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District approves park phasing plan

By: Matthew Self, The Telegraph

El Dorado Hills will have one renovated park and one less park partner, after two separate votes last Thursday at the El Dorado Hills Community Services District board of directors meeting.

Directors unanimously voted to approve a phasing plan of Stephen Harris Park, home to the area's dedicated tennis enthusiasts, in spite of a budgeted deficit for the renovation. However, President Joe Chinn was absent.

Directors sought more specifics for the planning stages of the renovation, but general manager Wayne Lowery warned against setting dates for the completion of all phases of renovation.

"The danger of having a plan is people will be waiting for you to do the next thing. With the new (capitol improvement fund) mandate of three new parks in three years, it's going to drain funds," Lowery said.

In a related vote, directors voted to allow Cameron Park Community Services District to withdraw from a joint agreement to maintain Bass Lake Park.

Lowery said Cameron Park CSD has been complaining about the cost of maintenance and is behind in payments to El Dorado Hills CSD. He added the district is undergoing financial strain due to the redistribution of funds to the state.

The directors voted to allow CPCSD to break their agreement and will no longer share in revenues from rentals. They will be required to pay EDHCSD \$71,000 in back pay owed for previous maintenance to the park.

Bass Lake resident John Thomson had strong comments about his neighbors to the east.

"It's nice to know Cameron Park has \$8 million for a new community center but they're broke," he said.

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