



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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www.basslakeaction.org



EID ADOPTS 50-50 PLAN, ANNOUNCES RATE HIKE

FIX EID OPPOSED TO HIKES

The El Dorado Irrigation District board has adopted a cost recovery allocation methodology that will collect half its revenue from fixed rate charges and half from variable commodity charges for water, wastewater and recycled water. This in effect will put the district back to where it was prior to 2008, and will again raise the rates for EID customers.

The methodology change was prompted by a cost study that found that the 50-50 cost recovery method creates a more reliable, less volatile revenue stream that is not heavily influenced by wet or dry years. This change will supposedly help stabilize the district's debt service and also improve financial forecasting.

Formal notification of rate changes will occur in early 2012 when the district will issue a Prop. 218 notice to its customers. However, the new rate structure was announced last month by the EID when the results of the cost study were revealed.

Readers will recall that EID rates were increased back in 2010, when EID originally proposed rate increases of 35 percent in 2010, 15 percent in 2011, and 5 percent increases in years 2012, 2013 and 2014, for a cumulative rate increase of 80 percent over that five-year period. Bowing to public pressure and customer write-in protests, EID then came up with a revised rate structure

that included a rate increase of only 18 percent in 2010, 15 percent in 2011, and 5 percent in years 2012, 2013 and 2014, for a cumulative rate increase of 57 percent over the period.

The rate structure adopted by EID for 2010 through 2014 promised customers only a 5 percent increase for 2012. But EID is proposing to toss out that old rate structure, and is proposing a new five-year rate structure that will hike rates for medium water users 28 percent in 2012. A graphic of the proposed 2012 rates may be found on the BLAC website www.basslakeaction.org.

Fix EID, an El Dorado Hills-based community action group, which has been monitoring the EID budgeting and rate-setting process, and is opposed to EID rate hikes that it says are excessive, has compiled information about EID on its website www.fixeid.org.

The proposed rate structure will not go into effect if a majority of EID customers protest the rate increase within a stipulated period. EID customers may object to the rate increase by sending a letter to the EID. If more than half of the ratepayers say no to the new rates, they cannot be imposed according to Article 13D of the state constitution, which is also known as Proposition 218.

More than 7,000 protest letters were generated in just a few days by unhappy ratepayers in 2010. That many protest letters was thought to have influenced the EID to lower the rates to those finally adopted by EID at that time. Some community activists have complained in the past that EID sends out the Proposition 218 notices to its customers over the holiday season so they will be more likely to be overlooked in the mail. ~



BLAC CELEBRATES SEASON AT ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

It's holiday time, and once again members of BLAC and their guests gathered at the home of President and Secretary John and Fran Thomson to celebrate the season. As usual, members brought their favorite appetizer or dessert to share, and BLAC contributed a hearty sandwich and fruit and cheese tray together with a variety of beverages and spirits. Needless to say, there was plenty of good food and drink—not to mention good will.

Special guests, El Dorado County Supervisors John Knight and Ray Nutting, and El Dorado Hills Community Services Director William (Billy V) Vandegrift, joined numerous BLAC members and their spouses in this annual get-together, which all BLAC members were encouraged to attend. Supervisor Nutting led the group in a number of impromptu Christmas carols. From the level of conversation and consumption of goodies, a great time was had by all!

The only item of business was the annual election of the Board of the Bass Lake Action Committee. The members present re-elected the current Board for another term in 2012. The 2012 Board is as follows:

President—John Thomson
 Vice President—Kathy Prevost
 Treasurer—Tasha Boutselis Camacho
 Secretary—Fran Thomson
 Director—Hal Erpenbeck

Photos of the gala evening appear on the inside pages of this Bulletin. ~





BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011



Supervisor Ray Nuttting and EDH
CSD Director Billy Vandergrift



Members Grace and Bob Shauger



BLAC President John Thomson
and Secretary Fran Thomson



Members Denny Olberding, Herb Prevost, VP
Kathy Prevost, with Supervisor John Knight



BLAC Director Hal Erpenbeck and
Member Jeanette D'Amico



Members Walter and Hedi Oberloher





BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2011



BLAC VP Kathy Prevost and Member Barbara Erpenbeck



BLAC Treasurer Tasha Boutselis, Members Louis Camacho and Dee Olberding



Members Walter Oberloher and Jeanette D'Amico



Member Tom Stuchell and VP Kathy Prevost



Member Bob Shauger with Supervisor Ray Nutting



BLAC Director Hal Erpenbeck, Members Joe D'Amico, Grace and Bob Shauger, and Frank Sulzberger



LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPE FEES REMAIN STABLE

The 2011-2012 property tax bills of the residents The Hills of El Dorado and Woodridge reflected stability in that the annual assessment for their Lighting and Landscaping Assessment Districts (LLADs) remained the same as last year, \$99.00 and zero, respectively. The LLAD assessments pay for the maintenance of the landscaping at the entrance of the neighborhood and the streetlights scattered throughout the neighborhood.

The assessment for the Hills of El Dorado were fixed at the time the LLAD was established, and there is no mechanism provided for increasing the assessment except for a vote of a majority of the residents to raise the assessment.

The assessment for Woodridge at zero this tax year reflects the fact that the LLAD cash reserves are greater than the annual cost to maintain the LLAD. The assessment will probably remain zero until the reserves are reduced to the proper amount, then will be an amount that reflects the actual cost of maintain-



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone,

My letter this month is a short one, just enough to thank all our members and our freinds for all their support throughout 2011. I also want to wish everone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This is a two-month edition of the Bulletin, as the newsletter and its Editor are taking the Holidays off this year.

Let's all hope for a happier and more prosperous year in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President

ing the LLAD.

At one time the Woodridge residents were paying as much as \$299 a year until it was discovered in 2009 that Oak Knoll Park was not part of the Woodridge LLAD. The Woodridge residents shared a \$250,000 refund in 2009, and the LLAD assessment declined to \$99 in 2010, \$25 in 2011, and zero in 2012. ~



PROPANE PRICES LEVEL OFF BUT CONTINUE SOMEWHAT HIGHER

Wholesale propane prices continued to trend higher than this time last year but seem to be trending downward. The December 12 wholesale price at Benicia is \$1.80 per gallon. The benchmark Mont Belvieu Texas wholesale price on that same date is \$1.41 per gallon. Last year the Mont Belvieu wholesale price was \$1.28 per gallon.

The December 12 delivered price to JS West contract price customers in Woodridge, Bridlewood Canyon and Sierra Crossing is \$2.36 (1.80 + .06 transportation + .50 markup) per gallon. Last year at this time the JS West total contract price was in the \$2.20 per gallon range.

Bridlewood Canyon, Sierra Crossing and Woodridge residents can call Bette Easton at JS West, 530-642-7001, for information on how to switch to JS West and obtain the contract price. ~



BLAC SETS JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2012 BOARD MEETING DATES

The January BLAC Board meeting will be held at the home of Tasha and Louis Camacho, 2076 Summer Drive (Woodridge), El Dorado Hills, on January 9, 2012, at 7:00 PM. No speaker is scheduled.

The February BLAC Board meeting will be held at the home of Fran and John Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court (Woodridge), El Dorado Hills, on February 6, 2012, at 7:00 PM. No speaker is scheduled.

All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all BLAC meetings. For further information regarding our meetings, please contact Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

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