

# The **BASS LAKE BULLETIN**

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<http://basslakeaction.org>

## EL DORADO HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW AMBULANCE TO BASS LAKE STATION 86



*EDH Fire Station 86 3670 Bass Lake Road.*

*By John Davey*

Cameron Park's ambulance unit, Medic 89, has found a new home just down the road - at the El Dorado Hills Fire Department's Station 86 on Bass Lake Road. Now rechristened as Medic 86, the ambulance will continue to serve the westside of El Dorado County with the same dedication and expertise.

"This is a seamless transition," assured EDH Fire Chief Maurice Johnson. "We are committed to providing the same high-quality

service that the community has come to expect from Medic 89." The move comes after the Cameron Park Community Services District, facing a budget deficit, opted to cancel its contract with the El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority (Ambulance JPA). EDH Fire stepped in to fill the gap, winning the ambulance through a competitive bidding process. "It was really important that the ambulance stay on the county's west end," Chief Johnson explained. "This is where a lot of calls for service come in, and we want to

ensure that residents have quick and reliable access to emergency medical care."

Medic 86 joins EDH Fire's existing ambulance unit, Medic 85, Operating from EDH Fire Station 85 at Wilson Blvd and El Dorado Hills Blvd. Both ambulances are funded by the Ambulance JPA, with each receiving approximately \$1.245 million per year. Any additional costs will be borne by the operating fire district.

Chief Johnson assured Cameron

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## EDH FIRE WELCOMES NEW AMBULANCE

*(con't)*

Park residents that EDH Fire is committed to serving all communities equally. "Our ambulances respond to calls throughout the county, and we will continue to do so with the same level of professionalism and care," he said.

Currently, Medic 86 is staffed by EDH Fire's firefighter/paramedics. The department is in the process of hiring additional paramedics to permanently staff the unit, with new personnel expected to be on board by January 9, 2024.

The arrival of Medic 86 is a welcome addition for the El Dorado Hills Fire Department and the communities it serves. It strengthens the county's emergency medical response system and ensures that residents have access to the care they need, when they need it most.

The Bass Lake Bulletin previously reported on the potential changes to the West Slope Ambulance JPA services due to financial challenges at the Cameron Park CSD in the [July 2023 Bass Lake Bulletin](#). The Cameron Park CSD operates the Cameron Park Fire Department via contracted services with Cal Fire. In July 2023, the Cameron Park CSD, faced with mounting financial challenges considered closing Cameron Park Fire Station 88 located on Alhambra Drive at Cameron Park Drive, by approving a two year contract agreement with Cal Fire, while projecting a

potential 2023-2024 budget deficit of more than \$800,000. Keeping both Cameron Park Fire Station 88 and 89 open for now. The Cameron Park CSD recognized that withdrawing from the El Dorado County JPA, and the moving Cameron Park Fire Department's Medic 89 Ambulance would be a likely result of the financial challenges to the District..

The Cameron Park CSD is exploring options through consultants, of having the Cameron Park Fire Department and its services annexed or absorbed by another Fire Service provider, and El Dorado Hills Fire Department is a likely candidate. Analysis and review of this potential outcome is currently underway.

*Sources: Cameron Park CSD and [reporting from The El Dorado Hills Village Life](#).*

## GENERAL MANAGER DEPARTS EDH CSD

*By John Davey*

El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDHCSD) General Manager Kevin Loewen has left the EDH CSD, leaving a cloud of uncertainty over the district's leadership and the ongoing investigation into reported conflicts of interest.

General Manager Loewen's abrupt departure was confirmed by EDH CSD Director Stephen Ferry on Thursday morning, December 14th, in comments to the El Dorado Hills Village Life, which was followed by a curious semi-official

announcement that was made during Thursday evening's EDH CSD Board of Directors meeting. When Board members returned from closed session, no mention was made of Loewen's absence, as the General Manager serves as the Secretary of the Board of Directors. After the initial round of Board of Directors comments to begin the open session, when the opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items opened from residents, discussion turned to General Manager Loewen's absence. Board President Noelle Mattock confirmed General Manager Loewen's resignation, but could not provide details for the reason for the resignation, citing it as a "personnel and confidential matter." President Mattock also confirmed that an independent investigation was still ongoing. No mention was made of a severance package, or other payments to General Manager Loewen.

The resignation follows months of public scrutiny and an independent investigation into allegations of ethical and contractual misconduct by General Manager Loewen. The investigation, initiated in November, stemmed from concerns raised by residents regarding General Manager Loewen's private consulting business and potential conflicts of interest with his role as General Manager.

El Dorado Hills resident Robert Williams first sparked the inquiry earlier this summer by questioning whether Loewen's personal business, Synergy Behavioral Systems, violated his employment contract, or board approval. This

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## EDH CSD GENERAL MANAGER

(con't)

concern was further amplified when it was suggested by residents during a public comment session at an EDH CSD LLAD (Landscaping and Lighting District) Advisory Committee meeting in July 2023 that General Manager Loewen either is, or was, an employee of EDH CSD contractor DTA.

DTA has provided several contracted services to the EDH CSD, acting as the consultant Engineer generating the annual LLAD Engineer reports, detailing assets and required maintenance in each budget year that defines the assessment levies applied to property owners in each of the twenty-five LLADs managed by the EDH CSD. The five-year contract with DTA, ended in October 2023.

DTA also provided contracted services during the EDH CSD LLAD elections of four underfunded LLADs in May 2021, seeking assessment increases, and inflationary increase mechanisms. The underfunded status of these four LLADs stemmed from the formation documents that established a fixed assessment levy in each of the four LLADs with no inflationary increase mechanism as exists in the twenty-one other EDH CSD managed LLADs, effectively keeping the assessment levy at a fixed price, with no mechanism to allow a levy increase to match inflation. Of two ballot issues for each of the four underfunded LLADs, Green Valley Hills, La Cresta, Oakridge, and Bass Lake A (The Hills of El Dorado), only the

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one-time assessment increase in Bass Lake A passed, increasing the fixed assessment from \$99 per parcel per year, to a max \$286.67 assessment levy per year. The second ballot measure, establishing an inflationary increase mechanism tied to the SF Consumer Price Index, failed to pass in all four underfunded LLADs.

While the specifics of the investigation and General Manager Loewen's resignation remain shrouded in secrecy, his departure is a significant disruption to leadership at the EDH CSD. Residents are left with unanswered questions about the nature of the alleged misconduct and its potential impact on the district. Additionally, the Board of Directors faces the pressing task of finding a replacement for General Manager Loewen and restoring public trust in the wake of this turmoil.

No information has been provided about the interim leadership of the District pending the hiring of a new General Manager. In previous months, the Board of Directors had approved a national candidate search for a new Assistant General Manager position at the EDH CSD. The job posting indicated the annual salary for the Assistant General would be in the \$126,776 to \$150,675 range. The job posting is no longer active. With no Assistant General Manager, the duties of the General Manager are likely to be distributed among existing EDH CSD Staff.

Sources:

[December 14, 2023 EDH CSD Board of Directors Meeting Video Recording.](#)

December 2023

and reporting from [The El Dorado Hills Village Life](#)

**Disclosure:**

**The author of this article serves on the EDH CSD LLAD Citizen Advisory Committee.**

## 60TH ANNUAL EDH FIRE DEPT SANTA RUN DECEMBER 5th STOP AT OAK KNOLL PARK MERRY & BRIGHT

By John Davey

Bass Lake Area residents came out in droves to welcome the 60th annual El Dorado Hills Fire Department Santa Run to Oak Knoll Park on Tuesday December 5th.

Fire engines, fire trucks, support vehicles, with lights flashing along with horns and sirens wailing, and even EDH Fire Department's Elf Support Van, rolled along Alyssum Circle, bringing cheer to Bass Lake, as the first stop on the 2023 Santa Run, now known as the Holiday Heroes Food & Toy Drive, serving the El Dorado County Food Band and the Shriners' Hospitals of Northern California.

The EDH Fire Department Elves handed out candy canes, and collected donations. As in previous years, even the Grinch himself came along. Kids and families lined up to get photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, before Santa Run headed off to their second stop of the evening at Laurel Oaks Park.

(Photos continue on page 4)

# 2023 EDH FIRE DEPT SANTA RUN AT OAK KNOLL PARK



# 2023 BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

# BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY

*By The Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors*



The Bass Lake Action Committee held its 2023 Annual Meeting and Holiday Party on Saturday December 9th, at the home of John and Meirve Davey.



The Annual General Meeting has only one official function; to conduct the officer election for Board of Directors term for the following year. This year, as in previous years since the pandemic, BLAC conducted the officer election electronically, so that all members had the opportunity to cast their ballot.

The Results of the 2024 officer election:

Continuing as Secretary , Jan Buxton.

Moving from Director at Large to the Vice President position, Ron Cassity.

Moving from the Vice President position to President, John Davey.

Officers assume their new position as of January 1, 2024.

The Board of Directors still has unfilled positions for Treasurer, and Director at Large. The Board can appoint members to serve these positions in 2024.





# 20 YEARS AGO IN THE BASS LAKE BULLETIN

By John Davey

In the [December 2003 Bass Lake Bulletin](#), the lead article was in regards to the unproductive meeting with then District 1 Supervisor Rusty Dupray.



### UNPRODUCTIVE MEETING WITH RUSTY DUPRAY

Representatives of BLAC came away from their latest meeting with county supervisor Rusty Dupray with the feeling that the county continues to be unwilling to compromise at all on plans for the proposed Bass Lake Park. Kathy Pevness and John Thomson of BLAC and Jim Pickett of the Bridlewood Canyon HOA met with Supervisor Dupray. In-stein Planning Director Craven R. Alcott, and DOT representative Randy Pesses at Dupray's office in Placerville on October 20th. Randy Pesses began the meeting by reviewing with us on the preliminary traffic study concerned with Bass Lake Road as it passes the proposed Bass Lake Park park. The report recommends that the entrance to the park be separate to the entrance to Woodridge. It provides for a single stop sign to control cars exiting the park, and new left and right turn lanes into the park from Bass Lake Road. We were taken aback to see that there is no provision for stop signs to control traffic on Bass Lake Road at the crossing. Jim Pickett was disappointed to see no provision for left and right turn lanes into Bridlewood Canyon despite the anticipation of increased traffic on Bass Lake Road. When Jim complained, Pesses said that if Bridlewood



wanted turn lanes, Bridlewood would have to pay for them. Pickett was also upset that there are no provisions for pedestrians to get from Bridlewood to the park. During the meeting John Thomson noted that BLAC had originally taken the position that the park should be a passive park. He stated that though BLAC had compromised by accepting the concept of athletic fields at the park, the county had not changed their position on the field lighting. In defense of the lights, Craven Alcott replied with anecdotes about the shortage of playing fields for the children. When the discussion turned to why the park had not been built on the original land parcel in Cameron Park, it came out that one reason the park was not built there was because of the opposition of businesses surrounding the Cameron park site. One of the last things to be discussed was BLAC's concern about park visitors parking their cars on Woodridge streets and on the Bridlewood entry road, creating congestion. We asked that the county consider limiting parking to residents' cars on some of those streets, as provided for by the vehicle code. It seemed a reasonable

thing to ask for, since the road was not going to be improved in any significant manner. However, our suggestion was rejected. In essence, we were told to wait and see because it's too soon to tell if there is going to be a problem. When the question of the potential for crime and mischief in the park was raised, we were told that the county does not have any crime or mischief problems in other county parks. This ignores the fact that the parks are not as populated as ours. However, we were told to wait and see, because it's too soon to tell if there is going to be a problem. As we left, we were struck with the thought that the county's attitude seems to be "We'll just go ahead and do whatever we want to do, and then afterwards we'll see if there is a problem." That may be all right for them, but the citizens and the taxpayers are the ones saddled with any problems that result from poor planning and lack of foresight. That kind of an attitude got the county into trouble with the last General Plan. Will Bass Lake Park become another example? #



Also at the meeting were Planning Director Craven Alcott, and DOT rep Randy Pesses. BLAC members were disappointed to hear of the County's "wait and see" approach to concerns about a 41 acre County Regional Park at Bass Lake. Concerns about Bass Lake Road, traffic and pedestrian safety, ball field lighting, and the impacts on Woodridge, and Bridlewood Canyon went essentially ignored.

An article focused on BLAC members attending local

government, administrative, and advisory meetings.

Another important article focused on BLAC registering as a California Nonprofit Corporation under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (4) corporation status.

## DECEMBER LOCAL MEETING RECORDINGS

By John Davey

Recordings of local meetings in El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County in December 2023.

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

**December Meeting**  
[https://youtu.be/zJT8n8tLpqs?si=GLWNq\\_VyYfhykaP5](https://youtu.be/zJT8n8tLpqs?si=GLWNq_VyYfhykaP5)

**El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee Meetings:** Typically the second Wednesday of each Month  
**December Meeting**  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/15sPwaXRFa?si=nkdtKrYOOklxo9Uy>

**El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month  
**December Meeting**  
<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-dec-2023>

**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>

## BLAC BOARD MEETING



The first quarterly meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday February 12, 2024 at 7PM, in-person & virtual via ZOOM. Members will receive the Agenda & Meeting link/location details via email. Members and invited guests can RSVP to [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com)

For more information about meetings and membership, please contact Vice-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>