

The



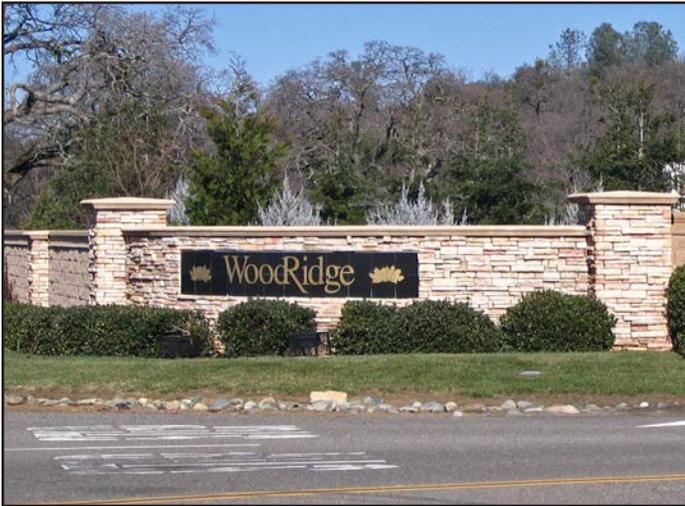
BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XIV No. 3

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

March 2016

www.basslakeaction.org



Woodridge entry at Bass Lake Road and Madera Way



One of the new LED light fixtures on Madera Way entry

WOODRIDGE ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS ON TRACK

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) has upgraded the lights along the walls on each side of Madera Way, the entry into Woodridge. They replaced the previous light fixtures with in-ground armored LED lights.

Woodridge residents will recall that the center median at Madera Way at the Woodridge entry was re-landscaped about three years ago. At that time, it was noted that the lighting fixtures along the side walls had been vandalized. Replacing the fixtures was not an option, as the old fixtures were deemed to be of a type susceptible to vandalism, and also were inappropriately located because the bushes had matured and obscured them. Therefore, installing new light fixtures in a better location was Phase Two of the entry improvements.

Woodridge resident Dale Chambers reported that the new lights “make a huge difference.” Bass Lake Action vice president Kathy Prevost, who has been working with the CSD on the project, praised the efforts of the CSD. “We are so pleased that this phase of the Madera Way entry improvements has been completed,” she said.

Prevost credits Kevin Loewen, CSD

Director of Parks & Planning, as the main facilitator in getting the project done. Parks Supervisor Gino Sciandri was also helpful, she said.

Prevost is working with the CSD on planning the next phase of improvements to the entry, which is to replace the turf grass with something that requires less water yet has a pleasing appearance.

The Madera Way entry is maintained by the CSD using money from the Bass Lake Village B Landscape and Lighting District (LLAD). The LLAD is funded by Woodridge residents through an annual assessment that appears on their property tax bills. ~



STATE CUTS GAS TAX, ENDS 'BIZARRE' PRICING SCHEME

The good news is the state agreed to cut gas taxes in California last month, but the bad news is drivers will still have some of the most expensive gas bills of any state in the nation.

The state Board of Equalization voted 3-2 to lower the excise tax rate for gasoline by 2.2 cents per gallon.

With the 3-2 vote, the excise tax rate on gas will be 27.8 cents per gallon from July 1 through June 30, 2017. The current excise tax rate of 30 cents per gallon will remain in effect until June 30.

“Today’s vote was simply a matter of fairness,” said BOE Vice Chair George Runner. “Californians overpaid gas tax last year because of a bizarre formula known as

(continued on page 2)



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

I'm happy to see that the recent rains have raised the level of Bass Lake somewhat, though not to its previous levels. Some of you may be aware that Bass Lake has been around a long time, but for everyone else, I'll give you a thumbnail history.

In the 1850s, gold miners around here could only work their mining claims in the winter, when Carson Creek and Deer Creek were a source of water with which to wash their pay dirt and extract the gold. Mining ditches carrying water to the miners extended only to Shingle Springs or so.

In 1856 the miners on Carson Creek, Western Diggings, Plunkett's Diggings and Marble Valley approached both the Eureka and South Fork Canal Companies, water purveyors up the western slope, to bring a mining ditch to this part of the gold fields, so as to have year-round water for mining.

A few surveys were made, and some ground was excavated on the proposed line of ditch, but in February of 1857 the ditch stood incomplete and unproductive.

But in 1858 the Eureka Canal Company was purchased by Lewis B. Harris, who was heavily involved in mining and ditch building in El Dorado County. He hired W.P. Scott as general manager, and Scott extended the ditch system westward to the company's newly-built American Reservoir, the original name of Bass Lake, at a cost of \$25,000.

Many years later, American Reservoir would be renamed Bass Lake by entrepreneur James Nicols, who opened a fishing resort at the lake.

The mining ditches of western El Dorado County are gone now, but Bass Lake remains, a legacy of the Gold Rush era.

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President

GAS TAX (continued)

the 'gas tax swap' passed by lawmakers in 2010. Lowering the rate is the right thing to do, and I'm sure Californians will welcome this reduction.

"Unfortunately, even after the cut goes into effect, Californians will still pay some of the highest taxes in the nation," he said. "What we need now is for lawmakers to simplify our tax laws and look for ways to provide value for the money that Californians send to government."

California drivers pay two types of state taxes on gas: sales tax, which is a percentage of the price, and a per-gallon excise tax.

Before the so-called "fuel tax swap" took effect in 2010, drivers paid the full sales tax rate — then 8.25 percent — and an excise tax rate of 18 cents per gallon.

The fuel tax swap lowered the sales tax rate on gasoline to 2.25 percent and requires the BOE to set a per-gallon excise tax rate annually before March 1. The excise tax rate is calculated so that drivers still pay the same amount in overall taxes at the pump as they would have paid before the swap.

In the 2014-15 fiscal year, the BOE collected nearly \$5.4 billion in excise tax for the state's Motor Vehicle Fuel Account, which helps pay for highways, roads and other public transportation projects.

The sales tax on gasoline also helps fund a variety of state and local road programs.

The excise tax rate takes into account a number of factors, including forecast gas price, forecast amount of gallons sold, sales tax revenue that would have been collected prior to the fuel tax swap, and tax revenue over- or under-collected in the prior fiscal year.

The rate ensures that over a three-year period, motorists do not pay more or less in overall gas taxes than they would have prior to the swap. ~

Credit: Debbie Sklar, City News Service



EID STILL IN DROUGHT MODE

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) was required to reduce its water consumption by 28 percent from June 2015 through February 2016, compared to the same months in 2013, under a mandate issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).

On February 2, the State Water Board adopted an extended and revised emergency regulation that extends restrictions on water use through October 2016. The action follows Governor Brown's November 13, 2015, executive order directing the State Water Board to extend the emergency water conservation regulation should drought conditions persist through January 2016.

The revised emergency regulation provides "credits" that recognize certain factors that affect water use in three ways. The first considers the differences in climate that affect different parts of the state. The second provides a mechanism to reflect water-efficient growth experienced by urban areas. The third recognizes significant investments made by suppliers toward creating new, local, drought-resilient sources of potable water supply.

"We are exploring every avenue to reduce our customers' conservation requirement," said EID Public Information Officer Jesse Saich. "Of the three ways to get credits, it's likely we'll get the credit from the climate adjustment. We will be submitting data to the State Water Resources Control Board by February 22, and will be requesting a four percent reduction from our current 28 percent requirement."

The mandatory outdoor irrigation rules set by EID are still in effect.

From November 16 to April 15, once-a-week watering is allowed on Sundays for customers with addresses ending in even numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) and on Saturdays for customers with addresses ending in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, 9).

From April 16 to May 31, twice-a-week watering will be allowed on Wednesdays and Sundays for customers with addresses ending in even numbers and Tuesdays and Saturdays for customers with addresses ending in odd numbers.

(continued on page 3)

DROUGHT (continued)

From June 1 to September 30, three-times-a-week watering is allowed. Customers with addresses ending in even numbers are allowed to water on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and customers with addresses ending in odd numbers are allowed to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. ~

EQUESTRIAN PARK PROPOSED ON GREEN VALLEY ROAD

The developers of the property roughly south of Green Valley Road between Green Valley Middle School and Deer Creek Road are again proposing to build a large equestrian park. The promoters are requesting a Rezone, a Tentative Parcel Map, and a Special Use Permit.

The Rezone would divide the now 146.42 acre parcel currently zoned Estate Residential Five-Acre (RE-5) and Estate Residential (RE-10) into three new parcels. One new 38.27 acre parcel would be rezoned to Recreational Facilities (RF) and would contain the equestrian facility. The two other parcels, which together total 108.1 acres, would remain zoned RE-5 and no development is proposed at this time.

The Tentative Parcel Map would create three parcels comprising 38.27, 5.63 and 102.47 acres in size out of the 146.42-acre parcel. The 38.27 acre parcel would contain the bulk of the equestrian facility that requires the issuance of a Special Use Permit.

The Special Use Permit requested would allow construction of an equestrian center on the 38.27 acre parcel.

Some of the features to be built are set forth below:

- Boarding/grooming stalls for 300 horses.
- Two covered arenas 45,000 square feet each.
 - A 45,000 square foot fenced arena.
 - A 37,500 square foot fenced arena.
 - A 31,250 square foot fenced arena.
- Three 80 stall barns; one 40 stall barn; one 20 stall barn. Horses will be kept in 12 foot by 12 foot box stall barns or in 12 foot by 24 foot pipe stall barns. Barn stalls will be painted aluminum with a composite panel interior.
- Five circular horse hotwalk areas.
- A 97,350 square foot grass arena.
- A 8,000 square-foot equestrian retail store/office/clubhouse/fitness center. The retail store will consist of approximately 2,000 square feet, the fitness center will consist of approximately 2,000 square feet, and the



Map showing the location of the proposed equestrian center on Green Valley Road

office/conference rooms will consist of approximately 4,000 square feet on the second or upper floor.

An eight foot tall unlit-monument sign with approximately 16 square feet of display area.

An existing 3,600 square-foot residence will be used as a management residence and office.

Camping area for horse trailers and recreational vehicles equipped with electrical and water hook-up outlets.

A total of 198 parking spaces.

A 4,000 square foot single family residence.

An existing 1,058 square-foot single-family home, a storage building, a hay storage service area, and three other minor accessory structures are currently located on the subject property and would remain as part of this project.

The facility would be used for the following activities:

The proposed equestrian facility would include approximately 32 staff members.

Management: The facility manager will oversee all accounting, boarding agreements, horse shows, and general operations. The facility management team will continue to reside at the facility to provide a 24-hour presence, seven days per week. A point of contact will be provided and published. A 24-hour phone answering service will be provided with a live person contact, for immediate or emergency access. An email address will be provided for written contact and communication.

Staff: One stall hand for every 40 stalls

boarded to provide the daily stall mucking and removal (two times per day) and general cleaning. One person per 100 horses for feeding (two times per day) and providing shaving.

The management team will include clerical staff, retail store staff, show staff, safety, and ground inspection staff. The number of administration and staff employees will vary as conditions warrant. Seasonal staff will be obtained for horse shows, weddings, and special events.

Hours of operation would be 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM seven days a week for the equestrian center.

The number of horse shows would be 12 to 18 per year and would include two annual shows. A regular shows runs two days, typically Saturday and Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM. Annual shows run four to eight days (two shows maximum per year), typically Saturday through the following Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM. Horse shows will be narrated by microphone and a public address system within the covered and open arenas.

Weddings would be held Fridays from 5 PM to 9:30 PM, Saturdays from 10 AM to 9:30 PM, and Sundays 10 AM to 9 PM. The maximum number of weddings held would be four per month with a maximum of 150 people per wedding.

The project would be built out over a period of five years.

The notice of the public hearing for the proposed project is available for review online at <http://edc.gov.us/PublicNotices-DevServicesDetail.aspx?id=6442455817&terms=equestrian%20special%20use%20>



GREEN VALLEY ROAD CONVENIENCE CENTER PROPOSAL TO SUPES

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on March 22, 2016, at 2:00 PM, to consider a proposal to build a convenience center on Green Valley Road and Sophia Parkway, just inside the El Dorado county line. The center would include a gas station, a convenience store, and a single-bay self-service carwash.

This project was previously approved by the supervisors, but litigation over environmental objections raised by local activists caused the approval to be rescinded pending the completion of traffic and other impact studies.

Interested persons may attend the hearing or write to the Board of Supervisors via e-mail: edc.cob@edcgov.us. ~



Selected Poems, #3

The afternoon is bright,
with spring in the air,
a mild March afternoon,
with the breath of April stirring,
I am alone in the quiet patio
looking for some old untried illusion -
some shadow on the whiteness of the wall
some memory asleep
on the stone rim of the fountain,
perhaps in the air
the light swish of some trailing gown.

—Antonio Machado (1875-1939)
Trans. Alan S. Trueblood



DISTRICT 6 ASSEMBLY SLATE GROWING

The list of potential candidates for the seat in Assembly District 6, soon to be vacated by Beth Gaines, who is termed out this year, is growing. The district is considered a safe Republican seat by many political observers. The top two vote-getters in the June 7 primary election will vie for the office in the November election.

District 6 includes all or part of Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville, Granite Bay, Orangetown, Folsom, Fair Oaks, Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills.

According to persons familiar with the race, those who have either declared or are considering declaring for the seat include Gabriel Hydrick (R), Councilmember, Lincoln; Kevin Kiley (R), Deputy attorney general; Cristi Nelson (R), Attorney; Suzanne Jones (R), Member, Placer Board of Education; Ron Miculaco (R), Supervisor, El Dorado County; Brian Caples (D), Non-profit organization director; Bill Halldin (R), Trustee, Sierra College District; Mike Herrick (R); and Kevin Hanley (R), CEO, Auburn Chamber of Commerce.

Beth Gaines has reportedly declared her intention to run for Ron Mikulaco's Supervisor seat in El Dorado County in June, Supervisor Mikulaco having been termed out this year. ~

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



BLAC HEARS KIRK BONE, SETS MAY BOARD MEETING DATE

The BLAC Board of Directors hosted Director of Government Relations for Parker Development Company Kirk Bone at its February meeting. Bone updated the Board and BLAC members in attendance on the proposed plans for Village J.

The next regular board of directors meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will be held on May 2, 2016, at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

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. ~

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California.

Copyright © 2016. Permission to reproduce unabridged articles is granted if appropriate attribution is given to the Bass Lake Bulletin.

John E. Thomson, Ph.D.
President and Editor
doctorjet@aol.com
530-677-3039

For additional information
see our website, basslakeaction.org
or contact

Vice President Kathy Prevost
blacinfo@aol.com
530-672-6836