



# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XIII No. 7

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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


## EDH TRASH FEES SET TO INCREASE

This summer El Dorado Hills residential customers will see a modest increase in their bi-monthly trash bills, as the El Dorado Hills Community Services District approved an annual cost of living adjustment at their board meeting June 11. The hike is tied to the year-over-year percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For the fiscal year 2014-15, the CPI in communities similar to El Dorado Hills rose 1.9 percent.

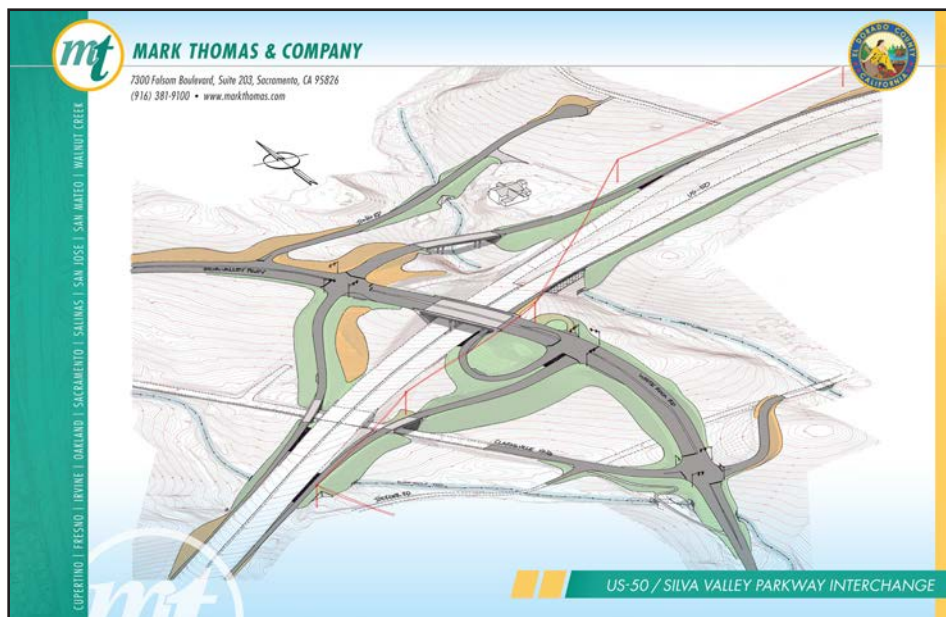
"We voted for the increase, because over the last year, El Dorado Disposal has fulfilled all the terms of their contract with the community. They have continued to provide excellent service to area residents," said Board President Wayne Lowery.

The fee increase, however, is not county-wide. Each foothill community negotiates a separate contract with the disposal company. In Placerville, for example, annual rate adjustments are based on a combination of fuel prices and the CPI.

In El Dorado Hills, bi-monthly fees will go up to \$49.95 for a 35-gallon trash bin, \$53.54 for a 64-gallon bin, and \$73.74 for a 96-gallon trash bin. The rate for seniors over 65 will remain at \$41.26 for a 35-gallon trash bin.

However, the senior rate will go up to \$47.44 for a 64-gallon bin and go up to \$65.62 for a 96-gallon bin. The reason for no increase in the bottom-tier senior rate was the company's concern about the cost impact upon senior citizens. "We understand many seniors are living on a fixed income," said El Dorado Disposal District General Manager

*(continued on page 2)*



Three-dimensional rendering of the Silva Valley Parkway Interchange when completed. (Courtesy of El Dorado County DOT)

## SILVA VALLEY INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION MORE THAN HALF WAY COMPLETED

El Dorado Hills residents will see big changes this summer. Crews will use the warm weather and long, sunny days to complete the new Silva Valley Parkway and, before the first hint of fall arrives, drivers will travel on the new roadway over Highway 50.

Completing the road is just one of many projects moving forward on the Silva Valley interchange, according to project engineer Aradhana Kochar with the El Dorado County Department of Transportation.

Crews have closed the freeway several times this year to blast away rock and debris, making more room for an auxiliary lane. They'll also finish dismantling the old Tong Road, work on the interchange's onramps and offramps and start making improvements on Clarsville Crossing (the old Silva Valley Road).

"Work is right on track," Kochar said, noting the project is about 55 percent complete. "Things have been moving right along."

Already in the completed column: Three of the project's four bridges have gone up and the new Tong Road is open, allowing

access to Capital Korean Presbyterian.

The Silva Valley interchange includes a new four-lane Highway 50 overcrossing, new onramps/offramps with signalized intersections, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The new Silva Valley Parkway will tie the interchange to White Rock Road (south side) and to the current Silva Valley Parkway (north side). The entire project has a cost of nearly \$30 million with funds coming from developer advances, the 2004 General Plan Silva Valley Interchange Set Aside Fund and a State and Local Partnership Program Grant.

In the works for decades, the interchange will relieve traffic congestion on El Dorado Hills Boulevard and serve as the end of the Capital Southeast Connector — a planned 35-mile parkway that will connect El Dorado County to Interstate 5 south of Elk Grove.

The complete interchange is scheduled to open in spring 2016. For more information visit [edcgov.us/SilvaValley.aspx](http://edcgov.us/SilvaValley.aspx).

*Credit: Noel Stack EDH Telegraph*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

We sure have been having some wild weather lately. First it was hot, then it got cold and rainy, with lots of thunder and lightning. Now we are heating up again, just like an ordinary July. I hope things settle down.

So what is ahead for us? According to the Japanese weather agency, chances are California will soon see an El Niño year, a period of greater than normal precipitation.

The Japanese recently launched their new Himawari 8 weather satellite, the world's first geostationary weather satellite. The satellite can shoot 16 different kinds of high resolution, allowing observation of an area as small as 500 square meters. The entire cost of the Himawari project is about \$680 million, according to the agency. Scientists are hopeful that it will help forecast typhoon movements and heavy rainfall.

If their prediction comes true, El Niño will break our drought cycle. However, the news has been full of on-again, off-again El Niño forecasts for months. I for one will wait and see. But it would sure be nice to have a real wet winter.

I'm sure that everyone was pleased to see that in June we EID customers achieved a level of water conservation greater than is being required by the state.

I have also been impressed (if I may say that) by all the brown lawns I see around the neighborhoods. We should all appreciate our neighbors who have sacrificed their lawns to keep us all in water for essential uses.

Congratulations to all of you for your water-saving efforts!

Sincerely,

*John E. Thomson*

President

## TRASH FEES *(continued)*

Jeff England.

Additionally, customers currently enrolled in the company's Recyclebank program pay may reduce their bimonthly bill by \$2.00 if they choose to opt out of the program.

El Dorado Disposal has more than 12,400 residential customers in El Dorado Hills and made more than 1.2 million trash and recycling pickups during the 2014-15 fiscal year. The waste management company also organized two community clean-up events where area residents dropped off more than 52 tons of unwanted goods.

As part of its commitment to the environment, El Dorado Disposal plans to expand its recycling efforts in the coming year. The company will now accept motor oil, batteries, fluorescent tubes, and paint, but only in special containers furnished by the company, on regular pickup days. Residents should call El Dorado Disposal to request the special containers, and the containers will be delivered to their home.

Plans to partner with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department and local neighborhood watch groups are in the works, as well. Under the new program, El Dorado Disposal drivers will alert police if they witness any suspicious activity while on their routes. "We live here too," said England. "This is a partnership. We want to work with residents to keep our community clean and safe."

Customers may contact El Dorado Disposal at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162. ~  
*Credit: Katherine Sheridan, EDH Telegraph*

## RISK RISES FOR LYME DISEASE

As the weather warms, increased time outside increases the risk for encounters with ticks, which can be carriers of Lyme disease, say health officials.

Lyme disease is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks, known as deer ticks. The Western blacklegged tick is found in many areas across California.

Protect yourself from ticks with proper clothing and insect repellent, by performing daily tick checks, removing attached ticks quickly and correctly, and reducing the tick habitat. Using tick collars on animals and checking them daily is important, as well.

Because deer are the main food source for adult ticks, discourage deer around your yard by removing shrubs and constructing physical barriers that keep deer away. ~

*Credit: Roxie Rice, Telegraph*



## MASSIVE EL NIÑO GROWING IN CALIFORNIA?

There is growing evidence California could see an even stronger El Niño event this winter than the 1997 one that caused massive flooding across Northern California.

Stunning images from Japan's Himawari 8 Weather Satellite, just recently activated, show what could become a historic El Niño in full bloom.

"Almost all models are showing consistency that we're seeing a stronger and stronger tendency for that to hold in place through the winter season. It could rival that of 1997," News10-KXTV Chief Meteorologist Monica Woods said.

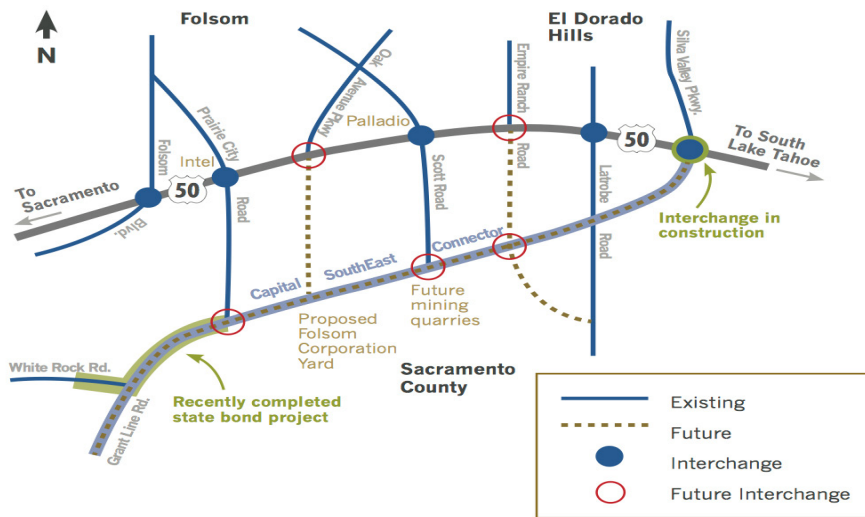
In recent days, cyclones and typhoons, including one mammoth storm heading toward China with cloud cover the size of Texas, have helped shift the trade winds from west to east, pushing warm sub-surface water toward the coast of South America and making it all but certain an El Niño event will last at least through the fall.

"What we want is just enough water to come in slowly enough for the watersheds to hold that," Woods said. "The nice thing is that so many of them are dry that they have the capacity, but the flip side of that is, as anybody knows in a desert climate, that terrain is just parched and so a lot of that can be runoff if those storms are too warm."

In this El Niño year, if the models hold up — and climatologists said they seem almost certain it will — it could soon be the beginning of the end of California's historic drought, even if it may come at a price.

"Yes, El Niño's great, and it could provide us with relief and replenish some of these reservoirs," Woods said. "The flip side of that is it could mean catastrophic flooding, too." ~

*Credits: USA Today Network, Dave Marquis, KXTV-Sacramento*



Map showing the projected Capital SouthEast Connector, and future improvements, adjacent to Folsom and El Dorado Hills. The proposed upgrades to White Rock Road will be constructed between Prairie City Road and Latrobe Road.

## PLANS MOVE FORWARD ON EASTERN END OF CAPITAL SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR

The Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is working on completion of the planned improvements to the eastern end of White Rock Road. The road segment from Prairie City Road to Latrobe Road is projected to be completed by 2020. The portion of White Rock Road from Latrobe Road to the Silva Valley Interchange is currently projected to be improved sometime in the future, perhaps by 2036.

Readers will recall that the improvements to the segment between the intersection of White Rock Road and Grant Line Road eastward to Prairie City Road were recently completed. The Prairie City-Latrobe project seeks to extend those improvements further eastward to Latrobe Road

The design guidelines for from Prairie City to the Sacramento-El County line call for a four- to six-lane expressway, a fully-divided facility with grade-separated interchanges, or signalized intersections, and frontage improvements.

The design guidelines for from the El Dorado County line to Latrobe Road call for a four-to six-lane thoroughfare, a partially-divided facility with signalized intersections, limited-access street connections, and frontage improvements. Where existing roadways are built out in El Dorado County, the El Dorado County design standards should be used where applicable.

The annual work program developed by the JPA for fiscal year 2015-16 provides for preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for the Prairie City-Latrobe segment, and they are currently in the Pre-

liminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation stage of development.

Over the course of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, a number of significant milestones are expected to be reached on the Prairie City-Latrobe segment, hopefully resulting in shovel-ready construction status in 2018. These milestones include approval of the roadway alignment, completion of the environmental process and approval of the CEQA document, solicitation of a qualified construction manager/general contractor, and obtaining approval for a final design contract.

For information about the Capital South-East Connector, go to the JPA website <http://www.connectorjpa.net/>. ~



## THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

This year our Summer Solstice took place on June 21, 2015. At the Summer Solstice, the days are longest and the nights are shortest. Our days have become shorter, and nights have become longer, since the day of the solstice.

The variation in the length of days occurs because the Earth's axis is tilted from the perpendicular. For half the year the Northern Hemisphere is inclined toward the Sun, while for the other half year the Southern Hemisphere has this distinction. ~



Noel Stack

## MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT EDITOR NAMED

It's been a year of changes at the Placerville Mountain Democrat, with the latest one being the selection of a new editor. Noel Stack, 36, currently the editor of El Dorado Hills Village Life and Cameron Park Life, will assume the editor role of all three publications effective June 22.

With a degree in journalism, Stack began her newspaper career with the Mountain Democrat, where for the first six years she worked as a reporter and the last seven as an editor. Taking on the responsibility of not only editing the Mountain Democrat but two other publications, Stack said she expects to be very busy, "but a good kind of busy." "I'm looking forward to the challenge and making some changes at the Mountain Democrat and re-engaging in the Placerville community," she said. "Even though I live here, I've kind of been out of touch with a lot of the organizations and people I met when I first started and I'm excited to get back into that.

"El Dorado County reminds me of home. I grew up on a farm in a small rural community in North Dakota. El Dorado County reminds me of a lot of that, and I really enjoy the people here. I am also appreciative of (Publisher) Richard Esposito's confidence in me and this opportunity," she continued. "I hope to exceed readers' expectations for what the Mountain Democrat will be. The Mountain Democrat has enjoyed a good reputation in the community and I hope to bolster it more over the coming years."

Publisher Richard Esposito noted that Noel comes to the job of editor with a solid newspaper background. "Village Life is one of, if not the best, free weekly newspaper in the state and she's been the driving force behind it," he said.

On a personal level, Stack is engaged to be married this October. Her fiancé works in the El Dorado County Auditor-Controller's

*(continued on page 4)*

**EDITOR STACK** *(continued)*

Office. Her free time is spent with her two dogs, doing home improvement projects, traveling, enjoying the outdoors and sewing.

She's also the incoming president of the Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills.

Looking forward to her new job, Stack said initially she was somewhat reluctant to give up her exclusive focus on the two publications she has edited for nearly seven years. But now, after considering this new opportunity, she is less worried about what she might have to give up and "more excited about what I'm getting in return." ~

*Credit: Dawn Hodson, Mountain Democrat*

**DROUGHT NEWS:** El Dorado Irrigation District customers reduced their water use by 32 percent in June 2015 compared to June 2013. June was the first month covered under the state's new water-reduction targets. EID is required to reduce its water consumption by 28 percent from June through February 2016—compared to the same months in 2013—under a mandate issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. ~



### The Swing

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!  
Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
River and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside.  
Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown—  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!

— Robert Louis Stevenson



## EID: BRIDLEWOOD CANYON LIFT STATION UPGRADES THIS SUMMER

The Bridlewood Canyon development is served by an existing sewer lift station located at the east end of Thornhill Drive near the dam. The lift station was constructed in 1989 and components are approaching the end of their useful life. El Dorado Irrigation District plans to make upgrades to the lift station as part of its current Capital Improvement Plan. New pumps, controls and a generator will be installed, in addition to an improved odor control system. The site will still be contained within the limits of the existing cyclone fence; the slates in the fence will be replaced as part of the project.

The District anticipates the project will start in the summer of 2015 and be completed around the end of the year. A contractor will be retained by the District to perform the work, which will primarily take place between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M., Monday through Friday. There may be a short period of night and weekend work when the pumps are being replaced.

The District is coordinating with the manager of Bridlewood Canyon HOA on a staging area. Walking access to the lake will be maintained, and all areas restored to pre-existing conditions. For additional information, please contact the District's project manager, Mike Brink, at (530) 642-4054 or via email at [mbrink@eid.org](mailto:mbrink@eid.org). ~

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## BLAC BOARD TO MEET IN AUGUST

The next regular board of directors meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will be held on August 3 at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

As always, all BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all meetings. For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

### CORRECTION

Last month the Bulletin failed to credit the story "Local Bass Lake Road Park Stalled" to Julie Samrick, Village Life. We apologise for the oversight.

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California.

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