con't)

working with staff on options for moving forward.

*\* The EDH CSD Board of Directors February 27, 2025 Special Meeting Agenda no longer includes any reference to Director King, instead listing his Vice President position as 'vacant'.*



Virtual Participation:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83258713267>  
 Meeting ID:  
 83258713267  
 Call-In Option:  
 1 (855) 900-9833

Board of Directors  
 Special Meeting Agenda<sup>2</sup>  
 Thursday, February 27, 2025

Open Meeting to Closed Session - 5:30 p.m.  
 Convene to Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid  
 1021 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 - Norm Rowett Pavilion

Stephen J. Ferry, President  
 VACANT, Vice President  
 Michael Martinelli, Director  
 Heidi Hannaman, Director  
 Noelle Mattock, Director

**Mission Statement**

"Enhance the quality of life for the El Dorado Hills community through innovative, responsible leadership, and by providing superior services and facilities."

## EID BOARD APPROVES MULTIPLE PROJECTS

By John Davey

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) Board of Directors convened on January 20, 2025, and addressed a range of critical issues, including fire damage claims, infrastructure improvements, and the need for system upgrades.

General Manager Jim Abercrombie opened the meeting by acknowledging the efforts of EID employees who

worked to restore water service in Camino on Christmas Day. Senior Deputy General Counsel Elizabeth Leeper then provided an update on the insurance claim filed for damages caused by the 2021 Caldor Fire. The initial claim was for \$34 million, with \$23 million received to date. Leeper also confirmed that the \$2.3 million claim for storm damage to the Echo Conduit water pipeline in 2023 had been paid. When questioned by Board President Pat Dwyer about potential insurance premium increases, Leeper indicated that rates could rise by 20% in the near future.

The board unanimously approved several projects under the consent calendar, including:

- **Water Facility Generators – Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Project:** \$25,000 for department labor.
- **Wastewater Facility Generators – Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Project:** \$25,000 for capitalized labor.
- **Automated Meter Read and Meter Replacement Project:** A contract awarded to Aqua Metric Sales Company not to exceed \$600,000 for meter inventory and associated parts, with additional project funding of \$325,000 for inventory transfer and \$35,000 for capitalized labor.

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## EID BOARD APPROVES MULTIPLE PROJECTS *(con't)*

The board also approved a contract with Blain Stumpf, not to exceed \$374,502.51, for the purchase and delivery of various construction materials to support operations for one year, with the option for two one-year extensions.

Director Lori Anzini proposed using tours or videos to educate the public about the water system's operation, a suggestion supported by Director Paul Penn, who expressed concern about the "deterioration of the system infrastructure" and called for a "more aggressive program of restoration."

Senior Civil Engineer Patrick Wilson presented an overview of the Strawberry Water System, highlighting its challenges and the limitations of its 3-inch pipes and fire hydrants. Director Penn suggested a board tour of the area. During public comment, residents Angel and Greg Ball encouraged continued cooperation between EID and local fire safety organizations to address concerns in the Strawberry area.

The board then received a presentation on the water system's leak rate, which exceeds the national average. Drinking Water Operations Manager Bill Petterson attributed this to the prevalence of polyethylene pipes in the

system and advocated for replacing them with rolled coated copper lines. The board approved a Service Line Replacement Project with a total funding request of \$1,550,000.

The board also approved the Flume 48 Replacement Project, awarding contracts to KGS Group International Inc. for design services, R.E.Y. Engineers for surveying, and Acorn Environmental for environmental impact report preparation. The project has a total funding request of \$919,405. Director Alan Day noted that Flume 48 is listed on the National Historic Register and suggested exploring ways to preserve a section for public viewing.

Finally, the board approved the District Headquarters Corporation Yard Improvements Project, awarding a contract to Calpo Hom & Dong Architects for a basis of design report. The project has a total funding request of \$165,860 and aims to address overcrowding and outdated facilities. Engineering Manager Liz Carrington emphasized the need for updated storage areas, service garages, and accommodations for future needs, such as electric vehicle charging stations.

### SOURCES:

EID Board Meeting Recordings  
[Mountain Democrat Jan 31, 2025 Reporting](#)

## **GREEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY RECOGNIZED AS A 2024 CALIFORNIA HONOR ROLL SCHOOL**

*Rescue Union School District new release*

Green Valley Elementary School in the Rescue Union School District has been recognized as a 2024 California Honor Roll School by the Educational Results Partnership.

This prestigious recognition celebrates top-performing schools across the state for their success in closing achievement gaps and advancing academic excellence, particularly among historically disadvantaged student populations.

Now in its 10th year, the California Honor Roll is the only school recognition program in the state that is solely based on objective student achievement data, utilizing results from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. Green Valley Elementary is one of 1,823 schools to receive this distinction in 2024 — representing approximately 21% of all eligible schools in California.

“We are incredibly proud of Green Valley Elementary for earning this honor,” said RUSD Superintendent Jim Shoemake. “This recognition is a

testament to our dedicated educators, hardworking students and supportive families who make academic success a priority.”

The Honor Roll program is co-presented in collaboration with business leaders and chambers of commerce across the state, including the California Chamber of Commerce, California Black Chamber of Commerce, CalAsian Chamber of Commerce, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and many more. By recognizing high-performing schools, the program aims to highlight best practices in education and foster collaboration among schools to further accelerate student learning in critical subjects like reading, writing and math.

“This recognition reflects the dedication of our faculty and the outstanding achievements of our students,” said Principal Michelle Winberg. “We are honored to be part of a statewide effort that focuses on preparing students for success in school, the workforce and life.”

To see the full list of 2024 California Honor Roll schools and learn more about the methodology behind the selection process visit the Educational Results Partnership website at [edresults.org/honor-roll](https://edresults.org/honor-roll).



## CONTINUING TRAFFIC WOES AT PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL

*By John Davey*

Residents living near Ponderosa High School (PHS) in Shingle Springs continue to report significant traffic problems during school hours, a situation that has persisted for over a decade. The issue stems from a parking lot reconfiguration at PHS in the early 2010s, which created a direct access route from Ponderosa Road onto Mineshaft Lane, a small residential street. This has led some drivers to use Mineshaft Lane as a shortcut, exacerbating traffic congestion and raising safety concerns for residents.

Frank Kopita, a resident of the area since 1984, has been advocating for improved traffic safety on Mineshaft and neighboring Elf Wood Lane since at least 2013. "Back in 2013, I went to the school, I went to the county and I went to the California Highway Patrol to try and get something done about kids speeding, or parents just waiting on the lane in their cars for pickup time," Kopita explained. "Eventually, they did change the entryway to the parking lot, putting up no access signs and changing the flow so drivers don't cut across from Mineshaft. But, the problem is, people now are just driving through anyway, illegally."

Kopita has collected data indicating that during multiple days in January, over 100 cars used Elf Wood and Mineshaft lanes to access Ponderosa Road, significantly exceeding the number of residents living on those streets. He also observed approximately 43 of those vehicles bypassing plastic bollards intended to prevent access to the high school parking lot from Mineshaft Lane. He even noted one instance where a student exited a car while it was still adjacent to the intersection and pretended to push the vehicle. "I've got to say, that's a first," Kopita remarked.

A contributing factor to the problem is the absence of posted speed limit signs on Mineshaft and Elf Wood lanes. According to Kopita, a resident-installed sign was removed by county officials. County spokesperson Carla Hass explained, "We cannot install speed limit signs because that stretch of the road doesn't meet the Caltrans criteria. The county is aware of the concerns at this location and has taken steps to reduce students crossing Mineshaft Lane, such as striping and installing some form of barriers."

The California Highway Patrol has been informed of the situation, and Officer Andrew Brown stated that

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## TRAFFIC WOES AT PONDEROSA HS *(con't)*

patrols would be briefed to increase presence in the area during peak traffic times.

Kopita has explored the possibility of vacating the road, which would transfer maintenance responsibility from the county to the residents. However, he noted, "I've been to the county to see what it would take to have the road vacated; it'll take \$50,000. If we could do it at an actually reasonable price, we would, but that's too much." Hass outlined the process for road vacation, which includes approvals from the Traffic Advisory Committee, a newly formed homeowner's association, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors, with an estimated timeline of approximately one year. The associated costs for the vacation include \$5,000 for staff time, approximately \$300 per year per resident for road maintenance, and around \$45,000 for gate installation.

SOURCES:

[Mountain Democrat Jan 31, 2025 Reporting](#)

## COUNTY BUDGET HITS: DISCRETIONARY TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX EXPECTED TO BE \$2 MILLION SHORT

*By John Davey*

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors convened on February 11, 2025, to address a projected \$2 million shortfall in the 2025-26 Discretionary Transient Occupancy Tax (DTOT) budget. After nearly four hours of deliberation, the board voted 4-1 to approve a modified budget that prioritizes public safety funding while significantly reducing allocations to outside agencies and certain county departments.

Chief Administrative Office Principal Management Analyst Emma Owens presented the board with three options for balancing the budget: eliminate funding for all outside agencies, reduce allocations across the board by 24%, or develop a customized solution.

Board Chair and Supervisor George Turnboo emphasized the need to prioritize essential services. "We're going through a crisis right now," he

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## COUNTY BUDGET HITS

*(con't)*

stated. "We've got to take care of our employees, public safety, and our roads. We've got to tighten our belt. It's really a tough decision we have to make today. It's not a good thing."

The approved budget maintains 2024-25 funding levels for public safety agencies at \$837,000. However, it eliminates DTOT funding for several outside agencies involved in economic development and tourism promotion, including the El Dorado County Visitor's Authority, El Dorado County Film Commission, and various chambers of commerce. Supervisor Brooke Laine cast the dissenting vote, advocating for a gradual reduction in funding for outside agencies over a two- to three-year period. Supervisor Brian Veerkamp supported immediate elimination of funding for these agencies, stating, "I think the outside agency development, short of public safety, needs to be taken off the table today."

The budget also reduces the Road Fund contribution to \$2 million and cuts funding for the Planning Economic Development Division in half, to \$546,000. Supervisor Veerkamp expressed concern about the decision to defund the Wagon Train, an annual event with historical significance and tourism value.

Public comment included input from chamber of commerce representatives, law enforcement, county employees, and residents. Lee Tannenbaum, president of the El Dorado County Taxpayers Association, called for greater transparency regarding DTOT and TOT expenditures. Resident Mandi Rodriguez suggested cuts in county administration and a reduction in non-essential spending.

Representatives from various chambers of commerce emphasized the importance of continued tourism marketing. District 1 Supervisor Greg Ferrero agreed, stating, "We need to invest money to make money. We need to stimulate tourism."

The board discussed the possibility of raising fees on tourism activities instead of increasing taxes on residents. Supervisor Veerkamp noted that rafting fees have remained unchanged for 20 years and asserted that residents should not bear the financial burden.

The board also acknowledged the need to address employee compensation, expressing concern about losing personnel to higher-paying jobs in other jurisdictions. "We owe it to them," Supervisor Turnboo stated. "They

*(continued on page 12)*

## COUNTY BUDGET HITS

(con't)

have to eat and breathe and sleep."

After further discussion, the board recognized the importance of public safety agencies, particularly in light of the challenges posed by increased tourism. Lake Valley Fire Protection District Chief Chad Steven highlighted the financial strain on first responders, noting that they recover only 30% of the costs associated with emergency calls.

The board consulted with El Dorado County Director of Transportation Rafael Martinez before reducing the Department of Transportation's allocation. Martinez indicated that while equipment remained necessary, special projects would be completed in the coming year.

In addition to the budget modifications, the board voted to include continued support for Code Enforcement grant funding in the DTOT Board Policy and directed staff to include DTOT in the county general fund.

The board directed staff to develop a revised DTOT budget for consideration on April 22, 2025.

### SOURCES:

EDC BOS Meeting Recording

[Mountain Democrat Feb 14, 2025 Reporting](#)

## AFTER 9 YEARS, EDH CSD SETTLES AUSTIN MITIGATION IMPACT FEE CASE

*By John Davey*

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) has reached a \$5.25 million settlement with the Austin family, concluding over nine years of litigation regarding the collection of certain building permit fees between 2013 and 2016. The settlement, announced in a news release from Dordick Law Corporation, marks a resolution to a case that began in 2015 when El Dorado Hills residents Thomas and Helen Austin filed a lawsuit against El Dorado County, EDH CSD, and the El Dorado Hills Fire Department.

The Austins argued that these agencies violated the California Mitigation Fee Act (MFA) by failing to update and approve required nexus studies every five years. These studies justify the fees collected and demonstrate how the funds will be used to offset the impacts of new development. The courts ruled in favor of the Austins, leading to a series of appeals and legal proceedings.

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## **EDH CSD SETTLES AUSTIN CASE** *(con't)*

In April 2024, El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Gary Slossberg ruled that the defendants had not complied with the MFA's five-year findings requirement, mandating a refund to homeowners. The ruling stated that the agencies failed to complete the studies within the required timeframe and did not adequately demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fees and their purpose.

Attorney Mark Leonardo, representing the Austins, stated that the lawsuit aimed to ensure compliance with state law and secure refunds for homeowners. "Property taxes are already high in EDH, and local government should not enrich itself by levying fees without complying with the MFA," Leonardo emphasized.

The settlement is expected to result in refunds for many El Dorado Hills homeowners who paid building permit fees between 2013 and 2016. A timeframe for these refunds has not yet been determined. EDHCSD directors have discussed the litigation in closed session but have not yet released details to the public.

Based on estimates from reporting on the case over the past nine years, it

has been suggested that if all agencies involved issue refunds, the total amount could reach approximately \$30 million.

SOURCES:

[Mountain Democrat Jan 22, 2025 Reporting](#)

## **EDH FIRE STATION 86 ON BASS LAKE RD TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO MOLD**

*By John Davey*

El Dorado Hills Fire Station 86, located on Bass Lake Road near Hollow Oak Road, has been temporarily closed due to the discovery of mold. Crews from Engine 86 and Medic 86 have been relocated to a nearby rented home while the extent of the damage is assessed and repairs are undertaken.

Interim Fire Chief Michael Lilienthal emphasized that public safety and response times will not be affected by the closure. "We want to get them back at the station as quickly as possible," Chief Lilienthal said, "with the caveat that the mold is remediated and the station is safe for firefighters and the public."

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## EDH FIRE STATION 86 TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO MOLD *(con't)*

The 24-year-old fire station has a history of water leaks, according to a staff report. Recent leaks around the roof and windows led to visible mold growth, and further mold was discovered upon removal of the vinyl wallpaper. Although a company was hired in late 2024 to address the initial mold discovery, a subsequent retest on December 27, 2024, revealed additional mold. On January 8, 2025, further inspection uncovered mold in various locations throughout the station, leading to its closure.

The fire department has developed a three-phase plan to address the mold issue:

- **Phase 1:** Remove all wallpaper and remediate any mold found behind it. Remove ceiling tiles and remediate mold. Address any other identified mold in the station.
- **Phase 2:** Evaluate the roof, windows, and drill tower for water intrusion, dry rot, and potential mold. Determine necessary repairs or replacements, which will influence the project timeline and cost.

- **Phase 3:** Texture and paint all walls, professionally clean the station, and relocate Engine 86 and Medic 86 back to the station. Repair any damage to the rented property's driveway caused by the fire engine.

Chief Lilienthal acknowledged that the project will be expensive but noted that insurance may cover some of the costs. To date, the department has spent nearly \$25,000 on mold remediation and rental costs. The staff report indicates that the project may take several months to complete.

A plan is also being developed to address the health concerns of staff members who may have been exposed to the mold.

### SOURCES:

EDH Fire Department Meeting  
Agendas

[Village Life Jan 29, 2025 Reporting](#)



*image credit - Capitol City Design Inc.*

## **GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER INFESTATION TREATMENT PLAN FOR EDH**

*By John Davey*

The California Dept of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), along with the El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner's office held a public workshop on January 23, 2025 via a ZOOM session with El Dorado County residents.

An infestation of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter has been detected in areas of El Dorado County, including in the Serrano areas adjacent to Bass Lake.

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) poses a significant threat to El Dorado County agriculture, specifically to our wine/vineyard regions. Additionally the GWSS is also attracted to citrus and crepe myrtle plants, which are abundant in the EDH area.

Prior to treatment on residents' property, residents will be contacted seeking permission to treat - you have the right to decline. Treat will consist of spray application of chemicals, or soil treatment with chemicals.

The CDFA [posted](#) the following

proclamation of an emergency program to treat the area to eradicate the GWSS - the proclamation here is edited for space, but to include the important points. [The full proclamation is posted](#) on the Bass Lake Action Committee website

### **PROCLAMATION OF AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM AGAINST THE GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER FOR THE AREA OF EL DORADO HILLS IN EL DORADO COUNTY**

Between October 1, 2024 and October 15, 2024, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) confirmed the presence of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), the invasive vector of the bacterium that causes Pierce's disease in grapes, in the area of El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County. Based on these detections and recommendations from CDFA GWSS staff entomologists, CDFA concludes that an infestation of GWSS exists in the area. This pest presents a significant, clear, and imminent threat to the natural environment, agriculture, economy, and private and public property. Unless emergency action is taken during these GWSS' life cycles, there is high potential for sudden future detections in El Dorado County.

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## **GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER** *(cont)*

The GWSS is a dangerous, invasive, aggressive vector of Pierce's disease (PD). PD is considered one of the most devastating diseases of grapevines in the world. The bacterium that causes the disease, *Xylella fastidiosa*, kills grapevines within two to five years of infection. There is no cure for Pierce's disease. There are currently 274 properties of grape production within the county at risk from the recent GWSS detections. Over the last 10 years, El Dorado has seen grape values fluctuate between \$4.2 and \$12.1 million dollars. A total of 4,678 acres of grapes, valued at \$4,180,365, was grown in El Dorado County in 2022. In addition to grapevines, GWSS' hosts include over 360 genera of plants, which vary widely from woody plants to annual and perennial herbaceous plants.

The recent detections of GWSS described above were sudden and now require immediate action to address the clear and imminent threat to California's natural environment, agriculture, economy, private and public property. Due to GWSS being a vector for the bacteria that causes PD and the pest's ability to overwinter in the adult life stage, there is a high potential for sudden future detections of GWSS in El Dorado Hills. Therefore, the Secretary is invoking

Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) to carry out immediate emergency action to prevent this loss and damage.

In addition, the Secretary is mandated to: thoroughly investigate the existence of the disease; determine the probability that the disease will spread; adopt regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC); abate GWSS from the area; and prevent further economic damage. See FAC Sections 401, 403, 408, 5321-5323, 5401-5405, 5761-5763, 6047, 6047.1, and 6047.5, and Title 3 of California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 3650-3654.

Based on the recent detections in El Dorado Hills, findings, and recommendations from GWSS staff entomologists, implementation of CDFG's rapid response strategies is necessary for eradication and control.

In accordance with integrated pest management principles, CDFG has evaluated possible treatment methods and determined that there are no physical or cultural methods available to control GWSS in this area. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct chemical treatments and, in certain circumstances, biological controls, to abate this threat. The treatment plan for

*(continued on page 17)*



## GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER *(con't)*

the GWSS infestation will be implemented from November 2024 through December 2026. Post treatment monitoring will resume in the spring of 2027 and will determine the necessity of additional treatments.

The treatment plan for the GWSS infestation shall be implemented within a 150-meter radius of each detection site, as follows:

1. Chemical Control. All properties with host plants within a 150-meter radius around each GWSS detection site may be treated according to the following protocol to control GWSS:

a. The pesticides Merit® 2F, 75WSP, 75WP, or CoreTect®, (imidacloprid), may be applied to the root zone beneath GWSS host plants for controlling GWSS and providing long-term protection against reinfestation. Merit 2F, 75WSP, or 75WP may be applied as a foliar spray or soil drench, while CoreTect® tablets may be inserted two to five inches below the soil surface and watered in to initiate tablet dissolution. CoreTect may be used in place of Merit 2F, 75WSP or 75WP in situations where there are environmental concerns about soil surface runoff of the liquid Merit formulations, such as host

plants growing next to ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas, or for hosts that aren't listed on the Merit label. The pesticide Tempo® SC Ultra or Ultra WP (beta-cyfluthrin) may be used as a foliar spray to control adult and nymphal stages of GWSS. The pesticide Altus™ (flupyradifurone) may be used as a foliar spray to control adult and nymphal stages of GWSS.

2. Biological Control. Biological control is a method of controlling target pests using other living organisms, such as predators, parasitoids, and pathogens. The biological control agents of GWSS used by the PDCP are stingless, minute (1/16 inch) parasitic wasps that specifically attack GWSS eggs (egg parasitoid). Female adult wasps deposit their eggs inside GWSS eggs and immature wasps develop inside the host eggs, with adult wasps eventually emerging from GWSS eggs. After mating, newly emerged wasps search for GWSS eggs to lay their eggs. Through this repeated life cycle, the parasitic wasps kill GWSS eggs and contribute to the suppression of GWSS populations. Depending on multiple factors, including but

*(continued on page 18)*

## **GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER** *(con't)*

not limited to the proximity to other release sites and availability of parasitoids, additional biological control release sites may be used after treatments have been made.

Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to fruit bearing trees on the property.

Press releases, if issued, will be prepared by the CDFA Information Officer and the County Agricultural Commissioner in close coordination with the Program Leader responsible for treatment. Either the County Agricultural Commissioner or the Public Information Officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the GWSS eradication effort shall be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes.

### **Sensitive Areas**

CDFA will consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, to

determine if rare and endangered species are located within the treatment area. Mitigation measures for rare and endangered species will be implemented. The CDFA, in coordination with the El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner, shall not apply pesticides to bodies of water or undeveloped areas of native vegetation. All treatments will be applied in accordance with federal, state, and local pesticide application laws, rules, and guidelines.

### **Work Plan**

The proposed treatment effort will encompass this portion of El Dorado County where GWSS has been detected, and any subsequent detection sites. The treatment plan for the GWSS infestation will be implemented from November 2024 through December 2026. This timeframe is necessary because once treatments are completed this year the post treatment monitoring will continue through November, then cease until warmer temperatures are achieved in the spring of 2027.

Monitoring for GWSS becomes ineffective when temperatures are below the flight threshold for this insect, which is about 65°F. Post treatment monitoring will resume in

*(continued on page 19)*

## GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER *(cont)*

the spring of 2027 and will determine the necessity of additional treatments. The plan will be implemented within a 150-meter radius of each detection site as follows:

1. **GWSS Monitoring.** Yellow panel traps may be placed in the area within one square mile of each GWSS detection site at a density of about 30 traps per square mile and will be initially serviced twice per week. After two weeks the inspection interval may be reduced to once per week. Once the delimitation has been completed, the general trap servicing cycle will revert to once every two or three weeks.
2. **GWSS Visual Survey.** Host plants may be inspected for GWSS within a quarter mile radius of find sites. GWSS suspects shall be collected and forwarded to the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostic Center (Lab) for identification and analysis.
3. **Chemical Control.** Treatments will be made by ground equipment only and consist of applications to the rootzone of host plants to provide long-term, systemic protection against re-infestation of GWSS. Some properties may also receive a foliar treatment. All properties and adjacent properties with host plants within 150-meters of each GWSS detection will be treated according to the following protocol to control

GWSS:

The pesticides Merit® 2F, 75WSP, 75WP, or CoreTect® (imidacloprid) may be applied to the root zone beneath GWSS host plants for controlling GWSS and providing long-term protection against reinfestation. Merit 2F, 75WSP, and 75WP may also be applied as a foliar spray or soil drench, while CoreTect tablets may be inserted two to five inches below the soil surface and watered in to initiate tablet dissolution. CoreTect may be used in place of Merit 2F, 75WSP or 75WP in situations where there are environmental concerns about soil surface runoff of the liquid Merit formulations, such as host plants growing next to ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas, or for hosts that aren't listed on the Merit label. The pesticide Tempo® SC Ultra or Ultra WP (beta-cyfluthrin) may be used as a foliar spray to control adult and nymphal stages of GWSS. The pesticide Altus™ (flupyradifurone) may be used as a foliar spray to control adult and nymphal stages of GWSS.

4. **Biological Control.** Biological control is a method of controlling target pests using other living organisms, such as predators, parasitoids, and pathogens. The

*(continued on page 20)*

## **GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER** *(con't)*

biological control agents of GWSS used in PDCP are stingless, minute (1/16 inch) parasitic wasps that specifically attack GWSS eggs (egg parasitoid). Female adult wasps deposit their eggs inside GWSS eggs and immature wasps develop inside the host eggs, with adult wasps eventually emerging from GWSS eggs. After mating, newly emerged wasps search for GWSS eggs to lay their eggs. Through this repeated life cycle, the parasitic wasps kill GWSS eggs and contribute to suppression of GWSS populations. As a partially infested county there are already biological control release and monitoring sites in El Dorado County. Additional release sites could be added later, depending on multiple factors including, but not limited to, number of GWSS finds and their proximity to riparian habitat.

5. Post-Treatment Monitoring. An assessment of the GWSS populations will be conducted on a limited number of selected properties throughout the treatment area to determine the overall effectiveness of the treatments. Post-treatment sampling will be conducted using the same protocols as the pre-treatment sampling to ascertain effectiveness of the treatments.

## **Public Information**

Residents of affected properties will be invited to a public meeting where officials from CDFA, the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, will be present to address residents' questions and concerns.

Residents will be notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment in accordance with the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) sections 5771-5779 and 5421-5436.

Following the treatment, completion notices will be left with the residents detailing any precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to fruit bearing trees on the property.

Press releases, if issued, will be prepared by the CDFA Information Officer in consultation with the county agricultural commissioner and PDCP staff. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the CDFA Information Officer will serve as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the GWSS

*(continued on page 21)*

## GLASSY WINGED SHARPSHOOTER *(con't)*

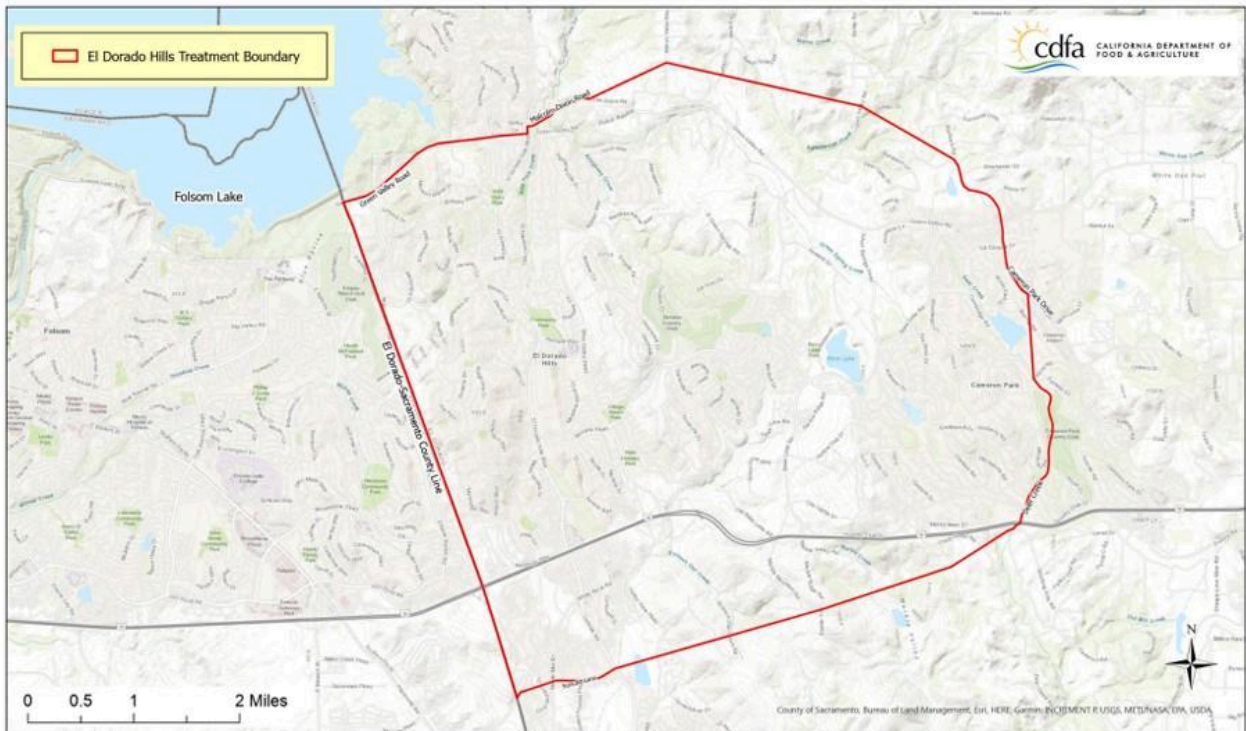
eradication effort shall be conveyed directly to Local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes. Treatment information will be posted to the website located at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/PD\\_GWSS\\_NOT\\_Mtg.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/PD_GWSS_NOT_Mtg.html). For any questions related to this program, please contact the local county agricultural commissioner's office listed on the treatment notice or the PDCP at 916-900-5024.



Glassy-winged Sharpshooter  
*image credit - U.S. Department of Agriculture*

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter - EL DORADO HILLS, El Dorado County

Date Created: 10/24/2024



GWSS EDH Treatment Areas

## FEBRUARY LOCAL MEETING RECORDINGS

By John Davey

Recordings of local meetings in El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County in February 2025.

### El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee Meetings:

Typically the second Wednesday of each Month

#### February Meeting

[https://www.youtube.com/live/u0R9ldfFdh0?si=79CCICY\\_qHRcyJXm](https://www.youtube.com/live/u0R9ldfFdh0?si=79CCICY_qHRcyJXm)

### El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

#### February 5th

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-2-5-25>

#### February 12th

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-2-12-25>

#### February 13th

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-2-13-25>

### El Dorado Irrigation District Board

EID Meetings, Agendas, Minutes -

<https://www.eid.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings-agendas-and-minutes>

### EID Recorded Meetings on EID YouTube Channel -

[www.EID.org/YouTube](http://www.EID.org/YouTube)

SUBSCRIBE  
TO THE FREE MONTHLY  
BASS LAKE BULLETIN  
CLICK HERE

OR VISIT:

<https://basslakeaction.net/SUBSCRIBE>

## BLAC BOARD MEETING



The next quarterly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday May 12th at 7PM.

Members will receive the Agenda & Meeting location details via email invitation. All Members are encouraged to attend.

For more information about meetings and membership, please contact President John Davey at 530-676-2657, or email [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com).

Bass Lake Area Residents can also visit our online membership form at <https://basslakeaction.net/members>