

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.



image credit - Center for Sacramento History Archived video

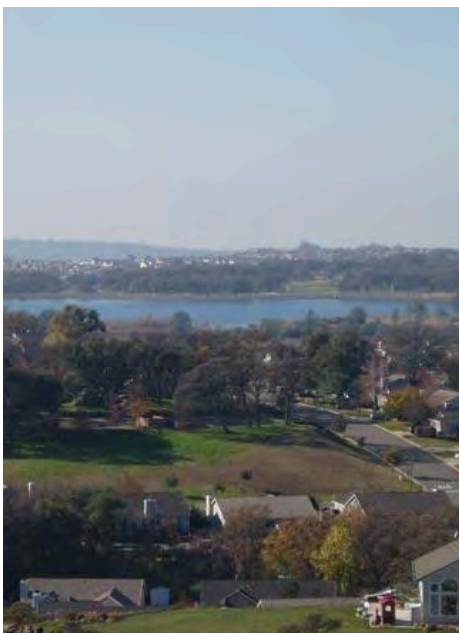
CITYHOOD GROUP MAKES CASE AT EDH CSD BOARD MEETING

By John Davey

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) has taken a significant step in the renewed push for cityhood, as the El Dorado Hills Citizens for Cityhood (EDHCC) presented their case at the March 13 EDH CSD Board of Directors meeting.

Directors unanimously supported the cityhood efforts and directed staff to prepare a draft resolution and application for submission to the El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

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CITYHOOD GROUP *(cont)*

This action formally initiates the incorporation process. The EDH CSD and EDHCC will share the estimated \$300,000-\$600,000 cost of the subsequent fiscal analysis and environmental review. The EDHCC has independently raised approximately \$200,000 towards the effort.

Proponents argue that cityhood would provide greater local control over land use and planning, and enable increased allocation of tax revenue to public safety, parks, and roads. This initiative comes after a failed cityhood measure in 2005. The 2020 Census determined that the El Dorado Hills community now boasts a population of approximately 51,000, making it the largest population center in El Dorado County. There are currently only two incorporated communities in El Dorado County: Placerville with a population of over 10,000, and the City of South Lake Tahoe, with a population of only 26,000. EDH is the only community in California that is the largest unincorporated population center in a county that remains unincorporated.

The Community Services District Law, enacted in 1952 as California Government Code section 61001 provided for the formation of an elected special district - the community services district law was designed to

allow residents of unincorporated areas local control of governmental functions. The distinction of CSDs over other California Special Districts is that most special districts are only allowed to perform one specific service - water, fire protection, parks, garbage collection, cemeteries, and so forth. CSDs, by law, are allowed to perform any combination of multiple services - up to thirty-two different services in all which includes even law enforcement. One of the primary functions of governance that CSDs cannot perform is land use and planning. Part of the intent of the CSD law is to act as a service provider placeholder until a community is large enough to become a city, as has occurred with the most recently incorporated California city, Mountain House, which by vote of residents, transformed their CSD into the City of Mountain House (population 25,000).

[California Government Code Section](#)

[6101 \(b\)](#) *The Legislature finds and declares that for many communities, community services districts may be any of the following:*

(4) A transitional form of governance as the community approaches cityhood.

"The current model of county and CSD government no longer meets our

(continued on page 3)

CITYHOOD GROUP *(con't)*

local needs and it will become more mismatched as we continue to grow in the future," stated EDHCC member Joe Chinn, a long time EDH resident, and past elected EDH CSD Board Director. He emphasized that El Dorado Hills provides the county with a significant portion of property tax revenue and "a disproportionate amount of sales tax per capita," while utilizing fewer county services than the average user.

Chinn further explained, "We keep more of our existing taxes in El Dorado Hills under our local control which will help us provide a higher level service with more resources."

A newly formed five-member city council, composed of El Dorado Hills residents, would assume control over law enforcement, zoning, planning, building, roads, and parks and recreation. Existing entities such as the El Dorado Hills Fire Department, Buckeye and Rescue Union School Districts, and El Dorado Irrigation District would continue to serve the community with no changes. The county would maintain its provision of regional services, including public health, veterans services, and courts.

"The incorporation effort will not move forward unless (there are no) new taxes," Chinn asserted, referencing the yet-to-be-conducted

full fiscal analysis. "If any taxes are needed for incorporation, the effort would be dropped. It would never get to the ballot."

EDHCC member Chris Nicholson in his presentation stressed the need for proactive community leadership regarding future growth and development. "Things are great. It's a wonderful community. We're blessed and privileged to have that... but we've got to get in the driver's seat. We can't be a passenger. We can't be a passive observer on the side of the road. Things come down the line. We need to be prepared to handle them the next time there's an Amazon open space rezone We want them to be coming to us to ask for permission and working out a deal that's beneficial to our community, not just overall beneficial for the county."

The goal is to place the cityhood question on the November 2026 ballot, contingent on favorable Comprehensive fiscal analysis results.

Public speakers at the meeting expressed strong support for cityhood, while acknowledging the need to address various concerns, including affordable housing allocations and the impact on the county relationship.

El Dorado Hills Chamber of

(continued on page 4)

CITYHOOD GROUP *(con't)*

Commerce President/CEO Debbie Manning encouraged the EDH CSD to proceed, citing the potential for positive economic growth. "Given the county of El Dorado has experienced budget cuts over the years that have adversely affected El Dorado Hills, now is the time to explore cityhood," Manning urged. "El Dorado Hills should be developing its own residential community and lead its own economic development programs as the county's largest economic region. We need to have a stronger and more defined voice."

Past EDH CSD General Manager, and former EDH CSD Board member Wayne Lowery urged the EDH CSD directors to engage actively, highlighting the potential for improved recreational facilities through increased revenue and local oversight. Lowery informed the EDH CSD Board that "with local control of normal city services, vision and hard work, El Dorado Hills can grow from a great place to raise a family to a fabulous place..."

Bill Osgood, Serrano Fire Safe Council Chair, emphasized the potential for enhanced wildfire preparedness and prevention through local ordinances. "I strongly believe that cityhood offers a more effective path to significantly reducing wildfire

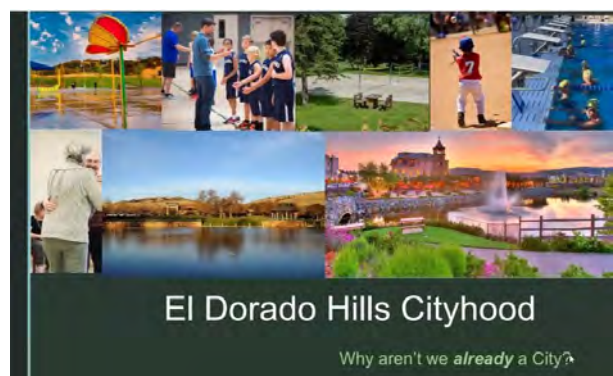
risk and expanding access to affordable insurance ... for all El Dorado Hills residents," Osgood said.

Long time Bass Lake Action Committee friend Eileen Hidahl, widow of former District 1 Supervisor John Hidahl, a long-time cityhood proponent, requested the EDH CSD board to support the incorporation effort. "I think that the residents here of El Dorado Hills deserve a look at what the feasibility is of this going forth," she said.

Director Michael Martinelli provided the motion to direct staff to prepare the draft resolution and application, and to hold a public meeting for review before the April 10 EDH CSD board meeting. The motion, seconded by Board President Stephen Ferry and supported by Directors Noelle Mattock and Heidi Hannaman, also included submitting the LAFCO application with an initial \$10,000 deposit upon approval of all necessary documents.

Sources:

[EDH CSD Board Meeting Recording](#)
[Village Life March 20, 2025 Reporting](#)



COUNTY REMAINS WAIT & SEE ON SENIOR DAY CARE PROGRAM FEES

By John Davey

El Dorado County supervisors have opted to delay the approval of a new fee schedule for the Health and Human Services Senior Day Care program, choosing to gather further information before implementation. The decision came during the March 4 Board of Supervisors meeting, where questions were also raised concerning the Public Guardian program's proposed fee adjustments.

The discussion stemmed from a final report of a fee study conducted by MGT Consulting in June 2024. This report highlighted the county's current cost recovery levels, with fee-related revenues totaling nearly \$346,000, representing a mere 14% cost recovery. The remaining \$2.4 million is subsidized by the county. The proposed fee adjustments aimed to "maintain the cost recovery percentage at 52%," according to the report.

For the Senior Day Care program, which provides care and supervision for adults during the day, two options were presented: an immediate implementation of new fees or a gradual increase over three years.

"This service provides families with peace of mind and the opportunity to

take a break from their caregiving responsibilities or continue their employment," explained Lynette Englehart-Stott, deputy director for Community Services.

She recommended the phased approach, stating, "It is sort of phasing in the increase so it wasn't a one-time increase ... but increase by 33% each year so it's not a big jump."

The proposed fees would allow the program to recoup 87% of its costs. For example, current enrollment application fees of \$50 would increase to \$333, and daily fees would rise from \$58 to \$100, with extended hours fees increasing from \$10 to \$91 per half hour. The three-year phased approach would distribute these increases.

District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp raised concerns about inflation, asking, "The cost of things gets away from us," and inquiring if the report accounted for it. Englehart-Stott confirmed that it did not.

District 4 Supervisor Lori Parlin expressed concerns about affordability, asking, "Is nobody going to be able to use it? That's what I feel I don't know from this information."

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SENIOR DAY CARE PROGRAM FEES *(con't)*

Yvette Wencke, program manager of El Dorado County Older Adult Services, addressed concerns about funding, explaining, “We might work with Del Oro or Alzheimer’s associations. We have received funding from veterans associations to help fund some of the costs and Snowline Hospice; we have an agreement with them so they can help fund some respite services. Our own family caregiver support program can fund services, so there are other funding streams coming in that help subsidize our members that we serve.” She clarified that these subsidies are typically short-term solutions.

Parlin also questioned the necessity of two facilities given the current low enrollment, stating, “Why have two facilities? It seems like with the number of participants we could consolidate.”

District 1 Supervisor Greg Ferrero suggested, “Would it be feasible to alternate locations each week, and also explore a half-day rate?”

Wencke responded, “Part of what this population needs is stability. As far as pricing out, I really don’t have enough data.” She also cited staffing issues as a factor in low enrollment, but noted that hiring efforts were underway.

District 5 Supervisor Brooke Laine emphasized, “There are other ways of solving this besides a \$2 million subsidy from the general fund.”

Regarding the Public Guardian program, which provides conservatorship services, proposed fee increases and additions would result in a 97% cost recovery of over \$564,000 within three years. Nathaniel Houston, program manager for Adult Protective Services, explained, “So ultimately the court gives final approval of whether or not we can collect those fees, regardless of what we set them at.”

He also stated regarding the proposed fees that “So we should request that and see if the court will work with us, with the rising costs,” agreeing with Veerkamps request to include inflation adjustments.

Veerkamp made a motion, seconded by Parlin, to receive and file the MGT Consulting fee study report and direct staff to explore the recommended fees for both programs.

The board will revisit the fee schedules at a future meeting after staff has gathered more information.

Sources:

EDC Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes & Recording

[Mountain Democrat March 12, 2025 Reporting](#)

EDH CSD BOARD DEADLOCKED ON VACANT BOARD POSITION

BY CA LAW DECISION NOW FALLS TO EDC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By John Davey

A 2-2 deadlock among the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) Board of Directors has resulted in the cancellation of a previously planned special election to fill the vacant board seat formerly held by Chuck King. The decision now rests with the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, who will either appoint a new director or order the EDH CSD to hold a special election.

District 1 Supervisor Greg Ferrero, who attended the March 13 EDH CSD board meeting, expressed his intent to advocate for an immediate appointment by the Board of Supervisors. "They don't want the cost. It's 75 grand, and you're going to (have a) vacant seat until December," Ferrero shared, citing feedback from constituents who oppose a special election.

Ferrero stated, "My intent is to go to our Board of Supervisors and request that we appoint someone for this position immediately, and it's going to

have to be rapid." He indicated that the Board of Supervisors will discuss the matter at their March 25 meeting, with a potential appointment no later than April 22. The appointee would serve until the November 2026 general election. If a special election were mandated, voters would decide in November 2025, with the winner completing King's term through November 2028.

Public speakers at the EDH CSD meeting voiced frustration over the board's inability to resolve the vacancy. Tim White, an EDH resident, stated, "We have a representative democracy. All of you were elected by the residents and voters of El Dorado Hills to represent us. Probably your primary responsibility, and one of your greatest, is to fill a vacancy."

Concerns were also raised about the potential for 2-2 ties to hinder the EDH CSD's decision-making process, especially given upcoming critical decisions. "You've blown it. You don't have the ability to appoint somebody anymore for those in the room that are asking you to do that," online commenter Marcus W. stated. "With that said, the second best option is for the Board of Supervisors to take over and make an appointment, and you should be able to have conversations with them. And I'm asking at least two

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EDH CSD BOARD DEADLOCKED ON VACANCY *(con't)*

of you to reject this resolution and allow that to happen.”

EDH CSD Board President Stephen Ferry and Director Heidi Hannaman voted against the resolution to call a special election, while Directors Noelle Mattock and Michael Martinelli supported it.

Mattock expressed concerns about continuity, noting, "This is unprecedented. I have never heard of, and I have not been a part of something, where somebody has literally resigned after two months. That is an affront to the residents and the voters that voted for them. But I still stand here saying that those who voted for that person, they should have the right and the ability to choose whom they want to represent them."

She added, "I'm not saying, 'I don't know. I can't do.' I'm just saying the community has the right to make the choice on who represents them.”

Sources:

EDH CSD Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes & Recording
[Village Life March 16, 2025
Reporting](#)

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS EXPLORED FOR COUNTY PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

By John Davey

El Dorado County's Planning and Building Department is making strides in process improvements, though challenges remain, particularly in enhancing its digital presence.

According to a bi-annual progress report presented by Economic and Business Relations Manager Kyle Zimbelman to the Board of Supervisors on March 4, the department is actively addressing feedback and implementing changes.

This was a reporting/non-action item for the Board of Supervisors, and the department is expected to provide additional updates to the Board of Supervisors within six months.

Zimbelman highlighted that website updates are a primary focus. "One of the key feedback points that we are hearing from contractors and folks in other jurisdictions is that we're not as digital as we could be," he stated.

The department is collaborating with TRAKiT and the county's Information

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IMPROVEMENTS EXPLORED FOR COUNTY PLANNING *(con't)*

Technologies Department to address this issue. Future plans include publishing clear timelines and flow charts for the development process, expanding the interactive map to include more project types, and completing the digitization of new application forms.

"We've seen a 40% decrease in lobby traffic for permit applications that have gone online," Zimbelman reported, demonstrating the positive impact of digitization efforts. However, he acknowledged budget constraints, noting, "We're taking a hard look at what's really necessary and what we have in-house to maybe meet those needs."

Zimbelman, whose role was created to improve the county's development review process, emphasized the progress made since his initial presentation a year ago. "Since my initial presentation we've made tremendous progress in improving the planning, permitting and development processes in our county," he said. He also acknowledged the limitations of the current budget. "We recognize doing more with less is not just a challenge, but it is a necessity," he emphasized.

The department's goals include enhancing process efficiency, strengthening interdepartmental collaboration, providing excellent customer service, and partnering with external agencies to expedite review times.

Future initiatives include refining processes through county code updates, completing application form digitization, gathering feedback from stakeholders, and streamlining software programs across departments, community services districts, and fire departments. "Through this, we will be able to recognize bottlenecks," Zimbelman said. "We could create a shared digital platform for our documents."

To enhance public transparency, Zimbelman proposed continually updating projects on an interactive map, allowing residents to track project statuses. He also suggested providing status definitions in a FAQ sheet.

Supervisor Lori Parlin recommended adding dates for status changes, stating, "The less we have to dig to find stuff, the better."

Additional proposals included publishing monthly reports on the website, conducting staff interviews, reorganizing the South Lake Tahoe

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IMPROVEMENTS EXPLORED FOR COUNTY PLANNING *(con't)*

office, updating the department's mission, implementing employee recognition initiatives, monitoring staff engagement through surveys, and establishing performance standards.

"What we have in place now is a strong management team that's helping hold our teams accountable," Zimbelman clarified, emphasizing that accountability is focused on project tracking. He also said that dashboard information would be made available on the department's website "to let folks know what stage their project is at."

"At the next six months I'd like to actually demonstrate some of the website improvements and the different interactive things so you guys can see," Zimbelman added.

During public comment, former District 2 Planning Commissioner Kris Payne stated, "I believe in what you're saying. I personally have seen improvements. I think from the public's perspective though, anytime it takes in order to right the ship, in this case the Planning and Building Department, is time that they may be impacted in a negative way, meaning that you're going in the right direction

but you just haven't gotten to the point where you need to be."

Supervisor Parlin expressed her approval of Zimbelman's work, saying, "To me it seems like you guys are really putting your nose to the grindstone to take care of this."

Sources:

EDC Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes & Recording
[Mountain Democrat March 7, 2025 Reporting](#)

EDH CSD LLAD CAC MEETING MAR 26th 6PM

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Join us on
March 26th
to give your feedback on LLADs.

Public Engagement Forum on Re-Engineering LLADs
(Lighting & Landscape Assessment Districts)
🕒 6:00 pm
📍 Pavilion, 1021 Harvard Way

MARCH LOCAL MEETING RECORDINGS

By John Davey

Recordings of local meetings in El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County in March 2025.

El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee Meetings:

Typically the second Wednesday of each Month

March Meeting

<https://youtu.be/IvwJ1tQmeuY?si=2Q1C1g4aJJAFE1O3>

El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

March 5th

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-3-5-25>

March 13th

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-3-13-25>

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 -

www.EID.org/YouTube



OR VISIT:

<https://basslakeaction.net/SUBSCRIBE>

BLAC BOARD MEETING



The next quarterly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday May 12th at 7PM.

Members will receive the Agenda & Meeting location details via email invitation. All Members are encouraged to attend.

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

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

EDH CSD PARK PARTY - OAK KNOLL PARK

Join District Recreation staff for an evening of fun! Enjoy FREE dinner, music and family-oriented activities.

Date: Wednesday, March 26th

Location: Oak Knoll Park

3371 Alyssum Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

