

PRESS RELEASE

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BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE URGES CAUTION ON PARK EIR

The Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC) has urged the El Dorado County Parks Department to seriously consider possible threats to wildlife and the environment, and the presence of asbestos, as it begins the process of the draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Bass Lake Park to be built on Bass Lake Road in El Dorado Hills. BLAC submitted its comments on the draft EIR to the County in a letter to Gary Hyden at the County Parks Department.

The organization in its letter also urges that the impact to the environment be lessened by having the park close at sundown, as it is well established that artificial lights and human noise affects the feeding and breeding behavior of birds and mammals.

“We are concerned that the park site is home to many birds and mammals,” said David Glazier, spokesman for the local grass-roots group. “Just last week a flock of rare white pelicans was observed feeding at Bass Lake.”

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BLAC also recommends that the county do thorough testing for asbestos on the park site. The letter reminds the county that the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, has identified the area north and south of Bass Lake as an area more likely to contain natural occurrences of asbestos, so the proposed Bass Lake Park site sits squarely in the middle of an area designated as being more likely to contain natural occurrences of asbestos.

Glazier also observed that since soil tests conducted by the county have identified the park site as containing asbestiform rock and naturally occurring asbestos, "We don't want an asbestos problem like they had at Oak Ridge High to happen at the park."

In addition to the environmental and asbestos issues, the group asks the county to upgrade Bass Lake Road to provide safe access to the park, and expresses concern that the funding for the building, staffing, and maintenance of the park is as yet unresolved.

The Bass Lake Action Committee is a grass-roots organization of El Dorado Hills residents living around Bass Lake that was formed to provide a voice for homeowners in dealing with the county and other community agencies.

Persons interested in the proposed park, or who wish to read the comment letter that Bass Lake Action Committee sent to the county, may visit BLAC's website at www.basslakeaction.org or email BLAC at info@basslakeaction.org.

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