

BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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www.basslakeaction.org

EID ADOPTS 50-50 PLAN, ANNOUNCES REVISED, LOWER RATE HIKE

EID RESPONDS TO USERS

Perhaps responding to negative reactions from customers and watchdog groups, the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has issued new rate guidelines for voter consideration in 2012.

Readers will recall that the EID board in December adopted a cost recovery allocation methodology that will collect half its revenue from fixed rate charges and half from variable commodity charges for water, wastewater and recycled water. This in effect reinstates the EID policy in effect prior to 2008, and promises to raise the rates for EID customers.

According to EID, this new methodology was prompted by a cost study that found that the 50-50 cost recovery method creates a more reliable, less volatile revenue stream that is not heavily influenced by wet or dry years. This change will supposedly help stabilize the district's debt service and also improve financial forecasting.

The customers' water rates under the new methodology were predicted to go up, and at its December meeting EID considered a rate structure that would have raised rates considerably. An average water user would have faced a twenty-eight percent increase. A graphic of the rates proposed then may be

found on the BLAC website www.basslakeaction.org.

However, the EID board apparently has revisited those rates and has come up with a rate schedule that is considerably less than originally proposed. See the new rate schedule on the BLAC website by clicking here. According to an EID spokesperson, the water rate schedule to be proposed to EID customers will be about two percentage points above the already-approved rate increase of five percent for 2012, for a combined 2012 rate increase of somewhere between seven and eight percent.

Formal notification of rate changes will occur early this year, when the district will issue a Prop. 218 notice to its customers. However, the new rate structure was announced last month by the EID when the results of the cost study were revealed.

Readers will recall that EID rates were increased back in 2010, when EID originally proposed rate increases of 35 percent in 2010, 15 percent in 2011, and 5 percent increases in years 2012, 2013 and 2014, for a cumulative rate increase of 80 percent over that five-year period. Bowing to public pressure and customer write-in protests, EID then came up with a revised rate structure that included a rate increase of only 18 percent in 2010, 15 percent in 2011, and 5 percent in years 2012, 2013 and 2014, for a cumulative rate increase of 57 percent over the period.

Fix EID, an El Dorado Hills-based community action group, which has been monitoring the EID budgeting and rate-setting process, and which is opposed to EID rate hikes that it says are excessive, has compiled information about EID on its website www.fixeid.org.

The proposed rate structure will not go into effect if a majority of EID customers protest the rate increase within a stipulated period. EID customers may object to the rate increase by sending a letter to the EID. If more than half of the ratepayers say no to the new rates, they cannot be imposed according to Article 13D of the state constitution, which is also known as Proposition 218. ~



LOCAL EDH HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HEAR NOTED AUTHORS

The Clarksville Region Historical Society will host two well-known local authors, Richard Hurley and TJ Meekins, at its regular monthly meeting on to be held on January 25, at 6:30 PM at the El Dorado Hills Library on Silva Valley Parkway. The general public is cordially invited to attend. The admission is free.

The theme of the evening's presentation will be California's Role in the Civil War.

Author Richard Hurley was born in Upstate New York and lived there until he was 9. His family moved to Europe, where he attended Italian schools and a British school in Switzerland. After high school in California, he went to Harvard, where he fell under the dark influence of the Harvard Lampoon. He has written professionally for magazines, newspapers, and consulting clients.

After college, he worked for three years as History Preparator for the Oakland Museum of California, restoring artifacts and designing exhibits. He returned to school for an M.Arch degree from UC Berkeley, then fled the Bay Area for the Sierra Foothills and a career in computer-based multimedia. He has produced corporate training, educational, and promotional CDs and DVDs, as well as 3D animations.

Author TJ Meekins grew up roaming the back roads and ghost towns of the Northern Mines, panning for gold and digging up bottles from Gold Rush dumps. She learned California history from petroglyphs, tumble-down cabins, and rusty Pelton wheels, and

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HISTORY *(continued)*

grew up on stories of the Donner Party, Joaquin Murrieta, and Lola Montez.

Meekins studied at UC Berkeley, then returned home to Nevada City to work for the Tahoe National Forest. She wrote, produced, and hosted two long-running shows on KVMR, exploring the roots of American Folk and Country music.

Meekins is currently learning Mountain Maidu from one of its last native speakers. She co-writes skits in Maidu that have been performed (with running English translation) at the Indigenous Peoples Day and Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Nevada City, California.

The Clarksville Region Historical Society (CRHS) was organized in 2006 by a group of citizens in the Clarksville area, now known as El Dorado Hills, California. The primary objectives and purposes of CRHS are to identify and preserve documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region for its residents and the public; to educate the public and increase public awareness of the historical significance of historic Clarksville and the surrounding region; and to enlist public support for the historical preservation and display of documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region.

For further information regarding the event or the Historical Society, contact Society President Hal Erpenbeck at 530-677-5533. ~

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Hello Everyone,

This edition of the Bulletin is a short one, but I wanted to get the news out about the recent changes in the EID rate proposals and the wonderful program that the Historical Society is going to have this month.

The regular Bulletin will resume in February.

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President

**CELEBRATE GOLD DISCOVERY DAY IN COLOMA**

On Saturday January 21st, 2012 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historical Park will celebrate Gold Discovery Day, the anniversary of the discovery that changed California and the World. The event will feature pioneer cooking and trade demonstrations, performances by the Cemetery Players, and various characters from the time when James Marshall found gold in Coloma back in 1848.

The park features a number of buildings that have survived from the gold rush, as well as many other reminders of that tumultuous period. The Gold Discovery Museum features gold-rush-era exhibits including mining equipment, horse drawn vehicles, household implements and other memorabilia as well as a number of films about the gold discovery and early mining techniques.

The gold discovery site, located in the still visible tailrace of Sutter's sawmill, in present day Coloma California, is one of the most significant historic sites in the nation.

The park is located in Coloma on Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn. ~

**BLAC SETS FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING WITH EID SPEAKERS**

The February Bass Lake Action Committee meeting will be held at the home of Fran and John Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court (Woodridge), El Dorado Hills (530-677-3039), on February 6, 2012, at 7:00 PM.

After the business meeting, attendees will hear a presentation by representatives of the El Dorado Irrigation District on the new rate structure and other topics of interest.

All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend. For further information regarding our meetings, please contact Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

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