



June 12, 2003

Mr. Gary Hyden
El Dorado County
2000 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. Hyden:

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed the May 16, 2003 Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Bass Lake Regional Park (SCH 2003052077). Project plans for the 41-acre park site include development of a golf course, baseball diamond, soccer field, and other facilities. The project site is immediately adjacent to Bass Lake, near Bass Lake Road and south of Green Valley Road, in western El Dorado County.

Bass Lake and the surrounding shoreline, including lands within the proposed park site, are valuable habitat areas for resident and migratory bird. At least one bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been a frequently observed winter visitor there in recent years, and has often been observed along the shoreline near or inside of the boundaries of the proposed park. Also, Bass Lake is a valuable feeding and resting area for wintering waterfowl, including ring-necked duck (*Athya collaris*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) and other species. Other aquatic bird species present at Bass Lake include western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) and great egret (*Ardea herodias*). Bird species found in grassland areas near Bass Lake include lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), western meadowlark (*Stenella neglecta*), and western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). All of the aforementioned bird species have been documented on or adjacent to Bass Lake by Mr. Frank Gray, Biologist of my staff.

Development of ball fields, a golf course, nature interpretation facilities, a community center, pathways, and other facilities, as well as the associated human use, can be expected to greatly reduce resident and migratory bird use of the area. Besides the direct permanent removal of habitat from project construction, many of the bird species are very sensitive to human disturbances which can be expected from operation of the park. For example, the development and use of a perimeter trail

(NOP Item #16, Figure 2) has the potential to significantly affect foraging areas for birds, such as the bald eagle, great egret, and many species of waterfowl.

The DFG has documented many fish species in Bass Lake. Species include largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), and other species. There is potential for runoff from parking areas and construction sites that contain substances deleterious to aquatic life. The risk for this runoff entering Bass Lake and its effect on fish and other aquatic life should be analyzed in the DEIR. Also, bulrushes, cattails, and submerged portions trees are important habitat and escape cover for these and other fish species and should be retained.

In addition to addressing these issues, the DEIR should address the following:

1. Baseline Habitat Species Inventory/Habitat Mapping – A comprehensive inventory of all bird, mammals and other animals, and plant species known or likely to occur at the 41-acre project site and at Bass Lake should be provided. Full species lists should be included in the Appendices of the DEIR. Habitat types of the subject areas should also be identified and mapped in the DEIR. This should include the acreage and location of the existing pond and associated wetlands on the 41 acre property. All grasslands on the 41-acre site should also be mapped and described, as well as the specific location, area, species composition, and other information of existing large willow trees and other plants bordering that part of Bass Lake nearest to the 41-acre property.

Surveys should be conducted at the time of year when rare, threatened, or endangered species are both evident and identifiable. Field surveys should be scheduled to coincide with the appropriate breeding or other life history stage of animals and when they are likely to be evident. Also, surveys should coincide with peak flowering periods and/or during periods of phenological development that are necessary to identify a plant species of concern. Maps and other relevant information regarding rare or listed species may be obtained from the DFG Natural Diversity database for a nominal fee by calling (916) 324-3812.

2. Project Impacts - Analyze and discuss project impacts on the DEIR and all reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect and cumulative project-related impacts on the 41 acre project site and nearby areas, including Bass Lake. Project impacts to native plants should be included in the analysis. A list of all individual trees to be removed should be provided, or the acreage of trees and shrubs to be removed if such removal involves clumps of small trees. The project should be designed so that impacts to these resources are avoided. The DEIR should address the project's impact on species identified as rare, threatened, or endangered.

Any activity should be addressed that may result in loss of habitat, decreased reproductive success, or other negative effects on population levels of rare, threatened, or endangered species. Mitigation should be provided which reduces project impacts to a level less than significant, if it is not possible to avoid impacts.

3. Fragmentation – The DEIR should evaluate the project's contribution to habitat fragmentation, population isolation, and decreased habitat connectivity for all plant and animal populations, including state and federal listed species and species of concern.

4. Mitigation/Monitoring - Identify and discuss feasible mitigation measures. This should include a mitigation plan for removal of trees associated with the project, including but not limited to oak trees, foothill pines, willows, and other species. Mitigation should be provided for unavoidable impacts based upon the concept of no-net-loss of habitat values or acreage. A monitoring program should be implemented for all mitigation activities, as consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15097. This program should be described in the DEIR.

A timetable for achieving the mitigation should be provided. Priority should be given to mitigation measures designed to avoid project-related impacts, followed by mitigation measures that will substantially lessen such impacts. Specifically, identify mitigation measures that minimize and fully mitigate all project impacts to state and federal listed species. Specific project level analysis should identify both on-site mitigation achieved through project design, take avoidance measures, and any potential off-site mitigation strategies.

5. Consistency - Evaluate the project's consistency with the applicable local and regional land use plans such as General Plans, Watershed Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions.

6. Project Alternatives - discuss and include alternatives in development design for the project that will avoid or substantially lessen project-related impacts on biological resources. Alternative designs should include avoidance of all significant habitats and listed species and species of concern and include design concepts that address habitat connectivity, fragmentation and population isolation.

It is likely that a Fish and Game Code 1601 or 1603 agreement will be required for various elements of park construction. This is particularly true with respect to modifications of the shoreline of the existing large pond on the project site. In general, an agreement is applicable whenever a proposed project involves work undertaken in or near a river, stream, or lake that flows at least intermittently through a bed or channel,

including ephemeral streams and water courses. Impacts triggering regulation by the DFG under these provisions of the Fish and Game Code typically result from activities that:

- Divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or the bed, channel or bank of a river, stream, or lake;
- Use material from a streambed; or
- Result in the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or other material where it may pass into a river, stream, or lake.

In the event implementation of the proposed project involves such activities, and those activities will result in reasonably foreseeable substantial adverse effects on fish or wildlife, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) will be required by the DFG. The DEIR should analyze whether the potentially feasible mitigation measures set forth below will avoid or substantially reduce impacts requiring a LSAA from the DFG.

1. Protection and maintenance of the riparian, wetland, stream or lake systems to ensure a "no-net-loss" of habitat value and acreage. Plant removal should not exceed the minimum necessary to complete operations.
2. Provisions for the protection of fish and wildlife resources at risk that consider various life stages, maintain migration and dispersal corridors, and protect essential breeding (i.e. spawning, nesting) habitats.
3. Delineation of buffers along streams and wetlands to provide adequate protection of the aquatic resource. No grading or construction activities should be allowed within these buffers.
4. Placements of construction materials, spoil, or fill, so that they cannot be washed into Bass Lake or other waters of the State.
5. Prevention of downstream sedimentation and pollution. Provisions may include but not be limited to oil/grit separators, detention ponds, buffering filter strips, silt barriers, etc., to prevent downstream sedimentation and pollution.

Restoration plans must include performance standards such as the types of vegetation to be used, the timing of implementations, and contingency plans if the replanting is not successful. Restoration plans of disturbed areas should use native plants.

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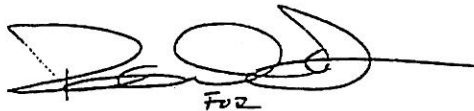
Finally, in the event implementation of the proposed project will involve activities and impacts requiring a LSAA, please contact the Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region for a notification packet and fee schedule.

This project will have an impact to fish and/or wildlife habitat. Assessment of fees under Public Resources Code Section 21089 and as defined by Fish and Game Code Section 711.4 is needed. Fees are payable by the project applicant upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the lead agency

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21092 and 21092.2, the DFG requests written notification of proposed actions and pending decisions regarding this project. Written notifications should be directed to this office.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If the DFG can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Frank Gray at (916) 358-2883 or Ms. Terry Roscoe, Habitat Conservation Planning Supervisor, at (916) 358-2382.

Sincerely,



For

Larry L. Eng, Ph.D.
Deputy Regional Manager

FG:js

cc: Mr. Phil Dunn
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cc: Ms. Mary Bisharat
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Gray/pg

Draft Approved by

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S. Wick 6/10/03 out

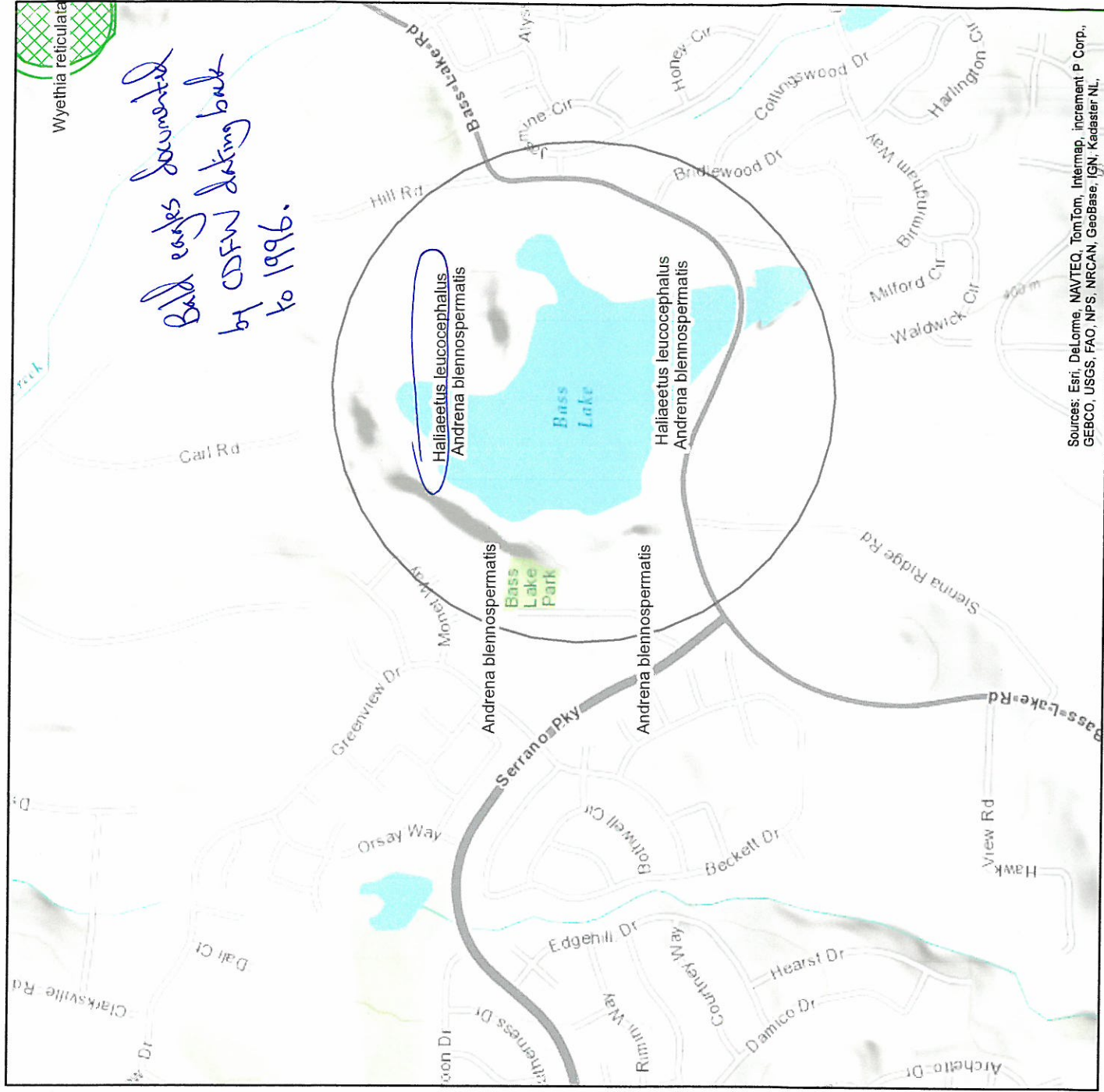
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Bass Lake CNDDDB report

- Plant (80m)
- Plant (specific)
- Plant (non-specific)
- Plant (circular)
- Animal (80m)
- Animal (specific)
- Animal (non-specific)
- Animal (circular)
- Terrestrial Comm. (80m)
- Terrestrial Comm. (specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (non-specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (circular)
- Aquatic Comm. (80m)
- Aquatic Comm. (specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (non-specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (circular)
- Multiple (80m)
- Multiple (specific)
- Multiple (non-specific)
- Multiple (circular)



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL,