

Sunday, July 17th, 2011 | Posted by [Mike Roberts](#)

ED Hills CSD manager on leave

El Dorado Hills Community Services District General Manager John Skeel has taken an unplanned leave of absence, reportedly at the encouragement of the CSD Board of Directors.

Skeel said he couldn't discuss his leave but did call it "surprising." He took the job in January.

Neither Skeel nor CSD officials have returned calls, but unofficial sources confirmed that board President Guy Gertch chaired an all-staff meeting on Wednesday, June 22, and explained Skeel's absence to the CSD employees as "personal."

Skeel came in promising a district reorganization, but in recent board meetings the directors have rejected Skeel's preliminary budget proposals.

One unnamed source conjectured that Skeel, who is very popular with the staff, was too concerned with staff and union concerns. Another said Skeel had completed an evaluation of district operations and created a plan, but was thwarted by the board in efforts to actively manage the district.

Skeel moved his family from Evergreen, Colo., to El Dorado Hills in December 2010. The board chose him from 70 candidates for the position, offering an annual salary of \$125,000.

At the time he was hired Skeel told Village Life, "It seemed lie a good fit, the right place and the right time."

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