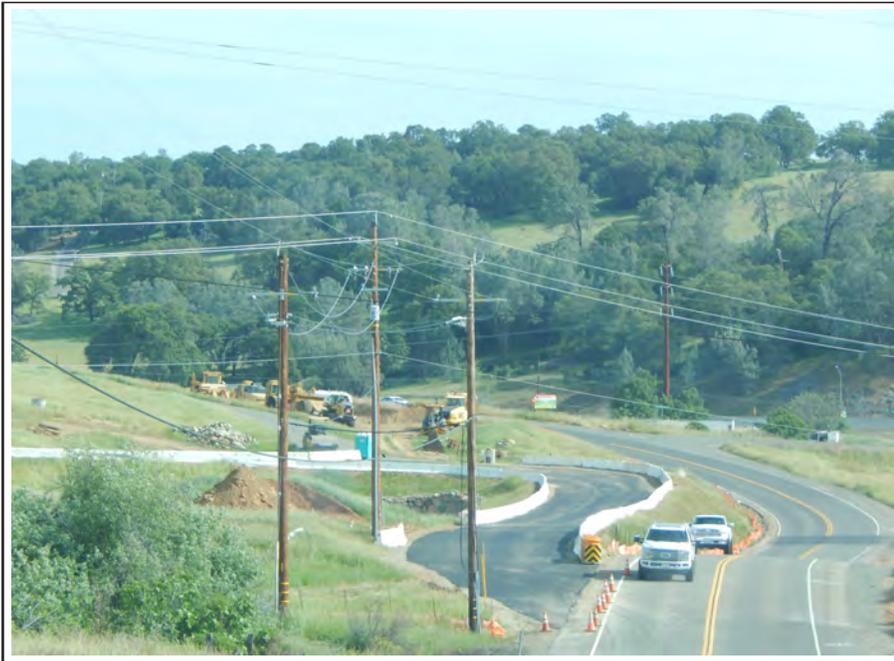




# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII No. 5    The Voice of the Bass Lake Community    May 2020  
www.basslakeaction.org

## BASS LAKE ROAD DETOUR IN EFFECT MAY 11th



Temporary Bass Lake Road Detour under construction (Photo Credit: Kaitlin Davey)

By John Davey

As part of the Country Club Drive-Bass Lake Road intersection realignment and signalization project, El Dorado County Department of Transportation, working with developer Winn Communities, announced the closure of the section of Bass Lake road from the new Country Club Drive intersection just south of Hollow Oak Drive, to just north of the existing Bass Lake Road-Country Club Drive intersection, adjacent to the Bass Lake Road US50 interchange.

This section of Bass Lake Road will close beginning Monday May 11th, and is expected to remain closed through July 30th, as crews complete the construction of the new signalized intersection.

A detour is available that will take drivers off of Bass Lake Road near the new Country Club Drive intersection. This will travel up the new Country Club

Drive to Tierra de Dios Drive, adjacent to Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Drivers will follow Tierra de Dios Drive east to Country Club Drive, where vehicles can travel west to the Bass Lake Road - US50 interchange. Drivers exiting US50 at Bass Lake Road would follow this route in reverse to continue north on Bass Lake Road.

Construction activities will continue in the area, so commuters should continue to expect intermittent delays. Drivers should remember to slow down while traveling through these construction areas - and are advised to allow extra time for traveling through the area.

The temporary detour/access road from Bass Lake Road to the new Country Club Drive has several curves, and is on a step grade. Tierra de Dios Drive intersects the existing Country Club Drive at a very severe angle, with poor sight line, so drivers should exercise caution when traveling these road segments.

## EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT ADOPTS NEW RATES

The El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors approved a rate increase for 2021-25 while giving themselves room to reconsider that decision in November once they assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of the economy.

Not slated to take effect until Jan. 1 of next year, the adopted increases would be approximately 7% for water and 5% for recycled water in 2021 with subsequent increases of 5% in 2022-25. Wastewater would not increase for the next two years, then increase by 1% in 2023 and 2024 and 3% in 2025.

In his presentation to the board Finance Director Mark Price emphasized that the updated rate study relies on the district's five-year financial plan and reflects the revenue needed to meet the district's annual operating and maintenance costs, continue its capital improvement program (CIP) and meet debt service requirements.

That CIP plan includes spending an average of \$5 million annually to replace transmission and distribution lines and another \$5 million to replace water service lines.

Price noted that having adequate revenue ensures a continued good credit rating, avoids a rate shock when rates have to be increased by double digits because they have gone unchanged for too long and fills in for declines in other sources of revenue.

One example being the projected decline in hydroelectric income due to a glut in the solar market. In 2020 revenue from hydroelectric is projected to bring in \$8 million but in 2021 that is expected to only be \$7 million and to decline further to \$6 million for the years 2022-25.

## BASS LAKE ROAD DETOUR IN EFFECT (con't) EID ADOPTS NEW RATES (con't)

Portable changeable electronic messages signs have been positioned along Bass Lake Road and Country Club Drive, and will remain until the project is completed, to advise drivers of changing conditions, safety information, and delays.



New Country Club Drive intersection with Tierra de Dios Drive. Photo Credit - Kaitlin Davey

The realigned Country Club Drive will take traffic onto the current Tierra De Dios Drive past Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where a new roadway, Morrison Road, will provide a connection between Country Club Drive and Hollow Oak Drive.

From there, it will continue down the hill to the new Bass Lake Road intersection (near City Lights Drive), about 1700 feet north of the current Bass Lake Road-Country Club Drive intersection. This will move a crowded intersection away from the US50 interchange, and provide traffic signals, controlled left turn lanes, and a dedicated right turn lane from northbound Bass Lake Road onto Country Club Drive.

The old segment of Country Club Drive from Tierra De Dios Drive to Bass Lake Road will be blocked from vehicle traffic, and converted to a bicycle path. The Country Club intersection is expected to be completed by mid-August. The completion of the entire project is projected for October 2020.

See the County Detour Map on PAGE 3 ~



Photo Credit - Kaitlin Davey

Price noted delaying projects means paying more for them later. An erosion in bond market rates can also raise the cost of borrowing and make it harder for the water agency to refinance its existing debt to more favorable terms.

Part of the Proposition 218 process includes counting protests. If a majority of property owners protest an increase, the agency can't impose a rate change. As of Monday morning, Price said EID had received 251 valid protests of the water rates or .6%, 128 protests of the wastewater rates or .5% and 30 for recycled water rates or .5%. According to the GHSA report.

Director Pat Dwyer motioned to approve the cost of service rates for 2021-25, freeze the 2020 rates at their current level, review the proposed rates for 2021 again in November and direct staff to aggressively pursue any infrastructure funding opportunities from the state or federal government to pass those savings on to EID's customers.

In the discussion that followed Director Alan Day claimed that the rate increases were not transparent and in some cases customers faced double digit increases. He also worried about the effect of the increases on restaurants and intimated that the number of protests was low because the protest process is difficult for customers.

President George Osborne then reminded the board of all the recent expensive infrastructure projects the district has under way or will undertake, including replacing aging pumps in Folsom Reservoir that supply water to El Dorado Hills residents. He noted the agency had to fix Forebay Dam because the state was threatening corrective action. Repairs to the El Dorado Main cost \$800,000.

The infrastructure is in some places at least 50 years old, he continued, saying he strongly supported Dwyer's motion. "Any deviation from that long-range plan for our CIP puts us in jeopardy," he said.

"(We have a responsibility to keep) rates as reasonable as possible but we also have an obligation to keep our organization solvent," Dwyer said.

"We voted to improve the capital improvement plan to replace critical -

- infrastructure likes flumes and pumps ... and voted to approve the operating budget and now it's time to approve the revenue to offset those costs ..." He also noted that after extensive outreach to customers, less than 1% of them actually protested the planned rate increase.

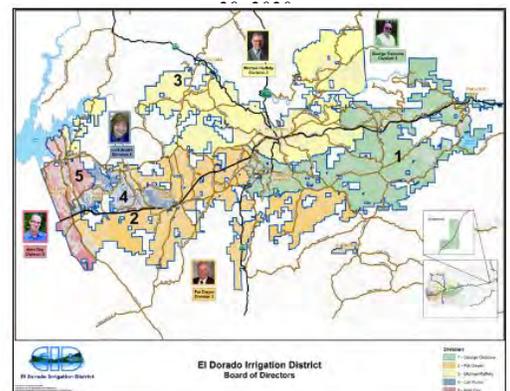
When it came for public comments some spoke for and against the rate increase with Todd White, representing the El Dorado County Republican Party, and Andy Nevis, president of the El Dorado County Taxpayers Association, expressing support for Dwyer's motion.

Others wanted the rates to remain the same or suggested the process for protesting be streamlined and independently audited. Former board member Greg Prada accused the cost of service analysis of being "bogus," past board candidate Craig Schmidt suggested suspending non-essential projects and debt and county resident and business owner Sue Taylor accused the board of being in a "bubble" as the country descends into a recession and maybe a depression due to the COVID-19 crisis.

In response EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie noted that while everyone is impacted by the COVID-19 situation, that wouldn't stop district assets from deteriorating.

With the discussion at an end the board voted 4-1 for Dwyer's motion with President Osborne and Directors Raffety, Dwyer and Anzini voting yes and Director Day voting no. ~

credit: Dawn Hodson ~  
The Mountain Democrat April 29, 2020



Click the map to locate your El Dorado Irrigation District Board representative on the EID website.

Image Credit - El Dorado Irrigation District Website  
<https://eid.org>

COUNTY OF EL DORADO, CA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

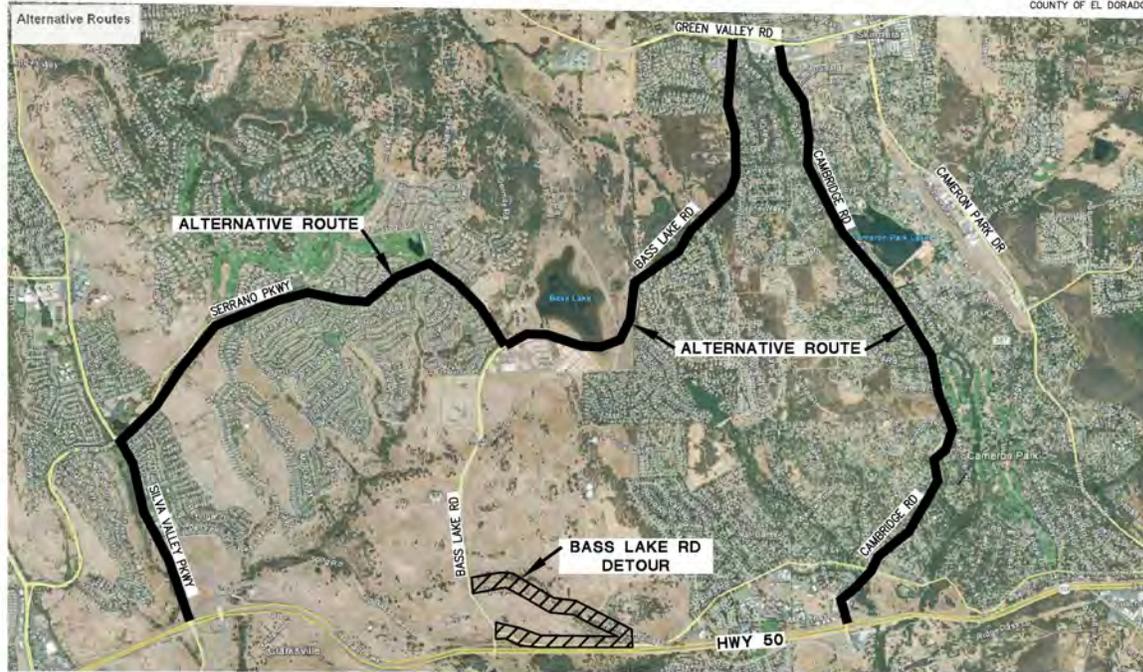
PROJECT PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR  
BASS LAKE ROAD CLOSURE

IN THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO, DISTRICT 1



VICINITY MAP  
COUNTY OF EL DORADO



**BASS LAKE ROAD CONSTRUCTION DETOUR & ALTERNATE ROUTES MAP**  
image credit - EL Dorado County

### MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION GOING VIRTUAL

Memorial Day ceremonies at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument in Placerville will not be held this year.

In their place the El Dorado County Veterans Alliance has announced a pre-recorded ceremony conducted by a small force of veterans will be broadcast over Sierra Community Access Television (Channel 2) and streamed over Facebook at 11 a.m., Monday, May 25. Facebook pages expected to stream the ceremony include **1ElDoradoCountyMilitaryVeterans**, **EDCVeteransAlliance**, and **eldorado.vets.monument**.

“The uncertain end date of California’s current COVID-19-induced ‘stay-at-home’ edict interfered with planning a respectful Memorial Day ceremony,” explained Gary Campbell, president of the Veterans Alliance. “That, and concerns that many of those who attend are senior and would be put at risk should the pandemic persist through Memorial Day, made it imperative that we find another way to honor

our nation’s fallen warriors

“El Dorado County has the highest percentage of residents having served in the U.S. Armed Forces of any county in California,” Campbell added. “Veterans represent under 2% of the nation’s population but here they comprise 10% of county residents. That explains why so many El Dorado County residents attend our Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies each year.

“We get some 1,500 people at them, partly because El Dorado County’s are among the most elaborate, militarily correct and well-attended veterans commemorations held in California.”

This year’s abbreviated ceremony will honor America’s fallen warriors with a flag ceremony, pledge of allegiance, presentation of a wreath and appropriate remarks. Participating will be veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces, assembled from the county’s many veterans organizations, according to Campbell.

The veterans monument grounds will -

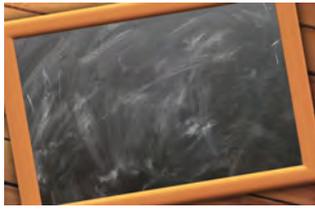
- remain open on Memorial Day for those who intend to pay their respects to the county’s veterans. Visitors are asked to maintain 10 feet of social distance.

The El Dorado County Veterans Alliance is assigned by El Dorado County to conduct ceremonies at and oversee improvements to the county Veterans Monument. Volunteers who are both veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and family members comprise its membership. More about the organization and its programs can be found at [ElDoradoCountyVeterans.org](http://ElDoradoCountyVeterans.org).

*Credit: John Poiriroo Mountain Democrat May 8, 2020*



*El Dorado County Veterans Monument  
image credit - <http://eldoradocountyveteransmonument.com/>*



## From The BLAC Board President's Letter May 2020

*"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."*

Marcel Proust

The cherry tree and azalea blossoms have come and gone and they were glorious while they lasted. The hummingbirds are enjoying the Pincushion flower blossoms and daily baths in the pond fountain. However, this year we have fewer birds at the feeder when we would normally have those migrating through.

Thankfully, I feel very fortunate to have reaped the benefits of very special and enduring friendships since moving to El Dorado Hills. This has never been more evident and appreciated than during this past few weeks of sheltering in place. It will be interesting to see what our new normal will be!

Would you like to take an armchair tour of El Dorado County's rich history from contributors such as George Peabody, George McKee and the late Huell Howser? Or a ride on the Rubicon Trail, paddle a raft or kayak, navigate the rapids of the South Fork or rumble along in a stagecoach? You can even wander through a classic car Show 'n Shine, listen to music or watch this Monday's Memorial Day program.

Did you know El Dorado County residents can enjoy watching this enriching entertainment on the Sierra Community Access Television - Channel 2, SCA-TV2, on Comcast? Also, via their videos streaming on demand or the the internet on computers, tablets, smart phones, smart televisions and Blu-ray players simply by accessing the SCA-TV2 YouTube channel.

An all-volunteer force has been making this possible working predominantly from home or in the field. Thanks to the financial support of business underwriters as well as grants from local foundations and the city of

*(continued on page 5)*

## EL DORADO HILLS CSD BOARD CONSIDERS 2020-21 LLAD ASSESSMENTS

*By John Davey*

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District Directors will receive and review the FY 2020-21 Engineer's Report for each the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment Districts (LLAD) that they manage in the district's boundaries at the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday May 14th.

The Following details apply for Bass Lake area districts:

**Bass Lake A (The Hills of El Dorado)**  
2020-21 assessment: \$99.00  
Max possible assessment: \$99.00

**Bass Lake B (Woodridge)**  
2020-21 assessment: \$95.26  
Max possible assessment: \$545.96

**Hollow Oaks**  
2020-21 assessment: \$104.22  
Max possible assessment: \$817.38

**Bass Lake LLAD A – The Hills of El Dorado** - has been a fixed assessment since its creation in 1994-95. As such, the EDH CSD has indicated that the LLAD is underfunded. The EDH CSD has distributed a survey and held meetings with property owners to determine how to continue to serve the needs of the LLAD – the choices essentially being, reduce services, or have property owners vote to approve a rate increase mechanism so that an assessment can be charged that will meet the funding requirements of the LLAD. Options have been presented that would lower costs, such as removing landscaping and lawn areas, etc. The last meeting was held January 9, 2020. In part due to the time constraints of the budget cycle, and the impacts of the COVID crisis, it seems that a decision on a vote to provide a funding increase mechanism will not be accomplished in time for the 2020-21 budget year. The assessment will remain at \$99.

**Bass Lake LLAD B – Woodridge** - The assessment increased from \$49 to \$75.88 for the 2019-20 FY. For the 2020-21 FY, the assessment is proposed to increase to \$95.26.

**Hollow Oak LLAD** – The 2019-20 assessment in the Engineer's Report was listed as \$525.68. For FY 2020-21, the assessment rate is proposed to be \$140.22.

*(continued on page 5)*

## BASS LAKE BULLETIN AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE

*By Kathy Prevost*

The Bass Lake Bulletin was first published in October of 2003 and over the years it has developed to provide a wealth of information of the history of Bass Lake and El Dorado County.

This month we decided to take a look at the month of May because we realize many subjects of concern/interest then, remain subjects of concern/interest now.

Enjoy the trip down memory lane via these headlines....

**May 2004** - Serrano Is Laying Plans To develop The Last Phase With Plans To Develop 1000 to 1500 Homes

**May 2005** - County Faces Road Money Shortfall, BLAC Pushes for Bass Lake Road Repairs

**May 2006** - Green Valley Road Widening Awarded, Bass Lake to Get New Trash Hauler

**May 2007** – Home Depot To Come To Cameron Park

**May 2008** – EID Water Improvements Going In At Bass Lake

**May 2009** - Fatal Accident on Bass Lake Road, CSD Mulls Options for LLAD Deficits, BLAC Asks Supervisors For Road Repair Help

**May 2010** - Propane Deal Set For Woodridge, Bridlewood Canyon, Sierra Crossing Homeowners

**May 2011** – Annual Rattlesnake Warnings Issued, Fifth Annual Clarksville Day Pictures

**May 2012** - Silver Springs Parkway

**May 2013** - Low Snow Pack Level Alarms California

**May 2014** - Silver Springs Parkway - Bass Lake Road SEIR Scoping Meeting

**May 2015** - California Weather Never "Normal"

**May 2016** – Editorial - What are Measures E & G?, District 1 Five-Way Race for County Supervisor

**May 2017** - Safeway Coming To Bass Lake?

**May 2018** - Silver Springs Parkway Southern Segment Is Finishing Up Right Of Way Acquisitions By Eminent Domain Proceedings On Three Parcels Adjacent To Bass Lake Road

**May 2019** – JS West Propane Agreement Up In 2020, County Ponders Park Land Transfer ~

*President's Letter - (con't)*

Placerville, it provides El Dorado County with a virtual venue that presents the best of the community's past, present and future.

Until the stay-at-home orders lift and you can explore Clay Street and the Placerville Historic District in person, you can take virtual visits by watching the Placerville History Channel presentations on Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted on the Preserve Historic Placerville website.

While we have been enjoying the recent trend of reduced gasoline prices, it appears our propane fuel prices will increase for the summer. Normally in the summer, propane prices drop but we have had an abnormal situation this year with less demand for gasoline because of the Coronavirus. Crude oil prices have fallen, drilling rigs idled, excess fuel is being stored in tankers offshore, and less petroleum has been refined.

Propane is a by-product of two other processes, natural gas and petroleum refining. JS West reported they increased their prices last week by 6 cents. Fortunately for those of us on propane, we are entering a warmer time of year and should be using propane less if at all for heating purposes.

Speaking of high gasoline prices, according to an article in the Sacramento Bee on May 5th it appears that two energy trading firms illegally drove up gasoline prices through a complex game that cost the State's motorists millions of dollars. Worse yet they were able to get away with it for two years.

In a lawsuit filed by Attorney General Xavier Becerra, two trading firms based in Houston took advantage of the Southern California Refinery explosion in early 2015 to raise prices. Even with crude oil prices at their lowest level in years, California's average price of gasoline was \$2.74 which was nearly a dollar higher than the US average on Monday according to AAA.

"Industry experts say the disparity is mainly the result of higher taxes and California strict clean air regulations which effectively limit the number of refineries that will blend gasoline to California specifications. Those regulations leave California vulnerable to severe spikes when even a single refinery finally shuts down."

But Becerra and Assemblyman Mark Levine, who joined the Attorney General in announcing the lawsuit, said the case shows that price manipulation plays a significant role as well."

I hope you will enjoy reading the May Bass Lake Bulletin.

Kathy Prevost  
President  
Bass Lake Action Committee

## EDH CSD 2020-21 LLAD ASSESSMENTS (con't)

The majority of these LLADs have a funding increase mechanism built in at the formation of the LLADs. These are typically tied to the Consumer Price Index, along with a calculation formula, and can grow each year based on the original assessment rate, and the percentage of CPI increases compounded every year since the formation date. This provides for a Maximum assessment amount. However, the Engineer's report provides for an assessment rate that is required for identified expenses in the coming fiscal year, as well as known future expenses/costs. As an example, in the 2020-21 FY Engineer's Report, which considers expected costs for the coming fiscal year, as well as funding deficits from the previous year, the Bass Lake LLAD B – Woodridge – assessment is proposed for \$95.26, but based on the assessment rate at the formation of the district, and the cumulative CPI increases over the years since the formation, the maximum possible assessment could be \$545.96.

The EDH CSD Meeting packet can be found online here.

The EDH CSD Board of Directors meeting will be in virtual format via a ZOOM session - the meeting details are:

\*ZOOM CONFERENCE  
Attend Meeting Online:  
<https://zoom.us/j/96983124950>  
Call-in Option:  
1 (669) 900-6833  
Meeting ID:  
969 8312 4950



## BLAC BOARD EXPLORES VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION.

Due to the State mandated limit on gatherings of groups, the May 2020 quarterly BLAC Board of Directors Business Meeting was postponed.

The Bass Lake Action Committee Board is considering a virtual meeting, or a rescheduled meeting in June. When a schedule is set, BLAC members will be notified via email.

**Treasurer Wil Burnet would like to remind BLAC members to return their 2020 membership renewals** to him at their earliest convenience. If you missed your 2020 Renewal Letter in the Mail, please contact [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com), or call BLAC Vice President John Davey at 530-676-2657 and leave a message.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice-President John Davey at 530-676-2657, email [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com), or visit our online membership form at <http://basslakeaction.net/members> ~

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