



# 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)



Earthmoving equipment preparing the roadway for Silver Springs Parkway, looking south along the right-of-way



The realigned Sienna Ridge Road, looking south along the right-of-way from the Bass Lake Road intersection

## LOCAL EDH ROAD PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD

Three road projects in the El Dorado Hills area, two of which are in Bass Lake, are proceeding at a rapid pace and are on schedule to be completed next year, depending of course on the weather: Silver Springs Parkway, Sienna Ridge Road, and the El Dorado Hills Interchange.

### *Silver Springs Parkway*

Construction has begun on the new Silver Springs Parkway. The project includes three related improvement projects: Silver Springs Parkway itself, the intersection at Green Valley Road and Silver Springs Parkway, and turn lanes at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road.

The new Silver Springs Parkway will have left turn pockets, bus pullouts, bike lanes and sidewalks. The one-mile new road will end a half-mile short of Bass Lake Road. Baricades will be erected to keep traffic off the new one-mile section. A future phase of the new parkway will extend the parkway the half-mile south to connect with Bass Lake Road at a new intersection near Madera Way. According to sources at the county, right-of-way issues are holding up construction of the southern portion of the parkway.

A new three-way signalized intersection east of Pleasant Grove School will be constructed at the intersection of Green Valley Road and the new parkway. The intersec-

tion will include right and left turn pockets, a bus pullout and sidewalk on the south side of Green Valley Road, and bike lanes. Construction staging will accommodate pedestrians, especially children walking to school on the south side of Green Valley Road, with concrete barriers and chain link fencing.

The cost to construct the one-mile northern segment of Silver Springs Parkway and the signalization at Green Valley Road will be \$7.6 million. The future construction cost of the southern end of the parkway from the dead-end to Bass Lake Road, which includes a new intersection at Bass Lake Road, is expected to cost another \$7.2 million.

The right and left turn lanes and bike lanes that will be added to the intersection of Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road are also a part of the project. These improvements will cost \$1.3 million.

Construction is expected to continue until the fall of 2014, and completion may be delayed depending on the weather. Initial construction will begin with the turn lane project at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road. Most of the construction and traffic controls will occur during the day, however some night work may also be necessary.

For further information, you may contact

Dave Spiegelberg, El Dorado County, at 530-642-4940.

### *Sienna Ridge Road*

Construction has also begun on the realignment of Sienna Ridge Road (formerly old Bass Lake Road) to complete the four-way intersection at Bass Lake Road and Serrano Parkway, with Sienna Ridge being the new south-bound street. Excavation of the new roadbed will furnish fill for the rough grading of the corner lots on each side of the new roadway.

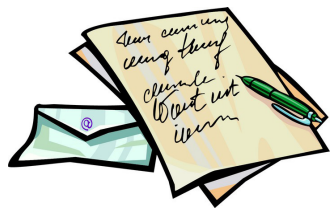
Both the road and the new four-way intersection, including the traffic signals, are expected to be completed by December. The stop signs on Bass Lake Road at the old Sienna Ridge Road intersection (by the El Dorado Irrigation District entrance) will be removed once construction vehicles no longer need the old roadway to access Bass Lake Road.

The County is expected to accept the dedication of the underlying right-of-way sometime in 2014.

### *El Dorado Hills Boulevard*

Construction is continuing on one of the last phases of the El Dorado Hills Boulevard interchange, which will put in place on- and off ramps that are designed to ease conges-

*(continued on page 2)*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

In off-year elections, that is, state and local elections that do not involve a presidential election, turnout rates have historically been about forty percent, compared to fifty-five percent for general election or presidential election years. That means that votes cast in off-years have a greater influence upon who is elected in that year.

The upcoming November elections are an off-year event, which means that your vote will mean more when all the votes are tallied.

The five-member EID board of directors has been dominated by four directors elected either in 2001 or 2003. The election of two new directors will result in a majority of the board being elected since 2011, when Alan Day was elected to the Division 5 seat formerly held by Harry Norris. Persons familiar with EID say that the election of two new board members may change the direction of the board, which has been criticized for their past actions, mainly due to raising water rates.

So regardless of your party affiliation, be sure to cast your votes for the candidate of your choice this coming November. Your vote could decide the election.

On another EID issue, persons familiar with the negotiations for the sale of EID's Bass Lake to the Rescue School District say that a deal will probably be finalized within the next two weeks.

We are all looking forward with interest to both the outcome of the EID board election and the long-term consequences of the pending sale of Bass Lake.

Sincerely,

*John Thomson*  
President



View of the new intersection created by the new on and off ramps at El Dorado Hills Boulevard

## ROAD PROJECTS *(continued)*

tion. The new ramps will provide an improvement to the capacity of the interchange.

The current project phase widens Highway 50 at El Dorado Hills, re-routes the westbound off ramp and relocates the westbound onramp, said John Kahling, deputy director of construction for the El Dorado County Department of Transportation.

The project changes the ramp in the westbound direction so that it goes over El Dorado Hills Boulevard and loops back

will be just one signal .

That's good news for drivers who frequent the current multiple intersections as they make their way from north El Dorado Hills to Town Center in the south.

The \$15.5 million project is state funded, with the majority of the funding for the highway project being provided by Proposition 1B, which was approved by voters in November 2008. ~

*Credit: Penne Usher, EDH Telegraph*

## EID CANDIDATES VIE FOR TWO BOARD SEATS

This November four candidates will seek election to two seats on the El Dorado Irrigation Board of Directors. Retired facilities manager Richard Englefield and retired chief executive Greg Prada will be on the ballot for Division 2, which covers Shingle Springs. Retired physician Dale Coco, and attorney and retired business owner Jake Flesher will appear on the ballot for Division 4, which includes Cameron Park and southeastern El Dorado Hills.

Running in EID Division 2 is Richard Englefield, 71, of El Dorado.

Englefield was employed for 32 years as an administrative analyst in the computing support department at California State University, Sacramento. He has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Resources from the same university. He served on the board of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council from 2002 to 2012. He was also a board member of the Grizzly Flat Community Services District, a water district, from 2005 to June of 2013.

Englefield says EID faces several chal-



*Englefield*

lenges with the two biggest being its finances and capital improvement plan. He says he believes in cutting expenses and reining in the debt level.

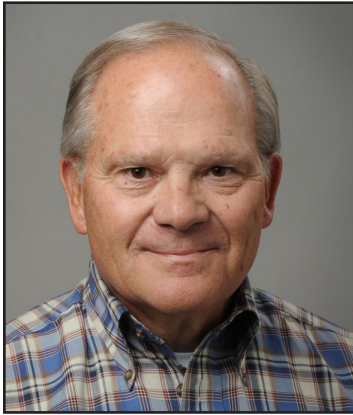
Englefield also says that the district has an excess of waste water and water treatment ability, which he says are related to previous changes to the county general plan that resulted in EID building the Deer Creek Treatment Plant. On the positive side, the plant can serve new developments at no additional cost, according to Englefield.

Englefield says as a board member he  
*(continued on page 3)*

## EID RACE *(continued)*

will continue to protect EID's water rights. He also wants to support agriculture in the county. He wants to protect their water rights, and ensure agriculture has good quality and substantial water supplies. "I'm for reasonable growth in housing, but I'd rather see vineyards than rooftops," Englefield has said.

Englefield's campaign website is [englefield4eiddirector.com](http://englefield4eiddirector.com).



*Prada*

Also running in EID Division 2 is Greg Prada, who lives in Cameron Park.

Prada, 63, has been the president, chief executive officer and a member of the board of directors of a health-related corporation as well as being the chief operating officer, vice president and president of other companies. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington.

Prada says his qualifications for the position include having spent the last three and a half years serving on El Dorado Irrigation District's cost of service committee in addition to attending many board meetings. He said he's reviewed EID's financials, established a Website, and has posted more than 50 articles in different publications on EID.

Prada says he's running on fiscal issues, saying he has "demonstrated that I know more than virtually anybody about EID's finances. I would go toe to toe with anybody on their staff, certainly on their board. I know a lot more about EID's financials than anyone on that board."

Prada said as a board member he wants to put EID back on a more solid financial footing and step in front of additional rate hikes. He maintains this can be accomplished by not adding \$60 million of debt and not putting in more capacity, which he blames for the rate hikes and deficit spending.

Saying he is a frugal person by nature,

Prada insists the district needs a culture change. It has 162 vehicles, eight car allowances and 170 folks driving around on the ratepayers' dime. It also has 120 field employees, he said. "Unfortunately some people can't be afforded any more," he said.

Repeating his claim that the most important challenges facing the district are "fiscal, fiscal, fiscal," he admitted that EID is a complicated organization and its engineers build world-class projects. Prada said he's also worried about the \$110 million in variable debt EID is carrying.

Prada concluded by saying he's running for the ratepayers, noting that he saw a problem and wanted to do something about it.

"I believe EID has terrific, talented people and resources. I am absolutely impressed with the general manager and general counsel and others. I believe with directors who direct differently, we can get some things done. I'm very positive about that. But it will cause some contortions and strains. We're like that movie *Lifeboat*. If we don't throw some people overboard, the whole boat will go down. We're at that tipping point now."

His campaign website is [prada4ratepayers.org](http://prada4ratepayers.org).



*Coco*

Running in El Dorado Irrigation District Division 4 is Dr. Dale Coco, 67. A retired physician who lives in Cameron Park, Coco has a B.S. in Biology from Southern Methodist University and an M.D. from the University of Texas. He was chief of staff at Barton Memorial Hospital and served on multiple committees at Marshall Hospital. After 15 years in private practice he worked for Kaiser Permanente in Folsom. During his tenure at Kaiser, he said he was the project manager or was involved in eight major projects to cut costs, increase efficiency and maintain or increase quality.

Coco says he has prepared himself for the position of EID board member by spending the last two and a half years studying water issues affecting the state, county and EID as well as spending time with the top water

people in the county. "I have the credentials to deal with complex issues and come up with innovative solutions," he adds.

Coco said he is running for the EID board because he has lived in the county for 40 years and it's been very good to him and his family.

Coco says current threats to county water rights include the Delta Stewardship Council and the proposed \$8 billion water bond. "There are only three rivers in California that are not over-consigned or completely consigned and two of those are in this county. Our water rights only have 19,500 acre feet that are sacrosanct and are pre-1914."

Listing the challenges facing EID, he includes escalating rates, and the failure to control debt, which is 25 percent of the cost of operations. Add in unfunded pensions and it makes up 30 percent of the cost of operations, he said. "We have to deliver quality water at a reasonable rate and make sure we have adequate water for our future," he says.

According to Coco, EID's cost of operations could be reduced by putting the agency through a value engineering or total quality management (TQM) program, saying, "We need to retool the organization to make it more efficient and cost-effective."

As far as debt reduction, Coco said he would take some of the \$10 million profit EID made this year and put part of it into capital improvements and part into paying down the debt. He also advocates allocating a portion of all fees to pay down the debt and build a capital improvement fund.

Coco's campaign website is [coco4eid.com](http://coco4eid.com).



*Flesher*

Also running in EID Division 4 is Jake Flesher, 39. A resident of El Dorado Hills, Flesher received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his law degree from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific. He previously worked as a deputy district attorney in Ventura County before moving up to

*(continued on page 4)*

## EID RACE *(continued)*

El Dorado County nine years ago. He now is a partner, owner and manager of a law firm with offices in Folsom and San Francisco.

Flesher says he understands the importance of water issues after working as a farmer in Kern County for a year before entering law school. As a business owner, he says he knows what it takes to make payroll, to run a company and be successful at it.

Flesher said as a board member he hopes to stop further rate hikes: "EID has planned for an 11 (percent) increase this year and next. There is also the issue of debt and spending. What I bring to the table is someone who is fiscally responsible, has a business mind and can approach things from the perspective of Division 4 voters."

As far as the biggest challenge facing EID, Flesher says it is debt: "They have, depending on who you talk to, \$390 to \$450 million of debt. That's a lot of debt. My solution is to have a moratorium on new debt. That would be my immediate goal when I get in. Let's not take on any more debt until we have a plan to reduce the debt we have."

Saying he is interested foremost in programs or approaches that help rein in the debt, he proposes sitting down with the general manager and establishing a budget.



### *As Summer Into Autumn Slips*

As Summer into Autumn slips  
And yet we sooner say  
"The Summer" than "the Autumn," lest  
We turn the sun away,  
And almost count it an Affront  
The presence to concede  
Of one however lovely, not  
The one that we have loved —  
So we evade the charge of Years  
On one attempting shy  
The Circumvention of the Shaft  
Of Life's Declivity.  
— Emily Dickinson

There have to be priority levels within that budget with the top priority being the health and safety of ratepayers, he says. Flesher admits some cuts might have to be made to the organization but he said he hasn't studied the issue enough to say what they would be.

As for the issue of excess capacity and water rights, Flesher said EID currently sells only about half of its water. He believes it's because EID anticipated a demand for water that never materialized due to the housing bubble.

Flesher says that, "Something I'm learning in this whole process is that there are several counties here. There's the Agriculture community, there's Placerville—and it's different from Cameron Park and Tahoe. But it's a great place to live. It's diverse and there are a lot of great people here. A lot of different people, but a lot of great people."

His campaign Website is [jake4eidratepayers.com](http://jake4eidratepayers.com). ~

*Credits: Dawn Hodson, Sacramento Bee*

## BASS LAKE VILLAGE LLAD ASSESSMENTS UNDER SCRUTINY

Acting upon inquiries from homeowners in Bass Lake Village Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD), which includes Hills of El Dorado (Zone A) and Woodridge (Zone B), representatives of BLAC will meet this month with El Dorado Hills Community Services District officials to review their fiscal year 2014 LLAD assessments. Of special interest will be the manner in which overhead expenses are allocated to the LLAD.

The LLAD assessments maintain the entry landscaping and the street lights of Woodridge and Hills of El Dorado under the management of the CSD. ~

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## BLAC BOARD MET IN SEPTEMBER, SETS OCTOBER MEETING

The September meeting of the Board of Directors of Bass Lake Action Committee was held on September 9, 2013, at 7:00 PM. at the home of Herb and Kathy Prevost.

The October meeting of the Board of Directors of Bass Lake Action Committee will be held on October 7, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the home of Dee and Denny Olberding, 4068 Kirkwood Drive, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-8739. The four EID Board of Director candidates will be the guests.

All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all BLAC board meetings. For additional information, contact Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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