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Good response by EID

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When former director Dick Akin questioned the El Dorado Irrigation District board about what seemed to him wasteful overflow at Bass Lake, the board asked its staff to come back with a report.

The staff produced a thorough report and is to be praised for suggesting a change to the way Bass Lake is operated.

Currently water from the Gold Hill Intertie is sent into the south end of the lake after being treated to remove the chlorination. Then it is taken into the system that provides recycled irrigation water for the El Dorado Hills area. That intake pump is on the west end of the lake.

The review of operations proved worthwhile because sometime later this spring the district will bypass this Rube Goldberg system and tap into the intertie farther west so that water needed to supplement recycled water will go directly to the pump. Thus it will bypass the lake where water evaporates at the rate of 800,000 gallons a day. It will also eliminate the need to add chemicals to dechlorinate the water entering the lake.

The recycled water saves 3,500 acre-feet of drinking water annually, according to EID.

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