



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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EID IRRIGATION RULES CHANGE SEPTEMBER 15

Readers are reminded that we are still under drought conditions, and the mandatory residential irrigation schedules adopted by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) remain in effect.

The present three-times-a-week watering schedule will end September 15.

Starting September 16, only twice-a-week watering will be allowed until November 15. Customers with addresses ending in even numbers may water on Wednesdays and Sundays. Customers with addresses ending in odd numbers may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Once-a-week watering will return November 16, and will remain in effect until April 15, 2015. What happens after that depends on whether we have a wet or dry winter, and the amount of water that is available in the water storage reservoirs at that time.

Under all of these schedules, outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours between 7:00 PM and 10:00 AM and your irrigation system must be turned off when it rains.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in August released an official winter weather forecast for 2014/15. They are still showing an El Nino pattern with below average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest and above average precipitation in the Pacific Southwest (see story).

Specific questions about the schedule may be directed to EID District Headquarters, 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville, CA 95667, telephone 530-622-4513 or 916-965-0930. ~

STRONG WINTER EL NIÑO FIZZLING OUT

A powerful El Niño that had been emerging in the Pacific Ocean is fizzling out, evaporating hopes it will deliver a knockout punch to California's three-year drought.

A new report from scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration decreases the probability of an El Niño -- the condition that occurs when warm Pacific Ocean water at the equator affects the jet stream -- to 65 percent starting in October, down from 82 percent in June.

More significantly, researchers said, the ocean water that had been warming steadily through the spring has cooled off in recent months. Most of the world's leading meteorological organizations now say that if an El Niño arrives this winter, it is likely to be a weak or moderate one -- not the kind historically linked with wetter-than-normal winters in California.

"It's fair to say that it's plateaued," said Michelle L'Heureux, a meteorologist with the NOAA Climate Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland.

Other researchers are more blunt.

"We're back to square one. It's finished. I don't think we even have an El Niño any more," said Bill Patzert, a research scientist and oceanographer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.



"If I were a betting man, I'd say it's 75 percent that we'll have another dry winter," he said. "The unfortunate fact is that it looks like the last three years all over again."

To be sure, California could still have a wet winter to help fill depleted reservoirs, replenish streams and raise over-pumped water tables.



HIGHWAY 50 LANES CLOSING FOR CONSTRUCTION

Starting Sept. 8, the Transportation Division of El Dorado County's Community Development Agency will implement full one-directional closures of Highway 50. The closures will facilitate the needed falsework operations for the Silva Valley overcrossing. This work is scheduled to take two weeks to complete.

The week of Sept. 8, all westbound lanes will close at 11 p.m. from Bass Lake Road to El Dorado Hills Boulevard. The westbound on-ramp at Bass Lake Road will close at 10 p.m.; both Highway 50 and the on-ramp will re-open at 5 a.m. Starting Sept 12, the closures will be on all eastbound lanes between El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Bass Lake Road. The closure times remain the same, 10 p.m. at the eastbound Latrobe Road on-ramp and 11 p.m. for the Highway 50 thoroughfare. Both re-open at 5 a.m.

While the one-directional closures are in place, traffic will be detoured via El Dorado Hills Boulevard, Serrano Parkway and Bass Lake Road. Motorists are encouraged to take other alternate routes around the area which also bypass the closures. Portable changeable message signs will be placed around the work zone to keep motorists updated on any changes to the timing of the closures. ~



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone,

The elections are looming. I can tell because the roadsides abound with "vote for me" signs. Perhaps you are not aware that Bass Lake Road practically touches three supervisorial districts: District 1, Ron Mikulaco; District 2, (formerly Ray Nutting's district); and District 4, Ron Briggs. By the time you read this, the results of the District 2 special election will be in, and a new supervisor will be seated. Also, two other newly-elected supervisors will be elected in the November elections, District 4, now occupied by Ron Briggs, and District 5, now occupied by Norma Santiago (Lake Tahoe).

So you see that Bass Lake Action Committee has three county supervisors with which to deal when an issue arises along Bass Lake Road.

Prior to 2012, Bass Lake Road was the boundary separating the Rancho Cordova office and the Placerville office of the California Highway Patrol. So technically Placerville took care of the east side, and Rancho Cordova took care of the West side of Bass lake Road. In actuality, the coverage was seamless. Then in 2012, the boundary of the Placerville office was moved to the El Dorado County line, so both sides of Bass lake Road are now covered by the Placerville CHP.

Bass Lake Road also traverses three zip codes and is served by three post offices: El Dorado Hills, 95762; Rescue, 95672; and Cameron Park (Shingle Springs), 95682.

However, I am glad to say that we have had no problems working with everyone who has jurisdiction along Bass Lake Road, whether it be county, state or federal. I am sure that things will remain so.

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President

EL NIÑO *(continued)*

If a steady series of low-pressure systems develops off the Pacific Coast later in the year, that could bring tropical storms dumping rain in large amounts. The trend, known as an "atmospheric river" or "Pineapple Express," has soaked the state in the past. But it has been all but shut down over the past three years as unusually persistent ridges of high pressure off the coast pushed winter storms north to Canada instead.

But the possibility that a strong El Niño won't be there to help is "not good news, especially if we are using El Niño as an optimism index. It's not what we want to see," said meteorologist Jan Null, with Golden Gate Weather Services in Saratoga.

"It's like in poker," he added. "If you have one fewer spade out there, the odds of getting that flush are less."

Generally speaking, the warmer the ocean water during El Niño years, the greater the likelihood of heavy winter rainfall. During mild El Niño years, when the ocean water is only slightly warmer than historic averages, there are just as many drier-than-average winters in California as soaking ones.

Since 1951, there have been six winters with strong El Niño conditions. In four of them, rainfall from the Bay Area to Bakersfield was at least 140 percent of the historic average, Null found.

But in the 16 winters since 1951 when there was a weak or moderate El Niño, California experienced below-normal rainfall in six of them. There was average rainfall in five and above-normal precipitation in the other five.

Thursday's NOAA report was based on ocean temperature readings from dozens of buoys, wind measurements, satellite images and more than a dozen computer models from scientific agencies around the world.

In April, the report noted, Pacific Ocean waters were nearly 4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal along the equator from the surface down to about 1,000 feet deep. But by last month, they had cooled -- and are now half a degree cooler than normal. Wind bursts from Indonesia that had pushed warm water toward South America and the United States diminished. And huge amounts of heat dissipated and failed to trigger weather changes in the atmosphere.

"We've seen very lackluster atmospheric response," said NOAA's L'Heureux. "What typically happens with warm water in the eastern Pacific is that you see rainfall and winds shifting around. But it didn't happen. It didn't coalesce."

As a result, none of the world's major meteorological agencies is forecasting strong El Niño conditions this year. Most expect that Pacific waters will range from 1 to 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the historic average this fall, which would signal a weak El Niño.

The last strong El Niño event, in the winter of 1997-98, saw Pacific surface temperatures 5 degrees warmer than normal at some times. That led to drenching rainfall across California, landslides that closed Highway 1 in Big Sur and 35 counties being declared disaster areas.

After three drier-than-normal years, major California reservoirs -- from Shasta to Oroville to San Luis -- are only 20 to 35 percent full. Farmers in the Central Valley are furiously pumping groundwater wells to keep crops alive. The danger of fire is extreme. And last month the State Water Resources Control Board passed mandatory rules that prohibit all Californians from washing down pavement, irrigating lawns so much that water runs into the street and other excessive practices. Violators face fines of up to \$500.

If the drought drags into a fourth year, dozens of cities across California will see strict water cutbacks, including rationing, said Jay Lund, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at UC Davis. The state, he said, also is more likely to put in place rules regulating groundwater pumping and other long-delayed water efficiency reforms.

"It takes big droughts to make big changes in water policy in California," Lund said. "It would cinch the deal if we have another dry year." ~

Credit: Paul Rogers, S.J. Mercury News



CALIFORNIA PESTICIDE LEVELS OK SAYS DPR

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) announced September 2 that once again, the majority of produce it tested annually had little or no detectable pesticide residues and posed no health risk to the public, reports the *Western Farm Press*.

About 95 percent of all California-grown produce, sampled by DPR in 2013, was in

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PESTICIDES *(continued)*

compliance with the allowable limits.

DPR tested 3,483 samples of different fruits and vegetables sold in farmers markets, wholesale and retail outlets, and distribution centers statewide. More than 155 different fruits and vegetables were sampled to reflect the dietary needs of California's diverse population.

Of all 3,483 samples collected in 2013: 43.53 percent of the samples had no pesticide residues detected; 51.51 percent of the samples had residues that were within the legal tolerance levels; 3.99 percent of the samples had illegal residues of pesticides not approved for use on the commodities tested; 0.98 percent of the samples had illegal pesticide residues in excess of established tolerances. A produce item with an illegal residue level does not necessarily indicate a health hazard.

Each piece of fruit or vegetable may legally contain trace amounts of one or more pesticides.

Pesticide tolerance

The amount and type of pesticide tolerance is limited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. DPR's Residue Monitoring Program staff carries out random inspections to verify that these limits are not exceeded.

The produce is tested in laboratories using state-of-the-art equipment operated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

In 2013, these scientists frequently detected illegal pesticide residues on produce including cactus pads from Mexico, ginger from China, snow peas from Guatemala, and spinach from the U.S.

Most of the 2013 illegal pesticide residues were found in produce imported from other countries and contained very low levels (a fraction of a part per million). The majority of the time illegal residues did not pose a health risk.

California has been analyzing produce for pesticide residues since 1926 and has developed the most extensive pesticide residue testing program of its kind in the nation. ~



OAK KNOLL PARK OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 26

The El Dorado Hills Community Services district (CSD) is hosting an Open House at Oak Knoll Park, our community park in The Hills of El Dorado, on Wednesday, September 24th, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for local homeowners and their families. The park is located at 3331 Alyssum Circle, at Watsonia Glen Drive.

The event will feature a BBQ hot dog dinner, and a bounce house and face painting for the kids.

The Open House is being held to celebrate the completion of the remodeling of the clubhouse and patio, and to give residents a chance to voice their opinion as to what activities they would like to see offered at the park. Everyone attending the Open House will be asked to complete a survey indicating their choices of events and activities they would prefer to be put on at the facility.

"We hope to have a good turnout," said CSD General Manager Brent Dennis. "We are seeking input from the residents so as to allow us to best serve the community."

For information or questions about the event, you may contact Mike Cottrell at the CSD at 916-614-3215 or mccottrell@edhcsd.org. ~



CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS REJECT AMMUNITION BILL

The state Assembly in this past session failed to muster the votes to approve legislation purportedly aimed at identifying criminals and others who are improperly buying ammunition in California. Sen. Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) originally proposed that residents who buy bullets be required to

get a state permit and undergo a background check before the purchase to make sure they can legally own guns, but Governor Jerry Brown opposed that scheme.

The revised bill that failed would have required ammo sellers to provide information on purchasers to the state Department of Justice after the fact, including name, address, date of birth, date of the sale, brand type and amount. If the buyer was discovered later to be disqualified from owning guns because of a criminal history or severe mental illness, authorities could then have obtained a warrant to confiscate the ammunition and any weapons found.

SB 53, which fell six votes short, was opposed by the NRA and the California Association of Federal Firearms Licensees. Opponents said the measure would be too burdensome on ammunition dealers. State legislators have admitted receiving tens of thousands of e-mails opposing SB 53.

"I'm tired of this chamber picking winners and losers and if we pass this, we're going to kill another industry here in California," said Assemblyman Scott Wilk (R-Santa Clarita). ~

Credit: Patrick McGreevy and Melanie Mason, Los Angeles Times



FOLSOM CHALLENGES MATHER DECISION

Only days after Sacramento County filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) in early August to move forward with the expansion of Mather Airport's air cargo operations, the city of Folsom said, "Not so fast."

Citing several California Environmental Quality Act violations, including the fact that the project was approved and the NOD filed before all environmental findings were considered, Folsom assistant city attorney Steven Wang wrote a three-page letter dated August 21 to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and county staff.

The letter urged the board to vote to deny the project at its August 26 meeting, or, in the alternative, require county staff to perform a fiscal feasibility study between the costs of having air cargo operation at Sacramento

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September

The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest,
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook,

From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.

But none of all this beauty
Which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the secret
Which makes September fair.

T'is a thing which I remember;
To name it thrills me yet:
One day of one September
I never can forget.

— Helen Hunt Jackson

MATHER *(continued)*

International Airport versus Mather, include Sacramento International Airport as a feasible alternative for consideration in the EIR, or consider a scaled down project by removing the Instrument Landing System from the project.”

“The filing of the NOD was premature and unlawful,” the letter said. “The city of Folsom strongly urges the county to reverse its action taken on Aug. 12, 2014, with respect to the project, allow the public a true and fair process under CEQA, instruct staff not to pre-commit to a predetermined outcome, and follow all legal requirements in an open, fair, objective and transparent manner.”

Many residents of El Dorado Hills have opposed the expansion, but feel helpless because the Sacramento board of supervisors has been notably unresponsive to the local homeowners' concerns.

Notwithstanding Wang's letter, the Sacramento Board of Supervisors considered the item at its meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 26 and went ahead and adopted the project's Statement of Overriding Considerations. ~

Credit: Julie Samrick, Mtn. Dem.



BLAC BOARD TO MEET IN NOVEMBER, ANNUAL MEETING IN DECEMBER

The next regular Bass Lake Action Committee board meeting will be held on November 3 at 7:00 PM at the Thomson's, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado

Bass Lake Action Committee
501 Kirkwood Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Hills, 530-677-3039.

The 2014 Annual General Membership Meeting and Christmas Party will be held on December 1, 2014, at the home of Stuart and Sue Colvin, 131 Gage Court in Serrano, El Dorado Hills, 916-358-9333. The election of officers will be the only item of business on the agenda. All BLAC members and invited guests will receive an invitation, with directions and a gate code, in the mail.

BLAC continues to monitor local issues, such as the sale of the El Dorado Irrigation District land that includes Bass Lake to the Rescue School District, the amount of the assessments for the Landscape and Lighting Districts of Woodridge and Hills of El Dorado, the planned pavement overlay project for the northern portion of Bass Lake Road, the Green Valley Road Corridor, and the extension of Silver Springs Parkway to connect with Bass Lake Road.

As always, all BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all meetings. For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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