



# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)

## EDH CSD TO CLOSE OAK KNOLL POOL



The CSD says the swimming pool, pictured above, costs too much to keep open

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) has announced that it will not open the swimming pool at Oak Knoll Park in Hills of El Dorado this summer. Indications are that the pool closure will be permanent.

Reasons given by CSD General Manager Wayne Lowery were low attendance rates and high overhead costs for operation, maintenance and staffing. Lowry said the district has been considering closing the pool down for about five years, but started planning the closure more seriously a few years ago.

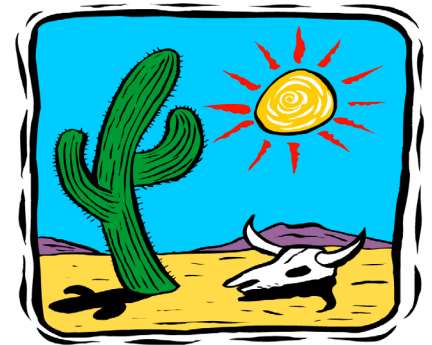
The CSD cited the cost to operate the pool each year as \$27,000, and Lowery said that attendance had dropped to about 300 people a year in comparison to the 400 people that attended the pool about three years ago. According to Lowery, this meant the district was paying about \$90 per attendee in recent years and only bringing in \$600 in revenue. Some Bass Lake residents find these numbers hard to believe, noting that the swimming pool hours in the summer of 2008 were from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, June through August, which meant that the pool was open less than a hundred hours a year.

Efforts by Bass Lake Action Committee kept the pool open in the summers of 2007 and 2008.

BLAC representatives met last year with CSD staff to determine the various costs of operating the pool. BLAC learned then that the CSD was using funds from the Bass Lake Village Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) to fund the park operations. Subsequent research revealed that the park was not a part of the LLAD. The funds that had mistakenly been used to maintain the park and pool were refunded to the over-assessed LLAD residents this year.

The inability of the CSD to use the LLAD funds may have contributed to the closure decision. However, the original document that dedicated Oak Knoll Park to the CSD in 1990 provided that: "The District shall maintain Oak Knoll Park . . . as part of the District's park program." That same document provided a description of the improvements that were to be built at the developer's expense at Oak Knoll Park, including a pool, a cabana, and a picnic area.

The loss of the pool means that Bass Lake residents will have to travel about five miles to get to the CSD swimming pool at Harvard Way and El Dorado Hills Boulevard. On the other hand, the pool at the new Cameron Park Community Center on Country Club Drive will be only four miles away, closer by about a mile. ~



## EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT DECLARES DROUGHT, REVISES WATER RATES

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) officials have declared a Stage 1 drought condition, calling for voluntary water conservation. The district is asking customers to reduce water use by 15 percent. EID Directors acknowledged that convincing people they need to conserve could be difficult, given recent rain and snow in the Sierra. Jenkinson Lake near Pollock Pines, which supplies about half the district's water, was at 86 percent of capacity March 19. But because of the statewide drought, the district faces significant cutbacks in the water it is allowed to draw from Folsom Lake to serve customers in the El Dorado Hills area.

The Board cited the third consecutive dry year in California, Governor Schwarzenegger's proclamation of a statewide drought emergency in late February, and uncertainties about dry-year water deliveries from Folsom Lake to the District as the reasons for the declaration.

In his proclamation, as reported in the March *Bulletin*, the Governor asked urban water users across the state to reduce their water consumption by 20 percent. The District's drought declaration signaled a commitment to do our part in reducing water use in our service area. EID's Board adopted their current Drought Preparedness Plan in early 2008. The drought plan consists of three stages in addition to the regular non-drought conservation measures.

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## WATER *(continued)*

Stage 0 represents normal conditions, which we generally have experienced for the past several years. In this stage, the District encourages water conservation practices, but does not set a target for customers to reduce their water use. During Stage 0, as with all drought stages, EID's water waste regulation is in effect.

For Stage 1, the District will ask customers to voluntarily reduce water use to help achieve a District-wide 15-percent drop in consumption from the average of the past three years. As an example of a conservation measure in this stage, EID would ask customers to irrigate their landscapes only during the evening, night time, and early morning hours.

In Stage 2, the goal is to reduce water use by 30 percent from the past three-year average throughout the District. EID will ask customers to take additional voluntary conservation measures such as limiting irrigation not only to non-daylight hours but also to three nights a week. If the reduction target is not met, the voluntary measures would become mandatory, with penalties for non-compliance.

Stage 3 asks water users for a 50-percent reduction in water use from the three-year average. Stage 3 includes mandatory measures in addition to those in Stage 2, again with penalties for non-compliance.

The Board also instituted new water rates for EID customers as of April 1. The declaration of drought Stage 1 means that the District will immediately impose the higher Stage 1 drought water rates that are in the new rate schedule.

The new rates lower basic charges, increase consumption charges, and lower the break point for the top tier of consumption charges in drought Stage 0. However, the new rates get progressively higher in step with higher drought stage declarations. The new rates eliminate the distinction between pumped and gravity-fed water for

single-family residential customers and all other rate classes, and provide for annual rate increases measured by the Consumer Price Index, limited to four percent a year. The water rate changes were reviewed in the March *Bass Lake Bulletin*.

Some EID customers have suggested that the rate structure would discourage gardens and so be inappropriate in a recession, when people could benefit by growing their food. They also contend that people with an acre or three-quarters of an acre of land will be adversely affected. Calculations made by the *Bass Lake Bulletin* support the contention that larger lots will tend to pay more for their water because they usually have more landscaping. This is true even when a lot has been landscaped with drought-resistant plants and uses drip irrigation.

Other EID rate payers have questioned why the rates for recycled water were not included in the adjustment. They contend that not changing the recycled rates unfairly skews the regular water rates in favor of users of recycled water. EID officials say that recycled water rates will be examined shortly. ~

## EL DORADO IRRIGATION DIRECTOR WHEELDON SPEAKS TO BLAC

The April Bass Lake Action meeting featured El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors President George Wheelton, whose District 4 covers the northern portion of Bass Lake Road. Wheelton is currently president of the EID Board of Directors. Wheelton was accompanied by EID's Director of Communication, Deanne Kloefer.

Wheelton said that El Dorado Hills is served by water drawn from Folsom Lake, which provides the EID with approximately one-third of their water. The balance of EID water comes from Sly Park Reservoir, Caples Lake, Echo Lake, and other lakes on the Western Slope.

Though Caples Lake was recently drained for repair of the dam gates, some of that water was able to be diverted to Sly Park Reservoir. The Sly Park Reservoir is filled only by rainwater falling on the lake's watershed, and it is currently about full, or perhaps 85% full, he said.

The amount of water that EID may draw from Folsom Lake for El Dorado Hills is governed by State and Federal water bureaus, and EID's Folsom Lake allocation is facing a 50% cut back imposed by those water authorities, according to Wheelton. The condition of the Central Valley and Federal Water Projects influences how much water

EID may get from Folsom Lake.

Asked about the new water rates, Wheelton explained that EID had to institute rates that more accurately reflected water use, rather than just a basic connection fee. He said that the EID would revisit the rate structure later this year to make sure that the rates were equitable and truly revenue-neutral. Wheelton was sympathetic to complaints that the new rates discriminated against large lot owners, especially those who had installed drought-resistant plantings. He suggested that the rate review later this year might take a look at the problem of large lots.

In closing, Wheelton said he thinks that growth in El Dorado Hills should take place where water facilities are already in place, such as south of Highway 50 on Latrobe Road. He reminded the group that new home developers are required to pay for the infrastructure required for their neighborhood to be served by the EID, not the existing EID water customers. ~



## EDH LIKELY TO EXPAND WITH 2010 CENSUS

Last month BLAC joined other local organizations in asking the Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG) to support a redrawing of El Dorado Hills' geographical boundary (to redefine its census designated place or CDP definition) to correctly reflect the growth of El Dorado Hills.

The *Bulletin* has learned that SACOG supported our request, and has asked the Census Bureau to adjust the El Dorado Hills CDP boundary to match that of the El Dorado Hills County Water (Fire) District. This change would increase the CDP area of El Dorado Hills from the 17 square miles with 18,000 residents counted in the last census, to an area of about 40 square miles with an estimated population of 40,000 residents for the 2010 census.

All final decisions on changes to census geography for purposes of the 2010 census will be made by the Census Bureau, SACOG Demographer Tina Glover told the *Bulletin*. But Glover also said that SACOG does not see any reason why the Bureau will not accept the suggested adjustment. ~



## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Spring is here, and a wonderful spring it is. This year's April showers have indeed been a blessing, since we need the rain so much.

Our garden is a riot of color, from the pink redbud trees to the purple rosemary bushes. The daylilies are sporting a few bright yellow flowers, and their many buds promise bright blooms in the months ahead. Of course, the azaleas are also coming out, as is the indian hawthorne.

And I can't forget the vineyard, where budbreak occurred a week ago, and already the new canes on the cordons are about four inches long. The vines are five years old now, and are mature enough to yield a decent crop of grapes. Our forty vines will hopefully produce around 30 gallons of wine at harvest, depending on the weather and how successful we are keeping the pests away.

The other task that has taken a bit of time is going around and plugging the irrigation drips where there are no plants. There's no use wasting water. We must have a couple of dozen places where a plant died and we didn't replace it. This exercise also gives me a chance to check the emitters. The trouble with drip irrigation is that you don't know an emitter is clogged until the plant dies.

I also reduced the regular irrigation on our mature trees. Many mature trees will not need much (if any) water during the summer months ahead, depending on what type they are. Watering mature trees deeply every month or two during May through October can be beneficial, especially for stressed trees, and may be necessary to keep trees alive during times of drought.

While working in the garden is relaxing, I think it is even more relaxing to be finished for the day, and be able to sit around on the patio with a cool drink, admiring all your work.

*John E. Thomson*

President



## MANY SCIENTISTS SKEPTICAL OVER GLOBAL WARMING

Recently a number of international scientists have disagreed with the theory of man-made global warming. Their scientific objections were outlined in a 2008 U.S. Senate Minority Report.

The more than 700 dissenting scientists far out weigh the 52 UN scientists who in 2007 authored the much media-hyped United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) report that suggested that man's activities are responsible for global warming.

The skeptical scientists hail from all over the world, including Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Canada, Netherlands, and the United States. Many are affiliated with prestigious institutions, including NASA, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Defense Department, the U.S. Energy Department, the U.S. Air Force, the Philosophical Society of Washington (the oldest scientific society in Washington), Princeton University, Tulane University, American University, Oregon State University, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the EPA.

The number of doubting scientific voices is increasing in 2009. An article in *The Australian* of March 14, 2009, reported that Japanese scientists are currently leading the movement that rejects the man-made climate fears spread by the UN IPCC.

Prominent Japanese geologist Dr. Shigenori Maruyama is a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. He has authored more than 125 scientific publications. Dr. Maruyama said in March 2009 that there is widespread skepticism among his colleagues about the IPCC's man-made global warming report. Maruyama noted that when this question was raised at a Japan Geoscience Union symposium last year, 90 per cent of the participants said they do not believe the IPCC report.

The rise in skeptical scientists is in response to the increase in dire predictions of

disastrous climate change.

A strong case against man-made global warming has been developed from a steady stream of peer-reviewed studies, analyses, and real world data. A recent peer-reviewed study in *Geophysical Research Letters* finds that the "Earth is undergoing natural climate shift."

A March 15, 2009 article in WISN.com details the research of Dr. Anastasios Tsonis of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "We realized a lot of changes in the past century from warmer to cooler and then back to warmer were all natural," Tsonis said. "I don't think we can say much about what the humans are doing. The temperature has flattened and is actually going down. We are seeing a new shift towards cooler temperatures that will last for probably about three decades."

News about the work of these scientists appears to be reaching the public. Skepticism about global warming among the American public is growing, with 41 percent of those polled now saying that the danger over climate change is exaggerated, according to a 2009 Gallup poll. That figure represents the highest level of public skepticism about mainstream reporting on global warming in more than a decade of Gallup polling on the subject. ~



## BEWARE OF CAP AND TRADE LEGISLATION?

Cap and trade measures being considered by Congress would set a limit, or cap, on carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use. The effect of such a cap would be to impose rationing of coal, oil, and natural gas on the American economy. Each covered utility, oil company, and manufacturing facility would be given allowances based on past emissions or some other formula. Those companies that emit less carbon dioxide than permitted by their allowances could sell the excess to those that do not; this is the trade part of cap and trade. Over time, the cap would be ratcheted down, requiring greater cuts in emissions.

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**CAP AND TRADE** *(continued)*

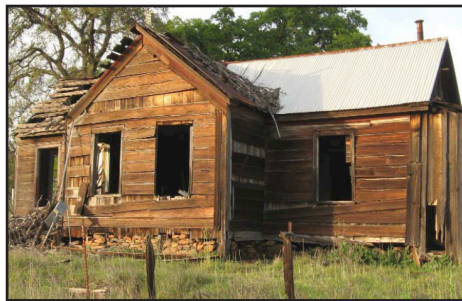
Carbon dioxide is the unavoidable by-product of fossil fuel combustion, which currently provides 85 percent of America's energy. Thus, it will be very costly to move away from this preferred energy source. Studies put the cost (in terms of reduced household spending per year) of cap and trade at \$800 to \$1,300 per household by 2015, rising to \$1,500 to \$2,500 by 2050. Electricity prices could jump by 36 to 65 percent by 2015 and 80 to 125 percent by 2050. One Environmental Protection Agency study of cap and trade estimates impacts of 26 cents per gallon of gasoline by 2030 and 68 cents by 2050.

Even these cost projections may underestimate the true costs, because they assume no unpleasant surprises. But the world has already witnessed many unpleasant surprises, like Europe's ongoing efforts to impose a cap and trade program under the Kyoto Protocol, the international climate treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, European efforts have racked up significant costs while failing to reduce emissions.

Nearly every European country participating has higher emissions today than when the treaty was first signed in 1997. Further, despite ongoing criticism of the United States from Kyoto signatories for failing to ratify the treaty, emissions in many of these nations are actually rising faster than in the United States.

While the costs of aggressive cap and trade proposals are substantial, the environmental benefits are suspect. This is true even if one accepts the claim of man-made global warming. Indeed, a number of economists, including many who are far from global warming skeptics, warn of overly aggressive cap and trade measures imposing costs exceeding the benefits. In other words, the costs of implementing such measures would be higher than the value of the global warming damage that they would supposedly prevent.

In the opinion of many, cap and trade bills are nothing short of a government re-engineering of the American economy. Cap and trade, with its aggressive targets to reduce emissions from fossil fuel use, could put the nation on a path of serious economic harm not justified by any benefits. ~



Ruins of the Kyburz Home in Clarksville

**ANNUAL CLARKSVILLE DAY SET FOR MAY 9**

The Third Annual Clarksville Day celebration will take place in Old Clarksville on Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Previously held at the El Dorado Hills Library, this Clarksville Day will be the first opportunity that most visitors will have to see what remains of Old Clarksville.

Historical exhibits will be set up by a number of historical and community organizations in Old Clarksville proper.

Historic sites that may be viewed will include what remains of the stone walls of the Wells Fargo Bank. Visitors can also examine and walk on portions of the Lincoln Highway Roadway, and can visit the Clarksville (Old Mormon Tavern) Cemetery.

Scheduled events include a Mormon Battalion Encampment Re-Enactment (a campsite with mid-1800s period accoutrements and costumes) and several Pony Express Remount Re-Enactments by the Pony Express Association.

Off-street parking for the event will be available on the corner of White Rock Road and Silva Valley Parkway. After parking, guests will be able to walk up the old concrete Lincoln Highway into Old Clarksville. There is no charge for the event. Food and drink will be available from vendors. ~

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**Spring Song**

*Hark, I hear a robin calling!  
List, the wind is from the south!  
And the orchard-bloom is falling  
Sweet as kisses on the mouth.*

*In the dreamy vale of beeches  
Fair and faint is woven mist,  
And the river's orient reaches  
Are the palest amethyst.*

*Every limpid brook is singing  
Of the lure of April days;  
Every piney glen is ringing  
With the maddest roundelay.*

*Come and let us seek together  
Springtime lore of daffodils,  
Giving to the golden weather  
Greeting on the sun-warm hills.*

— Lucy Maud Montgomery



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