

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 - University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

CA DEPT OF AG FUNDS ADDITIONAL \$1MILLION IN COUNTY GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER ERADICATION

By John Davey

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has granted an additional \$1 million to El Dorado County to continue funding a comprehensive glassy-winged sharpshooter surveillance and eradication program. The funding increase raises the county's contract with Neighborly Pest Management Inc. for delimitation and regulatory area insecticide treatment services to a total of \$5,522,000.

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GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER ERADICATION (con't)

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted the state funding at its July 27 meeting as part of the consent calendar.

Threat to Agriculture and Local Vineyards

The CDFA first confirmed the presence of the glassy-winged sharpshooter in El Dorado Hills in fall 2024. The invasive insect acts as a primary vector for *Xylella fastidiosa*, the bacterium responsible for Pierce's disease.

A county staff report prepared for the Board of Supervisors highlighted the severity of the threat:

Fatal Impact on Vines: Pierce's disease has no known cure and typically kills grapevines within two to five years of infection.

High Economic Risk: The pest poses an immediate threat to 274 grape-producing properties across El Dorado County. According to county wine grape surveys, local grape production represents a crop value exceeding \$8.1 million across 82 distinct varieties.

In addition to grapes produced in El Dorado County, the pest can also impact other County Agriculture crops such as:

Stone Fruits (Peaches, Plums, Cherries): Can exhibit leaf scorch or minor decline under heavy bacterial load, though economic damage pales compared to vineyards.

Pear and Berry Crops: Listed among alternative host plants where feeding occurs, but commercial crop failure from the insect itself is rare.

Nursery & Backyard Vectors: Backyard fruit trees serve as vital over-wintering breeding grounds, complicating local county eradication efforts.

Continued Spread: Ongoing monitoring traps continue to detect sharpshooters, indicating that the pest has not yet been fully eliminated and requires sustained treatment to prevent establishment.

Infestation Locations and Geographic Spread

The insect is frequently found in yards with crape myrtle trees, and citrus plants, which is one reason that the pest has settled into our residential communities. Local monitoring and

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GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER ERADICATION *(con't)*

trapping efforts show that the pest has expanded beyond its initial detection points. Neighborhoods and surrounding communities where the glassy-winged sharpshooter has been identified include:

Serrano Community: Initial detections occurred in the Serrano area.

Bass Lake Community: Active monitoring traps and expanded treatment zones have identified detections in residential areas surrounding Bass Lake.

Heritage Village Community: Pest surveillance has confirmed findings to the south in the Heritage Village neighborhood.

Western Spread toward Folsom: Trapping and delimitation surveys have also tracked detections westward toward the Sacramento County line and into nearby Folsom communities.

Ongoing Eradication Efforts

Because glassy-winged sharpshooters continue to be caught in monitoring traps, county agricultural officials and treatment contractors are maintaining active surveillance and

targeted applications. The goal of the expanded \$5.5 million effort remains complete eradication to prevent long-term establishment and protect both private landscaping and the regional agricultural economy.

El Dorado County District 1 Supervisor Greg Ferrero (El Dorado Hills) shared an update about the ongoing threat from the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter at the August EDH Area Planning Advisory Committee meeting. He also provided the following social media post for residents:

If the county contacts you about treating your property for the glassy winged sharpshooter, please comply. We're currently losing the fight in combating this invasive pest, and we need to get it under control before it can destroy our ag crops!

For more information:

<https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Land-Use/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures>

YouTube Video

<https://youtu.be/pRfqxiinWdc>

Sources:

[Village Life August 5, 2026 Reporting by Noel Stack](#)

El Dorado County Board Of Supervisors Meeting Minutes and Recording

LATE SUMMER & EARLY FALL EVENTS IN THE BASS LAKE REGION

By John Davey

As the warm days of late August transition into early autumn, the El Dorado County foothills come alive with a wide variety of seasonal activities, outdoor recreation, and community gatherings. Whether you are looking for family-friendly events in western El Dorado Hills, classic harvest traditions along the Highway 50 corridor, or scenic excursions near the county lines, there are plenty of ways to enjoy late summer and early fall across our region.

Western El Dorado County: El Dorado Hills & Cameron Park

Live on the Boulevard & Town Center Events (El Dorado Hills): Outdoor concert series, community line dancing, and morning "Cars & Coffee" gatherings continue at the [El Dorado Hills Town Center](#) through late summer. The seasonal *Hot August Days* art exhibit also runs through September 20 at the Atrium Gallery in Town Center.

El Dorado Hills Brewfest (September 5): Featuring local craft breweries, food trucks, and live music, this annual event brings community

members together at the El Dorado Hills Town Center amphitheater.

Props, Cops & Rodders Show & Shine Fly-In (September 26): Held at the Cameron Park Airpark, this unique community event showcases classic cars, aircraft, and law enforcement displays, alongside live entertainment and local vendors.

Unicorn Dash 5K (September 26): Cameron Park Lake hosts this family-friendly run/walk, offering a scenic route around the lake for runners and walkers of all ages.

Central Foothills & Highway 50 Corridor: Placerville to Camino & Pollock Pines

El Dorado Stampede Rodeo (August 28–29): Held at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds in Placerville, this professional rodeo event brings classic Western traditions, bronc riding, barrel racing, and mutton busting to central El Dorado County.

20 Mile Taste (August 29): Hosted by the El Dorado Community Foundation at Rainbow Orchards in Camino, this annual evening event celebrates farm-to-fork dining and local agriculture, showcasing food and beverages sourced within 20 miles of the orchard.

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LATE SUMMER & EARLY FALL EVENTS *(con't)*

Apple Hill Harvest Season Kickoff (Labor Day Weekend thru Autumn): Labor Day weekend marks the traditional kickoff for the fall harvest season in Camino and Pollock Pines. Visitors can explore u-pick orchards, bake shops, craft fairs, and cider presses across dozens of family-owned ranches along the Apple Hill loop.

Historic Main Street Placerville: Late summer brings vibrant weekend farmers' markets, local gallery art walks, and live music at downtown venues, serving as a hub for both residents and visitors traveling up the foothill corridor.

North & South County Borders: Placer & Amador County Lines

Coloma & Lotus Valley (North along the American River): The South Fork of the American River through Coloma and Lotus remains active into September with river rafting, kayaking, and riverside hiking. Nearby, [Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park](#) offers historic walking tours, gold panning demonstrations, and scenic trails along the riverbank.

Shenandoah Valley & Fair Play Wine Regions (South toward

Amador County): As the grape harvest (*crush season*) begins in late August and September, wineries throughout the southern El Dorado Foothills and neighboring Plymouth/Shenandoah Valley host harvest festivals, grape stomps, and outdoor tasting experiences celebrating local viticulture.

Whether you're taking a short drive to Town Center or heading east into the Sierra foothills, late August and September offer endless opportunities to celebrate the turn of the season right in our backyard. ~

EDH CSD DIRECTORS UPDATE BOARD POLICIES

By John Davey

At its August 13th meeting, the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) Board of Directors evaluated and updated its internal operating rules, focusing primarily on Policy Series 4000 (Board of Directors) and Policy Series 5000 (Meetings of the Board of Directors). The revisions were developed through the EDH CSD Board of Directors Admin and Finance Subcommittee working alongside district staff and legal

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CSD DIRECTORS UPDATE BOARD POLICIES *(con't)*

counsel to refine board meeting procedures, establish clearer protocols, and improve meeting efficiency.

EDH CSD General Counsel Frank Splendorio opened the presentation by highlighting the extensive front-end work that went into creating parity among directors and updating the policy manual to align with current laws. "It's always gonna be a give and take. You're gonna give something and you may give up something to get that something," Splendorio advised the board. "There's no perfect policy because it's really a judgment call and it's based upon looking at all these competing interests, what do you, as a board, find to be the most important that we want to highlight, or a protocol we want to protect or an important weakness that we want to minimize."

Agenda Authority: General Manager vs. Board President

A major focal point of the discussion centered on Policy 5020.10, which designates how meeting agendas are prepared. The updated language outlines that the general manager retains final authority over the order and contents of the final agenda after conferring and coordinating with the board president.

Some directors expressed concern that transferring final agenda approval to an appointed employee alters traditional board oversight.

Director Stephen Ferry voiced strong opposition, citing past district issues and noting, "My point is that the general manager doesn't get elected. They get appointed. We get elected. We're the ones with the audience, if you will."

Director Gary Kinghorn agreed, stating, "That's a remarkable amount of discretion for an employee who reports to the board, giving up the board's purview to set the agenda and what needs to come before the public. That reverses the normal governance hierarchy."

Conversely, proponents of the policy and legal counsel emphasized that the shift protects proper organizational governance.

District Legal Counsel Frank Splendorio clarified the board president's role: "The president is not the board. The president possesses no extraordinary powers above and beyond any other director... So just like the general manager can't take direction from any individual or member, he or she shouldn't be able to

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CSD DIRECTORS UPDATE BOARD POLICIES *(con't)*

take any direction specifically from the president." Splendorio added, "We're not really designing policies for... nice GMs. We have to design them for the bad GMs and we have, all due respect, designed [the policies] for the bad directors, too."

Board President Noelle Mattock supported the change, stating, "Changing the structure in which the board and president and GM work on getting the agenda out was a huge change, from my perspective. But I think it's in the best interest and the governance of this organization."

Vice President Heidi Hannaman noted, "What we know about governance is the GM should only take the direction from the majority of the board," warning that placing authority solely with the board president puts the general manager in a difficult position if the president disagrees with the board majority.

Placing Items on Future Agendas

The board also debated the process by which individual directors can request items to be placed on a future meeting agenda. While the draft policy initially required a majority vote (three directors) in an open meeting to place an item on a future agenda, directors

weighed flexibility against the need for meeting efficiency.

Director Gary Kinghorn argued for fewer restrictions: "Nobody does it this way. It's frustrating when a single board member, potentially in a minority, cannot bring the public's concern in front of the board for open discussion."

Vice President Heidi Hannaman, who served on the subcommittee that modified the policies, noted that the updated framework provides "two or three paths" for directors to agendaize items while establishing necessary guardrails. "If you look at what we had before, I think... we're trying to make it a little more flexible, but have some guardrails," Hannaman said.

Board President Noelle Mattock observed that requiring consensus has previously helped the board stay "a little bit more focused on the items that are important to the community and the work of the community that needs to get done," though she expressed open-mindedness to adjusting the threshold.

Director Mike Martinelli agreed with balancing accessibility and structure, noting, "There has to be some, as mentioned, guardrails in place... [to]

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CSD DIRECTORS UPDATE BOARD POLICIES *(con't)*

keep these meetings going forward for the greater good of the community."

Board Action & Final Votes

Following public comment and board deliberations, the directors voted on the updated policy series:

Policy Series 4000 (Board of Directors): Approved 4-1, with the addition that staff return with language permitting a director serving on a subcommittee to place items directly on that subcommittee's agenda. Directors Hannaman, Martinelli, Kinghorn, and Mattock voted yes; Director Ferry dissented.

Policy Series 5000 (Meetings of the Board of Directors): Approved 4-1 with two specific modifications: the threshold for directors to place an item on a future agenda was lowered from three to two directors, and language was added to clarify that the general manager cannot block or indefinitely defer requested agenda items. Directors Hannaman, Martinelli, Kinghorn, and Mattock voted yes; Director Ferry dissented.

Director Ferry, the lone dissenter on both motions, advocated for reviewing the policy changes in smaller sections over time to allow

the board and public more time to digest the material.

Sources:

[Village Life August 14, 2026](#)

[Reporting by Noel Stack](#)

EDH CSD Board of Directors Meeting
Recording

LATE SUMMER & EARLY AUTUMN LANDSCAPE TASKS IN THE BASS LAKE REGION

By John Davey

As summer wanes and early autumn approaches in the Bass Lake area of El Dorado Hills—where elevation ranges between approximately 600 feet and 1,300 feet—homeowners face a unique combination of Mediterranean foothill climate conditions. Warm, dry weather persists through September, but cooling overnight temperatures and shorter days mark a key transition period for property maintenance, fire safety, and garden preparation.

Defensible Space and Fire Safety Adjustments

Late summer remains peak wildfire season in the El Dorado Hills foothills. Maintaining vegetation buffers according to local guidelines

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LANDSCAPE TASKS *(con't)*

is essential for home survival and community protection:

Zone 0 (0 to 5 Feet from Structures): Keep this zone entirely free of combustible materials, dried leaves, and flammable mulches. Replace organic mulches with non-combustible hardscape like decomposed granite, river rock, or gravel. Clean accumulated dry pine needles and leaf litter out of roof gutters, off rooflines, and from underneath valley oak or interior live oak canopies near home foundations.

The Bass Lake Bulletin explored Zone Zero in detail in our [July 2025 issue](#).

Zone 1 & 2 (5 to 100 Feet): Maintain tree canopy spacing and remove low-hanging limbs up to 6 feet above the ground (or up to 1/3 of the tree's total height) to eliminate ladder fuels. Clear out dead or dying wood within native foothill brush, such as manzanita, ceanothus, and chamise.

Safe Mowing Practices: If clearing dry annual grasses or weeds, mow early in the morning before temperatures rise and humidity drops. Avoid using metal blades that can strike rocks and spark fires on foothill slopes.

Irrigation and Water Management

While daytime temperatures at 600 to 1,300 feet remain high in late summer, plant evapotranspiration rates begin to shift as nights cool:

Adjusting Drip Timers: Audit drip systems for leaks, clogged emitters, or broken lines caused by summer heat or wildlife. As shorter days arrive in mid-to-late September, adjust irrigation schedules to avoid overwatering established native landscape plants.

Oak Tree Care: Native valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) and blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) adapted to the Bass Lake region should not receive summer or late-season irrigation near their trunks or drip lines, as warm, moist soil encourages root rot pathogens (*Armillaria* and *Phytophthora*).

Deep Watering for Ornamentals: Deeply water non-native ornamental trees and shrubs infrequently rather than shallowly watering daily, encouraging deeper root systems before winter dormancy.

Fall Planting for Foothill Landscapes

In the El Dorado Hills foothill zone, autumn is the optimal planting season

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LANDSCAPE TASKS *(con't)*

for native plants, trees, and cool-weather crops:

Native Plant Installation: Late September marks the beginning of the ideal window to plant drought-tolerant California native shrubs and perennials. Planting natives like toyon, coffeeberry, California fuchsia, penstemon, and ceanothus in early autumn allows root systems to establish throughout the rainy winter season before summer heat returns.

Cool-Season Vegetable Gardening: Prepare garden beds by adding compost. Late August through September is the ideal timeframe to direct-sow or transplant cool-season crops, including kale, spinach, lettuce, broccoli, carrots, and sugar snap peas.

Lawn Care & Overseeding: For homes with cool-season turfgrasses (such as tall fescue blends common in regional HOAs), late August and September are ideal for aerating, dethatching, and overseeding to repair summer stress before winter.

Soil Preparation, Mulching, and Pest Management

Applying Refreshing Mulch: Apply a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch (such as shredded bark or wood chips) over garden beds in Zones 1 and 2 (5+

feet from structures) to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and moderate root temperatures. Keep mulch several inches away from plant stems and tree trunks.

Pest Monitoring: Inspect ornamental plants and citrus trees for late-summer pest activity, including aphids, whiteflies, and scale insects. Keep an eye out for vector pests, such as the glassy-winged sharpshooter infestation mentioned in this issue of the Bass Lake Bulletin, which affect local grapevines and woody ornamentals.

Clean-Up & Disease Prevention: Remove spent summer vegetable plants, fallen fruit, and diseased plant tissue to discourage overwintering pests and fungal spores in raised beds.



image credit - Southwest Boulder & Stone

AUGUST LOCAL MEETING RECORDINGS

By John Davey

Recordings of local meetings in El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County in August 2026.

El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee Meetings:

Typically the second Wednesday of each Month

August 12h Meeting

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

El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

August 13th Regular Meeting

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-8-13-26>

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 business meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday November 9, 2026

Members will receive the Meeting location details via email invitation. All Members are welcome, and 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>