



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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SILVER SPRINGS PARKWAY SOUTHERN CONNECTION TO BASS LAKE ROAD BID AWARDED

EL DORADO HILLS FROM THE EARLIEST CALIFORNIANS TO 1849

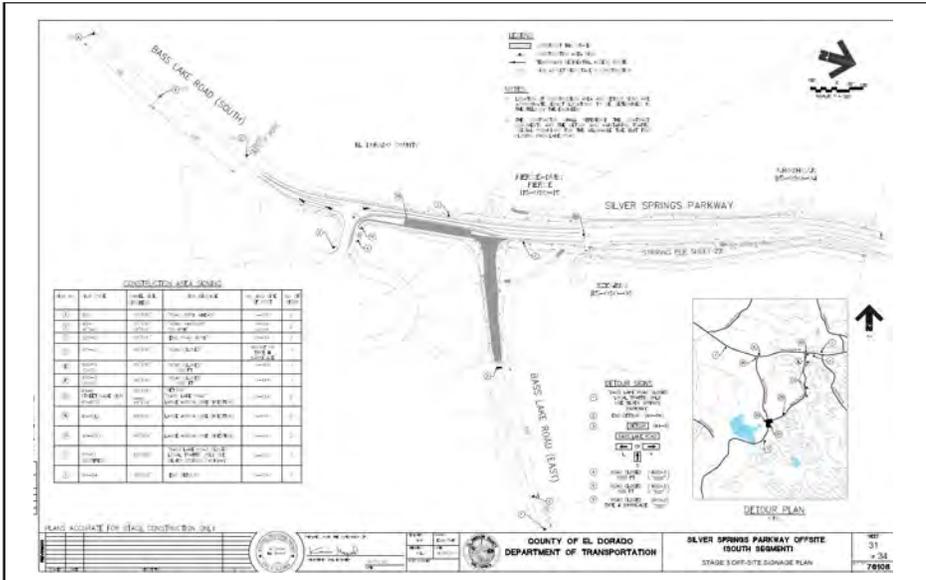
By Kathy Prevost

The earliest Californians crossed the Bering Straits to Alaska thirty to sixteen thousand years ago on a now vanished land bridge spreading out to settle in both North and South America.

These early California cultures were isolated by the Pacific coastal range from others that developed in neighboring Mexico and the Western United States and they did not share the same language or culture with little physical resemblance to the Native Americans of the Great Plains. A very diverse population, they were separated by language into 135 distinct dialects.

Unlike the larger tribes and nations to the east, the native people were isolated by mountain ranges and deserts which made it difficult for them to travel great distances to other regions and they lived in large family groups with little political structure. The mountains also made warfare unfeasible and they enjoyed a fairly peaceful life.

In Spanish, the name El Dorado means the gilded or golden one and there is a legend in Central and South America which motivated adventurers to search for gold in far away new lands. Europeans of the 16th and 17th century thought there would be a city of gold known as El Dorado in the -



Proposed Bass Lake Road - Silver Springs Parkway Detour Plan - tentatively scheduled for March - April 2020. Full image available at http://basslakeaction.net/BLR_Detour.pdf image courtesy El Dorado County Legistar File

By John Davey

On August 4th, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, following County Department of Transportation staff recommendations, awarded the construction contract for the Southern Silver Springs Parkway extension to Bass Lake Road project, to Granite Construction Company.

The project will create a one third of a mile extension of Silver Springs Parkway. The roadway will be a divided two lane road, with bicycle lanes, and sidewalks, and will complete the connection of the northern section of Silver Springs Parkway (constructed in 2014) from Green Valley Road next to Pleasant Grove Middle School, south to Bass Lake Road at Sandhurst Hill Drive - the 25 mph curve on Bass Lake Road between Madera Way and Magnolia Hills Drive.

The project has been envisioned since the

late 1980s, with various approvals of the Silver Springs residential project in the subsequent years. The first units of the Silver Springs residential development near Green Valley Road have had the lots graded, utilities roughed in, and recently, the interior roads have been paved.

The winning Granite Construction Company bid for this roadway segment came in at \$3.8 million. The Southern Silver Springs Parkway extension project is listed in the 2020 El Dorado County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at \$11.478 million, which includes items such as obtaining right of way, project planning, project design, and more. In the 2010 El Dorado County CIP, the project was budgeted at \$6.374 million. In ten years, the project costs have almost doubled.

From the limited materials in the Board of Supervisors Legistar Calendar file for the Silver Springs Parkway Agenda Item, it appears that the intent of the project is

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SILVER SPRINGS PARKWAY (con't)

- to first provide the roadway connection of the northern section of Silver Springs Parkway to Bass Lake Road, which will provide access for travelers on Bass Lake Road between Madera Way and Green Valley Road a new, uninterrupted road segment. Once this is complete, Bass Lake Road between Madera Way and Magnolia Hills Drive will be closed, tentatively scheduled for March 2021, lasting at least 30 days into April 2021, and a detour made available **only** for local residents that will route Bass Lake Road traffic onto Magnolia Hills Drive, connecting to Alyssum Circle, then to Jasmine Circle, back to Summer Drive, and from there, back onto Bass Lake Road Via Madera Way.

The road closure between Madera Way and Magnolia Hills Drive will allow construction of a right turn lane at the new Bass Lake Road – Silver Springs Parkway intersection. Travelers on Bass Lake Road heading north towards Woodleigh Lane, Gateway Drive, and further north towards Rescue Elementary, or to Green Valley Road, will use a right turn at this new intersection to continue north on Bass Lake Road. A left turn will be required at the new intersection to accommodate drivers on southbound Bass Lake Road. The Intersection has been planned as a three-way stop, with stop signs (no traffic signals).

A right turn pocket on north bound Bass Lake Road onto Madera Lane has been proposed in the past. Additionally, some improvements to the Bass Lake Road alignment will continue 800 feet south of the new intersection, with additional improvements on Bass Lake Road east of the new intersection for a few hundred feet.

The El Dorado County Department of Transportation has previously indicated that the Silver Springs Pkwy project is expected to begin construction in 2020.



EDH FROM THE EARLIEST CALIFORNIANS TO 1849

(con't)

- new world.

This gradually came to mean a place of great riches in the Americas. When the Spanish explored South America in the early 16th century, they heard accounts of a native tribe with a new ruler who covered himself with gold dust as part of a ceremony when he began his rule. To appease an underwater god, gold and jewels were thrown in a lake and this is thought to be the origin of the legend.

Ultimately, this legend brought the first Spanish conquistadors to California and later others to our Sierra foothills in their quest for gold.

By naming our area El Dorado Hills, the early real estate developers felt they captured the spirit of the Gold Rush miners who passed through the area in 1849 on their way to the Mother Lode country in search of the riches they hoped to find.

The western slope of the Sierra was originally inhabited by the Maidu (man) and Miwok (people) groups of native peoples with their areas splitting through and sharing what is now El Dorado County. They were typically organized into local communities with informal confederations of communities who only met periodically for ceremonial purposes.

Information was passed to the generations that followed orally because they had almost no written language.

The Miwok and Maidu people had very similar cultures sharing the same Penutian language group but they had slightly differing dialects. Living primarily at lower elevations, they used the over three thousand foot level of the nearby mountain ranges for summer hunting and as gathering places. They were excellent managers of their ecosystem since they depended on it for sustenance.

As hunter-gatherers fishers, they were a gentle hard-working people who roamed the foothills spending their winters in teepee shaped bark-covered lodges, and summers at lower elevations in structures built with -

- cut branches tied together and fastened to sapling posts which were then covered with brush and dirt.

The area was rich in food and they had a varied diet of meat, nuts and plants. There were abundant fresh water fish including salmon and trout in the streams and rivers plus deer, elk, rabbits, squirrels, etc. They would hunt for hibernating bear in the winter.

The most important food staple was acorns from the various types of oak trees (with black oak being the most favored) which they gathered in the fall and ground into a meal to be eaten as mush, bread or soup. To preserve food for the coming year, acorns picked in the fall were stored in basket (herb lined to repel insects and retard mold) granaries on stilts.

Grinding rocks (and occasionally hammerstone's and pestles) which were used in food preparation can still be found in the El Dorado Hills area.

While the Spanish conquistadors came to what they called Alta California in 1542, they didn't establish control of California until 1769 by founding the San Diego de Alcalá Mission. Twenty other missions subsequently built along the coast from San Diego to just north of San Francisco were established by 1823.

By 1821, Mexico had gained its independence from Spain and other countries such as the United States had begun exploring California.

In the early 1800's, the Sierra foothill native communities were largely not impacted by the Spanish when they first arrived in California or from the fur traders or expeditions from the United States. However, in 1833, there was a malaria and influenza epidemic which affected many of the Maidu and Miwok people.

Mexico took responsibility for the Spanish missions in 1833 and in 1846 they gave away Mexican land grants in the Sierra foothills which included El Paso, San Juan de los Americanos and Cosumnes. A name that we would all recognize is Grant Line Road which marked the boundaries of some of these land grants. -

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CSD BASS LAKE REGIONAL PARK GAINS FINAL PROPERTY PIECE

By John Davey

At the Thursday August 13th meeting of the Board of Directors of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD), the Board voted to accept an agreement with Parker Development/ Serrano Associates (codified by El Dorado County) to transfer the remaining 12.5 acres owed for parkland dedication from the 1988 El Dorado Hills Specific Plan (the majority of that Plan being the Serrano El Dorado Development). This also comes with \$3.5 million in Community Finance District (CFD – or Mello Roos) funds collected over the past 30 years. The 12.5 acres is the Village J Lot H site at the north east corner of Bass Lake Road, next to the EID Maintenance Yard at Bass Lake.

Included in the 20 year development agreement language between Parker Development and El Dorado County (which expired in 2008) was a requirement that accompanied the parkland dedication specifying that Parker Development was to design the park space in consultation with the EDH CSD, and then to construct the park. The EDH CSD has long expressed a desire to instead design and build the park themselves.

The new agreement provides that the 12.5 acres be dedicated to the EDH CSD, along with the \$3.5 million in the CFD fund, and that the EDH CSD will design and build the park space as a component of the greater Bass Lake Regional Park proposal. Parker Development/Serrano Associates will have approval rights on the final design.

The Village J Lot H 12.5 acre property is being combined with the EID Maintenance Yard Property that the EDH CSD has purchased, along with the Lake and surrounding property the EDH CSD purchased from Rescue Union School District, and the 41 acres that the EDH CSD purchased from EL Dorado County, resulting in over 200 acres proposed for the future Bass Lake Regional Park.



MORE BASS LAKE REGIONAL PARK UPDATES

By John Davey

BASS LAKE PARK SURVEY

In addition to the Village J Lot H property being accepted by the EDH CSD Board of Directors, the EDH CSD is still seeking input and help with the Bass Lake Regional Park development. EDH CSD is still seeking resident input for proposed park features – We encourage all residents to take the District’s two-minute Bass Lake Park Survey to provide your feedback <http://basslakeaction.net/2minutesurvey>

BASS LAKE VOLUNTEERS ERRADICATE INVASIVE PLANT

On Saturday August 15th, a volunteer effort at the Bass Lake property was completed by Bass Lake Action Committee member, and EDH Promise Foundation Board Member Rowland Gaal, along with the Boys Team Charity - El Dorado Hills League, to help remove Stinkwort, (*Dittrichia graveolens*), an annual invasive species. On a recent walking tour with the El Dorado Chapter - California Native Plant Society, EDH CSD Staff learned that this invasive plant can be controlled by removing the plant before it flowers and establishes seeds. Stinkwort plants begins to flower in September, so thanks to the efforts of Rowland and the Boys Team Charity El Dorado Hills League, hopefully the spread of Stinkwort at Bass Lake has been controlled for the season! Hats off to this group of Volunteers for completing this undertaking in 100-plus degree heat!



Invasive Stinkwort, varieties found at Bass Lake

BASS LAKE REGIONAL PARK VOLUNTEER PROJECT - FENCING

The EDH CSD is also looking for volunteers to help construct fencing around the Bass Lake Property.

From the EDH CSD August Newsletter:

Bass Lake Regional Park - Volunteer Project Build a fence around the EID yard at Bass Lake with us.

We are seeking hardworking volunteers for a hands on project to fence a section of the property at Bass Lake Regional Park.

(Continued on page 5)

BASS LAKE ROAD – COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE DETOUR STILL IN PLACE

By John Davey

The Country Club Drive realignment and signalized intersection project on Bass Lake Road required a detour which was projected to be in effect from May 1st through Mid-August. In June, the EL Dorado County Department of Transportation shared news with the Bass Lake Action Committee that the detour was scheduled to be removed by the end of July – two weeks early.

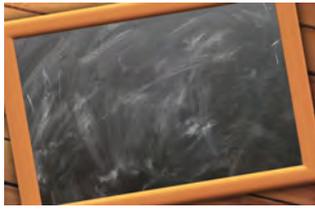
Unfortunately, PG&E and AT&T combined to delay the removal of the Detour. PG&E and AT&T were scheduled to provide utility relocations along the realigned roadways. PG&E was eventually able to resolve their scheduling conflict, but unfortunately, AT&T did not. AT&T has an equipment vault in the new northbound lanes, and they lacked a piece of equipment to complete their utility relocation. The new suggested timeline for the detour removal was “sometime” in September.

El Dorado County District 1 Supervisor John Hidahl’s office advised on August 4th that DOT confirmed that AT&T had received the needed equipment and had started on finishing their portion of the utility work for the project.

Once the detour is removed, the new Country Club Drive-Bass Lake Road intersection will receive traffic signals, and the short section of “old” Country Club Drive from Bass Lake Road at the US50 interchange, east to Tierra de Dios Drive, will be closed to vehicle traffic and converted to a bicycle route. The entire project is expected to be completed in October 2020.

 County Club Drive Realignment - Bass Lake Road/Old Bass Lake Road to Tierra de Dios Drive
CIP Project Summary
Project No: 71360 / 36105010 Type: Roadway Supervisor District(s) 1, 2





From The BLAC Board President's Letter August 2020

Watching the Mayten trees sway in the light breeze this morning, it is hard to believe we are a little over a month away from fall with Labor Day sneaking up on us. The warmer temperatures of the last few weeks have certainly been "summer like" particularly the 102 degrees today!

Labor Day was signed into law on June 28th, 1894 by President Grover Cleveland and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894.

This year we will celebrate Labor Day on September 7th and normally that weekend would symbolize the end of summer and be celebrated with picnics, barbecues, public gatherings, etc. Since we have a "new normal", the celebrations may be smaller but we can still pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of our American workers and enjoy a long three day weekend.

Raised as a Navy "brat" we spent several tours of duty in Alameda and my mother was very interested in the history of the Sierra foothills. She planned many an excursion to both Amador and El Dorado County. Loaded into a passenger car as a young teenager with three of my younger sisters wasn't exactly my idea of fun but I'm glad I had the opportunity now.

I clearly remember our trip on old Highway 50 up to Placerville one fall and into Amador County to see the huge Tailing Wheels that were still standing. I even vaguely remember the motel we stayed at!

My knowledge of the earliest residents of California was limited to the Chumash Indians who were native to the Southern California areas I had lived in through the years of moving around the country once married. Also, those of the Channel Islands -

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EDH FROM THE EARLIEST CALIFORNIANS TO 1849

(con't)

- Subsequently, gold was discovered in what is now called Coloma at Sutter's Mill in January of 1848.

With the Gold Rush of 1849, the arriving gold miners brought diseases for which the local people had no natural immunity and with their mining and logging operations, they polluted the rivers and streams. The influx of so many miners disrupted the ecology of the region which prompted a drought and ultimately starvation.

Many of those who survived adopted the new ways and lost touch with their own customs. Their population continued to decline until 1925 when there were only 1100 Maidu still alive and living in El Dorado County.

The United States, which had a desire for expansion (Manifest Destiny), targeted Texas, New Mexico and California for annexation from Mexico. When the United States took Texas in 1846, a war broke out between the two countries which ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Mexico was paid 15 million dollars for New Mexico and California and for over a year California was under military rule until statehood was granted on September 9, 1849 by President Millard Fillmore making California the 31st state.

Watch for our September Bass Lake Bulletin when we will continue the saga of El Dorado County into the present day!

References: The El Dorado Handbook 2002 by Richard Johnson and Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson

Suggested Field Trip: Indian Grinding Rock State Historical Park –

Address: 14881 Pine Grove Volcano Rd, Pine Grove, CA 95665

This park is located near Jackson, southwest of Volcano on Pine Grove Road in Amador County. It has the largest bedrock mortar ever found in the western United States. The grinding rock is called Chaw'se in the Miwok language.

The limestone outcropping has over 1,000 mortar holes and more than 300 petroglyphs. Some of the carvings are becoming difficult to see as they are believed to be as much as two to three thousand years old.

Many Indians from both the Miwok and Maidu groups are believed to have lived in the area year round according to anthropologists.

The Chaw'se Regional Indian Museum is on the same property with a complete Miwok village. The museum was designed to reflect the architecture of the traditional roundhouse.



image credit - Ethnic Studies Library, UC Berkeley

BASS LAKE AREA STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOLS – IN VIRTUAL AND HYBRID FASHION

The following area public school districts have opened:

Rescue Union School District – Utilizing a Hybrid in person model – half of the students attend in the morning, the other half of students attend in the afternoons. First Day of instruction, August 17th.

Buckeye Union School District – Classes conducted via Virtual Learning. First Day of Instruction, August 17th.

El Dorado Union High School District – Classes conducted via Virtual Learning. Classes and instruction began August 10th – with virtual instruction to continue until at least October 5th.



President's Letter - (con't)

- which had several different cultures who had settled on the islands over the years at one time.

Consequently, I enjoyed researching and discovering more about the very earliest residents of our area. Our Bass Lake area is home to many grinding rocks of the Maidu and Miwok as well as other parts of El Dorado Hills and the county.

I only wish I could have attended the Clarksville Historical Society meeting in 2018 when they had a speaker on the history of the Nisenan Indians.

The Clarksville Historical Society (CHS) was founded in 2004 and "is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the history of the local areas and providing educational programs about Clarksville and the surrounding area". From a very dedicated small group of founders, CHS has grown and worked to "acquire artifacts, books, photographs and other materials relating to the history of the area around Clarksville including a large collection of tools from a local blacksmith".

They have formal title to the Woodside School House which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as well as the M. B. Earl store which they plan to use as storage and to display their collections once refurbished.

They have been responsible for the wonderfully well attended Clarksville Heritage Day and Car Show since 2006 and hold 6 programs in the fall and winter that are open to the public. CHS has been instrumental in securing historical markers at locations in Clarksville at several different locations.

Additionally, they publish a newsletter for their members called "The Limestone" four times a year and offer Marvelous Adventure Tours which take members to local historical sites in the spring and fall.

You can learn more about the Clarksville Historical Society and how to support the organization or become a member on their website at <https://www.edhhistory.org>. For more information on the Clarksville Historical Society or membership information please contact Paul Booth, President via email to mrandmrsbooth@yahoo.com, or Doug Hus, Board member at 916-719-0543

May you each and all enjoy your Labor Day weekend!

Kathy Prevost
President
Bass Lake Action Committee

MORE BASS LAKE REGIONAL PARK UPDATES*(con't)*

This task is required to open a section of the park to the public. Under the direction of the EDHCS D Parks Staff, volunteers will be installing fencing. This includes hands on labor, including rolling out fencing and installation.

The link for volunteers to sign up is here - <http://basslakeaction.net/fence-volunteer-signup>

Once the fence is in place, the EDH CSD plans to open a section of the park to the public. While the Bass Lake Action Committee supports access to the Lake Property, we have expressed concerns about the timing of park access, the impacts on the Lake Property ecosystem and wildlife by visitors, and the potential impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.

Among those concerns for surrounding neighborhoods, are the issues with parking, and unmonitored access at the Lake property.

During the spring, illegal trespassing and illegal fishing activities occurred for more than a month, without any effective solutions.

Trespassing at the Lake property resulted in trespassers and illegal fishers parking in both the Woodridge and Serrano Village J7 Neighborhoods.

Without the park's proposed parking facilities in place - 500-plus spaces on the west side of the Lake, and over 100 spaces on the east side of the Lake, across from Madera Way - we remain concerned about the impact of park visitors and traffic on our surrounding neighborhoods.

The Bass Lake Action Committee looks forward to working with the EDH CSD on how to respond to these issues, and a future discussion is being planned.

Our full comment letter can be seen here - <http://basslakeaction.net/blac-edhcsd-public-comment>

**BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING HELD IN AUGUST. NOVEMBER DATE SET**

The Bass Lake Action Committee Board conducted the third Quarterly Board Meeting of 2020 on Monday, August 10th at 7:00PM, virtually, via ZOOM.

Due to the ongoing restrictions from the State of California regarding public gatherings, it is likely that the November 9th Bass Lake Action Committee Board meeting will need to be held virtually again. If a virtual meeting is necessary, Bass Lake Action Committee Members will receive an email invitation that will include the Zoom Link and instructions for attending the meeting in November.

If an in-person meeting is possible, the meeting location will be emailed to members, and published in the October Bass Lake Bulletin. All Bass Lake Action Committee members are invited to attend.

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

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