



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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BLAC ELECTS 2017 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bass Lake Action Committee members and honored guests assembled at the Woodridge home of Fran and John Thomson on December 5th for their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party.

At the brief Annual Meeting, the slate of board candidates for 2017 was presented and unanimously approved by the members in attendance. Elected to the board were Dale Chambers, President; Kathy Prevost, Vice President; Jeanette D'Amico, Treasurer; Jan Buxton, Secretary; and John Davey, Director at Large. The new board members will take office on January 1, 2017.

The business portion of the meeting being adjourned, the happy party-goers happily partook of fresh-baked pizza and fresh green salad and enjoyed a number of delicious treats brought by the members.

Photos of the event may be seen on the next page. ~



Merry Christmas



EXPRESSWAY BETWEEN FOLSOM, EL DORADO HILLS IN THE WORKS

The Capital Southeast Connector Expressway segment between Folsom and El Dorado Hills has moved closer to construction with the selection of Dokken Engineering to provide its final design and engineering.

The Capital Southeast Connector Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors approved a contract with Dokken at its October 28 meeting.

The contract is to do final design on the 5.5-mile segment on Grant Line Road between Prairie City Road in Folsom and Latrobe Road in El Dorado Hills in two phases.

The first phase will include preliminary design and is expected to be completed by March 2017.

Completion of the second phase – which includes complete final design and right-of-way acquisition – is dependent on the timing and availability of construction funding.

When completed, the 34-mile connector will connect Interstate 5 and State Route 99 south of Elk Grove to Highway 50 at Silva Valley Parkway in El Dorado Hills. The project's overall first phase includes construction of four continuous lanes, expanded at-grade intersections, and a continuous path for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians.

Preliminary or final engineering work is underway on approximately 19 miles of the connector alignment, including in Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Folsom and El Dorado Hills.

Construction of the connector is expected to create more than 5,400 new full-time jobs, and generate \$310 million in new

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LUMPS OF COAL FOR EL DORADO COUNTY SUPES' STOCKINGS

Auditor Harn warns of budget crisis

According to Christmas tradition, when a child was bad they got a lump of coal in their stocking, but if they were good they got a small toy, cookies or candy. This year, El Dorado County Auditor-Controller Joe Harn has lumps of coal for the Christmas stockings of the El Dorado Board of Supervisors.

Harn informed the board recently that the county's unfunded obligation to CalPERS now exceeds \$280 million. CalPERS is the acronym for the California Public Employees Retirement System of which the county is a participant. Most county employees are members of the CalPERS retirement system.

Harn told the board, per the most recent figures available, that the county's unfunded obligation to CalPERS has risen to \$282 million, a \$51 million increase in one year, the prepared statement notes. He cites the system's investment earnings for the year ended June 30, 2016, saying they were "dramatically less than estimated, [and] our unfunded obligation will exceed \$300 million in our next CalPERS actuarial report."

The data show an even bleaker future, according to Harn, who predicts that the county's annual payments to CalPERS six years from now will be \$13 million per year higher than they are now. "Balancing the county's budget and providing critical public safety and road maintenance services will become much tougher in the future because of our unfunded obligation to CalPERS," his letter to supervisors advised.

"Over the next six fiscal years, our pay-

(continued on page 4)

BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2016



BLAC Board-elects (l to r) Jan Buxton, Janette D'Amico, Dale Chambers, Kathy Prevost and John Davey.



Ahn and Dale Chambers



Kathy and Herb Prevost



Corey and Melanie Swint with Grace and Robert Shauger



Fran and John Thomson



Meirve and John Davey

BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2016



Wil and Karen Brunet with Barbara and Roy Hectemann



Supervisor-elect John Hidahl and wife Eileen



Anna and Igor Don-Donkow with Melanie and Cory Swint



Bob and Carole Laurenty



Heidi and Walter Oberloher



EID Director Greg Prada and wife Joanne



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone,

This year is nearly past, and we look forward with hope to the next.

But first let me wish you and yours a joyous Christmas Season.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President



Mid-December

A full moon shines
over the morning frost;
the lanes are full of late-fallen leaves;
walking across the mulch
is almost as tricky
as treading over ice.

In town the carol-singers are in
crowding the shopping-mall,
while a group of muffled musicians
play by the outside market.

This year but two robins
on the early Christmas cards;
the squirrel still runs along the fence
skirting our newly-erected shed.

—Gerald England

HARN *(continued)*

ments to PERS will increase from around \$30 million per year to around \$43 million per year,” Harn explained in an e-mail to Village Life. “This will make it much more difficult for the county to be able to afford public safety services and adequate road maintenance.”

Delving into the history of the issue, Harn laid the problem at the feet of former boards of supervisors that accepted “ridiculously low cost estimates in the 1990s” and as a result “offered county employees dramatically enhanced retirement benefits in 1999 and 2000.”

Harn recommends the board begin to “set aside significantly more funds in our reserves to help cover these costs in the future.”

According to Harn, “What the county can do right now is to start saving money and increase its reserves for the much higher PERS payments that we know we will be required to make in the future. The county can also negotiate better agreements with the developers for some of the proposed housing projects in El Dorado Hills. A number of the draft development agreements being negotiated by the county will make our budget situation worse not better.”

Harn further suggests that the state “should give” the county the authority to negotiate changes to its agreements with its organized labor groups and other county employees to set retirement benefits at a lower rate in the future. Describing actions already taken toward that goal, he pointed out that “employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013, receive retirement benefits at a much lower rate than those hired before Jan. 1, 2013.”

Source: Chris Daley, Village Life

Happy New Year!

Bass Lake Action Committee
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BLAC FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SET

The February BLAC Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017. The meeting time and place will be announced in the January *Bulletin*.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

EXPRESSWAY *(continued)*

labor income, \$831 million in new regional economic output and more than \$23 million in new indirect business tax revenue. Over 20 years, the connector is expected to create more than 25,000 total new direct and indirect jobs, and generate \$2.5 billion in new economic output and \$182 million in new indirect business tax revenue. ~

Source: Folsom Telegraph

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