



Locals want park report

By Ryan Rose

It is simply a matter of waiting.

In a letter to El Dorado County dated June 16, the Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC), a non-profit group promoting responsible development around Bass Lake, asked for a copy of the park's Draft Environmental Impact Report.

The only problem? The report is not finished yet.

After nearly a year of research and delays, El Dorado County has yet to issue its draft EIR. County officials began their environmental research in August of 2003 and delayed release of the report in January.

In their monthly newsletter, the committee reports "the county has been unable to furnish BLAC with a definite date as to when the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park will be completed."

The community group wants to see the report – the sooner the better.

The group has raised concerns the new park may bring undesirable features (noise, crime, pollution) to the Bass Lake area.

As proposed, the site would include soccer, softball and baseball fields along with stadium lighting for night games. The park is expected to reduce congestion at other area fields during league play.

Committee members have asked that El Dorado County design the park with residents in mind. The group has long said that they are not against the park, but favor conserving the tranquil nature of Bass Lake.

To ensure their feelings are heard, the committee wants in on the EIR process. The environmental review will detail much of how the park is to be constructed. However, the committee wants to be heard before the draft becomes final.

Actively voicing their opinions since the studies began, BLAC has asked El Dorado County to permit the full 45 days allowed for public comment on the draft EIR to be added to the final draft, an action that could change plans for the park

According to the BLAC July newsletter, the county told BLAC member Dee Olberding that "the [draft] EIR preparation process is still underway."

BLAC said that any additional or breaking information on the topic would be distributed to members via e-mail.

To learn more about BLAC or to join their committee, visit their Web site at www.basslakeaction.org.