

# THE BASS LAKE BULLETIN

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community  
<http://basslakeaction.org>

## THE BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE

The Bass Lake Action Committee was formed by a group of concerned property owners in the Bass Lake Area and incorporated in 2003 as Non-profit organization, a 501(C)(4) corporation.

### Our Mission Statement:

To provide a voice for Bass Lake homeowners in dealing with the county and other community agencies.  
To keep homeowners informed about issues and meetings.



## CAMERON PARK FIRE SERVICE ANALYSIS SUGGESTS EDH FIRE ANNEXATION AS POTENTIAL PATH FORWARD

*By John Davey*

A recently released fire services analysis for the Cameron Park Community Services District (CP CSD) recommends exploring annexation with the El Dorado Hills Fire Department (EDH FD) as a potential solution for the district's fire protection needs.

The report, prepared by consultant Don Ashton with Municipal Resources Group (recently retired Chief Administrative Officer of El Dorado County), suggests the CP CSD Board consider negotiating a contract extension with their current provider, Cal Fire, until June 30, 2028.



## CP CSD FIRE SERVICE ANALYSIS *(con't)*

This timeframe would allow for the annexation process to be completed.

### Financial Considerations

The report acknowledges the financial challenges faced by the CP CSD. Maintaining current service levels with Cal Fire would require a contract extension, with costs ranging from \$3.77 million in 2024-25 to \$4.14 million by 2 fiscal year 2027-28, assuming both Cameron Park fire stations remain open. Closure of Station 88 could reduce these costs by approximately \$800,000 per year.

The report also highlights limitations with Station 88, noting that it does not meet industry standards for staffing levels.

### Community Input and Next Steps

The CP CSD Board held a public workshop on June 12th to discuss the report and receive feedback from the community. The complete report is available for review on the CP CSD website at

<https://www.cameronpark.org/fire-analysis-report>.

### El Dorado Hills Fire Department Open to Collaboration

El Dorado Hills Fire Chief Maurice Johnson expressed the department's commitment to serving the community and collaborating with Cameron Park. While a formal statement from the EDH FD is pending a full review of the analysis, Chief Johnson indicated a

willingness to discuss how the departments can work together to "build an even stronger fire service team."

The report suggests that while the El Dorado County Fire Protection District may offer a lower initial cost, annexation with the EDH FD could provide a more sustainable solution in the long term. This is due to factors such as the proximity of existing fire stations and the potential for improved recruitment and retention of staff due to EDH FD's higher compensation rates.

### El Dorado County Fire Protection District Responds to Fire Service Analysis

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District (EDCFPD) expressed strong reservations about the findings of the Cameron Park Community Services District's fire service analysis, which recommended exploring annexation with the El Dorado Hills Fire Department as a preferable option for long-term sustainability.

### Criticism of the Report's Methodology and Findings

At a June 6th board meeting, EDCFPD directors disputed the report's conclusions, particularly the claim that the district faces difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff

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## CP CSD FIRE SERVICE ANALYSIS *(con't)*

compared to EDH FD.

- **Recruitment and Staffing:** EDCFPD Division 5 Director Paul Gilchrest asserted that the district is "fully staffed" and has a strong recruitment record. He pointed to the district's Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) model as evidence of its innovation in problem-solving.
- **Report Inconsistencies:** EDCFPD Division 1 Director Mark Brunton raised concerns about the report's overall accuracy, expressing worries that it could mislead the public unfamiliar with the two fire agencies.

### Concerns Regarding Annexation and Potential Impacts

Several EDCFPD board members and community members voiced their apprehension about the potential annexation of the Cameron Park Fire Department by EDH FD. Their primary concerns included:

- **Impact on Fire Service Levels:** Cameron Park resident Bradford McMullin stressed the importance of maintaining the highest level of fire and life safety services at the most cost-effective rate for citizens.
- **Future of Fire Stations:** EDCFPD board members worried that annexation by EDH FD could lead to the closure of

Cameron Park Station 88, which has been under consideration for nearly a year. Closure of this station could strain county fire resources and negatively impact response times in Cameron Park and surrounding areas.

- **Strained Resources:** EDCFPD Division 3 Director Jim Edmiston expressed concerns that the district's already stretched resources would be further burdened if they had to cover areas previously served by EDH FD in Cameron Park.

EDCFPD board members indicated their intent to attend the CP CSD Board workshop on June 12th to gain a deeper understanding of the community's perspective on their fire service needs.

### El Dorado County Fire Protection District and Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District Merger

It's important to note that the EDCFPD is also currently working through El Dorado County LAFCO to annex the fiscally challenged Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District. While the annexation analysis is ongoing with El Dorado LAFCO, the full financial impact of the proposed merger is not yet known. Any consideration of an annexation/merger of the Cameron

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## CP CSD FIRE SERVICE ANALYSIS *(con't)*

Park CSD Fire services with the El Dorado County Fire Protection District would also have to account for the potential negative financial impacts of the ongoing Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District annexation. Further, the only agency to suggest closing any CP Fire stations has been the CP CSD itself. Sources [Mountain Democrat](#), [Village Life](#), Cameron Park CSD

## COUNTY IDENTIFIES PERMANENT HOMELESS CENTER CONCEPT

*By John Davey*

El Dorado County has chosen a location for a permanent homeless shelter and navigation center near the county jail in Placerville.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the proposal on May 21 to construct a center on a 1-acre lot at 300 Forni Road. The project will take time to develop, and construction is not expected to begin until the Placerville jail expansion project wraps up sometime in 2026.

In the meantime, the county will establish temporary transitional housing at the original site explored for the permanent center, 300 Fair Lane.

“We are still a couple of years out before this new site is implemented,”

said Board Chair Supervisor Wendy Thomas. “There will be lots of input on the site program design with the stakeholders of the community.”

The project received initial pushback from some Placerville City Council members who requested more communication and planning. Negotiations for a memorandum of understanding with the city to mitigate impacts of the navigation center are underway.

“We truly do want this to be a partnership and to work together,” said District 4 Supervisor Lori Parlin.

The permanent center will replace the temporary pilot shelter currently operating at 299 Fair Lane. County staff say they have spoken with people using the shelter and most indicated they would be comfortable moving to the permanent facility.

“The devil is in the details and with this site we have more room to design some really appropriate and important amendments and additions to the project like outdoor spaces for them to gather and to have some privacy, opportunities that we don’t have currently in the location where the temporary site is,” Thomas said.

El Dorado County Sheriff Jeff Leikauf said the Sheriff’s Office Homeless -

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## PERMANENT HOMELESS CENTER *(con't)*

- Outreach Team will play a key role in communicating with the homeless population and encouraging them to utilize the new center.

District 2 Supervisor George Turnboo voiced support for the plans and suggested the jail could provide meals to clients at the permanent shelter. He also praised the addition of transitional housing, which would allow people to secure their belongings.

Funding for the project will likely come from American Rescue Plan Act funds. The project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review. [Sources: Mountain Democrat Reporting](#)

## EID PLANS ON EL DORADO HILLS WATER TREATMENT PLANT MODERNIZATION

*By John Davey*

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) is planning for the future of water treatment in El Dorado Hills. The El Dorado Hills Water Treatment Plant, which supplies water to the El Dorado Hills region and parts of Bass Lake, is nearing the end of its useful life and requires upgrades to meet current and projected water demands.

“We’ve MacGyver’ed it enough,” said EID General Manager Jim

Abercrombie during a recent tour of the facility. “We need to fix it.”

The 63-year-old plant is facing limitations due to its age. EID staff have been using creative solutions to maintain functionality, but a more permanent solution is necessary.

This need for improvement coincides with the update of EID’s Water and Recycled Water Master Plan. The draft plan recommends significant investments in EID’s water system infrastructure by 2045. These investments address various areas, including transmission lines, storage facilities, and recycled water infrastructure.

While EID anticipates sufficient water to meet current and projected demands for the district as a whole, the El Dorado Hills Water Treatment Plant faces capacity constraints due to its aging infrastructure.

The draft master plan proposes three options to address the water supply needs of the El Dorado Hills region:

- **Option 1: Upgrade and Expand El Dorado Hills Water Treatment Plant** - This option focuses on expanding the existing plant’s capacity from 19.5 million gallons per day (mgd) to 24 mgd, with the potential for future expansion to

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## EID WATER TREATMENT PLANT MODERNIZATION (con't)

36 mgd. Additional improvements include a new pump station and pipelines. The estimated cost is \$131 million to \$193 million.

- **Option 2: Upgrade Transmission System Capacity** - This option prioritizes utilizing other EID water treatment plants to supply the El Dorado Hills region. It would require constructing new transmission lines and has the long-term benefit of reducing reliance on Folsom Lake. The estimated cost is \$652 million.
- **Option 3: Construct New Water Treatment Plant** - This option proposes building a new 13 mgd water treatment plant near the old Bray Reservoir site in Diamond Springs. The estimated cost is \$641 million.

After evaluating the options, EID staff recommend a combination of Option 1 and Option 2, with a total cost between \$783 million and \$845 million. Funding is expected to come from a combination of cost-saving measures, grants, and development-funded improvements. EID is also reviewing its Facility Capacity Charges.

The Water and Recycled Water Master Plan is expected to be presented to the EID Board of Directors for approval in July. If approved, the design and

construction process for the chosen improvements will take several years to complete. Sources: [Mountain Democrat Reporting](#)

## BRINGING BEAUTY AND BENEFITS WITH CALIFORNIA LILAC TO YOUR BASS LAKE AREA LANDSCAPE

*By John Davey*

Looking to add a touch of California charm to your Bass Lake area landscape? Look no further than the California lilac, or Ceanothus. This drought-tolerant and versatile native shrub offers a multitude of benefits for local homeowners.



*image credit - CNPS El Dorado Chapter*

### **Drought Tolerance and Easy Care:**

El Dorado Hills is known for its hot, dry summers. The California lilac thrives in these conditions, needing minimal supplemental watering once established. This translates to lower water bills and less time spent

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## CALIFORNIA LILAC FOR BASS LAKE AREA LANDSCAPES *(con't)*

maintaining your landscape.

**Blooming Beauty:** Ceanothus explodes with clusters of vibrant blue flowers in spring and early summer, adding a burst of color to your yard. The fragrant blooms also attract pollinators like butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Landscaping Versatility:** There's a perfect Ceanothus variety for almost any landscaping need:

- **Tall Shrubs:** For a statement piece, consider 'Julia Phelps' or 'Blue Jeans' which can reach heights of 6-8 feet.
- **Spreading Shrubs:** Looking to fill space? 'Concha' and 'Ray Hartman' are excellent choices, sprawling up to 8 feet wide.
- **Groundcover:** For a low-maintenance slope stabilizer or colorful groundcover, plant 'Carmel Creeper' or 'Harkensii' which hug the ground at 1-2 feet tall.

**Sun or Shade? No Problem:** Most Ceanothus varieties prefer full sun, but some can tolerate partial shade as well. 'Yankee Point' is a good choice for dappled sunlight areas.

**Happy Under Oaks:** California lilacs are happy companions to native oak

trees. Their complementary root systems won't compete for water, and the Ceanothus' nitrogen-fixing properties can even benefit the oak.

**Planting and Care Tips:** Plant your Ceanothus in well-draining soil and water regularly until established. Established plants need little to no supplemental watering. Prune lightly after flowering to maintain desired shape and encourage new growth.

With its stunning looks, easy care, and ecological benefits, the California lilac is a perfect choice for any Bass Lake area landscape. Many local nurseries can help you find the perfect Ceanothus variety to bring a touch of California magic to your yard.



*image credit - Bakker.com*



*Ceanothus Ray Hartman  
image credit - laspilitas.com*

## INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS SHOWS

### CAMERON PARK SUMMER SPECTACULAR

**June 22, 2024 Gate opens at 3:00pm**  
Cameron Park Lake, 2898 Cambridge Rd

#### Prices

\$20.00 per Person

\$15.00 per Annual Pass Holder

\$15.00 per AFSCME Members

Children under 3 FREE

Activities will include:

- A choreographed Flyover for the first time ever with pilots: Chuck Wahl, Julie Clark, and Mike Brewer!
- Water Slide Bounce Houses
- Dunk Tank
- Live Music
- Food Trucks
- Dessert Vendors
- Drinks
- Firework show over the Lake

What can you bring?

- Blankets
- Lawn Chairs
- Sunscreen

What CAN'T you bring?

- No Food
- No Alcohol
- No Coolers

- No Pets
- No Weapons
- No Gang Affiliated Attire

#### Parking

Free parking in the Air Park off Fairway Dr.

FREE shuttles will be offered throughout multiple locations (locations to come)

#### Safety?

There will be CSD Staff, Paramedics and Local Law Enforcement to ensure everyone's safety and in case of an emergency.

#### More info

<https://www.cameronpark.org/2024-summer-spectacular>





## INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS SHOWS

### EL DORADO HILLS TOWN CENTER 2024 FIREWORKS AND FREEDOM CONCERT

July 3, 2024

**6:00PM - 11:00 Fireworks at 9:30PM**  
**Early Set Up Guidelines for Numbers**

- For early set up in either the EDH Town Center Amphitheater or Sandra's Rose garden pick up your Number starting at 3pm. If coming after 5pm or sitting somewhere else besides the Town Center Amphitheater or Sandra's Rose Garden, you do not need a Number.
- Numbers and wristbands will be handed out at the Town Center Booth, located in the Amphitheater by South Fork Grille, at 3:00PM until they are gone. 125 numbers will be handed out for each side. Each number is good for up to six (6) people.
- A wristband will be given for each person that will be in line. Must be back in line by 4:30pm in numerical order with your number AND wristbands on. Guard will be taking the numbers and releasing the line at 5:00pm numerically.
- If coming after 5pm it is open seating no number needed. Again, numbers are for early set up only.
- NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED**, per State and County code.
- Ice Chests and Bags will be subject to search.
- No one without a number or wristband will be allowed to stand in line or enter at time of release. If you have additional people coming **AFTER** release of the line they do not need a number or wristband.
- Sandra's Rose Garden Line will start on the Walking Trail near Nugget Parking lot and Chase Bank.
- EDH Town Center Amphitheater Line will start at the Walking Trail behind Holiday Inn Express & Suites.

- Nothing may be left in line, no chairs, ice-chests, etc. all items left in line will be removed.
- At 4:30pm the walking area in Sandra's Rose Garden and EDH Town Center Amphitheater will be blocked off so you will need to go around the building to get in line. No coming through Restaurants or sidewalk ways.
- After release of the line, the area is free to set up. No wristbands needed.
- No roping off, no pop-up tents, umbrellas, or tables.

#### More info:

<https://edhtowncenter.com/events/fireworks-freedom-concert/>

## JUNE LOCAL MEETING RECORDINGS

By John Davey

Recordings of local meetings in El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County in June 2024.

**El Dorado Hills Community Council Meetings:** First Monday of each month.  
**June Meeting**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obba4ge6bcw>

**El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee Meetings:** Typically the second Wednesday of each Month

**June Meeting**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/loNTdbJqCV4?si=W63ShntGKvK9csiP>

**El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month

**June Meeting**

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-june-24>

**El Dorado Irrigation District Board EID Meetings, Agendas, Minutes -**  
<https://www.eid.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings-agendas-and-minutes>

**EID Recorded Meetings on EID YouTube Channel -**

<https://www.youtube.com/@eldoradoirrigationdistrict3994>



OR VISIT:

<https://basslakeaction.net/SUBSCRIBE>

## BASS LAKE ACTION BOARD MEETING



The next meeting of the BLAC Board of Directors will be held on Monday August 12, 2024. Members will receive the Agenda & Meeting link/location details via email.

For more information about meetings and membership, please contact President John Davey at 530-676-2657, or email [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com).

Bass Lake Area Residents can also visit our online membership form at <https://basslakeaction.net/members>