



Lights approved for Bass Lake Park

By Ryan Rose

The El Dorado Hills Community Service District has approved the use of lights at the proposed Bass Lake Park site.

This decision was greeted with dismay by members of the Bass Lake Action Committee, a group of area residents who support the rights of homeowners to enjoy their land in a peaceful setting.

"We think it stinks," said Dave Glazier, Bass Lake resident and member of the committee.

The formal ruling of the CSD is that Bass Lake Park will have no restrictions in terms of lighting.

Glazier believes the CSD, which is responsible for the park's development, made the decision because it was "politically right."

"This is something we have been working on since 1992," explains CSD General Manager Wayne Lowry. "It has always been in the county's master plan."

Lowry says El Dorado County and CSD agreed the area needs a regional park with lights available for athletic competition.

"We are using lights with low impact on the neighborhoods," said Lowry. "We are all optimistic the lights will have less glare."

Glazier doesn't agree. The issue of lighting has been one of BLAC's chief concerns. The committee does not wish to use lighting that would disturb the environment or invite undesirable activities.

"Lights may attract people for games, but it will attract others for more than games," said Glazier.

The committee members are worried the park will not be properly constructed and governed, causing area residents to deal with "light, noise, vandalism and excessive traffic," Glazier said.

The committee members do not oppose a park, according to Glazier, but they do wish to have a say in its construction.

"We always agreed to having a park. Just forget the lights," said Glazier.

He doesn't like the idea of having a park system near Bass Lake that will be used as a "mega sports complex."

"I don't need a ball field running at 9:30 in the morning," he said.

Glazier points to other area schools and local parks if sports teams need places to play.

"The county and school districts said ball fields could be used," said Glazier. "But then the schools brought in mobiles and that took up field space. But there are five other parks still in the area. Why build a park that is going to be \$6 million?"

Glazier believes CSD's decision will only come back to haunt area residents.

"The smelly bag will be left for the neighborhood to deal with," he said, "because no one else wants to touch it."

For more information on the Bass Lake Action Committee, visit their web site at www.basslakeaction.com.

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