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Press Release

El Dorado Hills, CA, October 12, 2018 – El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) and Rescue Union School District (RUSD) jointly announce that Rescue Union School District will sell the 142-acre land parcel at Bass Lake to the CSD. As of Thursday, October 11, both boards have voted in favor of the real estate transaction with an estimated close of escrow in early November. The CSD intends to further develop the land as a larger park complex as part of their Bass Lake Project Initiative for intended use by members of the El Dorado Hills community and neighboring communities.

El Dorado Hills CSD aims to make the Bass Lake Park the largest park and recreational project in the area, ultimately spanning over 200 acres. Initial plans include the addition of more sport fields and courts, a full disc-golf course, and a trail system that will provide safe, multi-use connections to existing and planned trails in the area. Early design concepts are being explored by the CSD in collaboration with stakeholder groups including: Rescue Union School District; Bass Lake Action Committee; El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission; EDH Area Planning Action Commission; Serrano HOA; and other groups. The design concepts are being developed to meet the needs of the community as they relate to parks, recreation, outdoor education, and open space preservation.

Rescue Union School District has a keen interest in seeing some of the space used for an outdoor and environmental educational center. Superintendent Cheryl Olson shared that "Rescue Union is particularly excited about the idea of partnering with El Dorado Hills CSD to provide our students with an opportunity for outdoor learning. We see tremendous potential in the concept of allowing our students to engage in STEM-based learning in the natural environment in our local community."

El Dorado Hills CSD General Manager, Kevin A. Loewen said "The Bass Lake acquisition and park development project has been a topic of interest for years and we're thrilled that it is finally becoming a reality. The CSD Board of Directors realize the site and other properties around it require preserving for community benefit, or it may end up as a residential application just like the Old Executive Gold Course has now become a vision for Parker Development. The Bass Lake Project Initiative is another example of how the CSD, through parks and recreation, franchising services for waste hauling and telecommunication, CC&R enforcement, and even representing your voice legislatively at times, is the heart of El Dorado Hills. The heart is only one part of an interconnected system and it cannot work without the help from vital partnerships with other local public agencies."

As it stands, the properties surrounding Bass Lake are owned by Rescue Union School District (142 acres), El Dorado Irrigation District (16 acres), El Dorado County (42 acres), and Parker Development (12.5 acres). The remaining property statuses at Bass Lake are:

Parker Development (12.5 acres). This property is owed to the community by Parker Development as part of the Serrano Development (EDH Specific Plan), and it is expected that the dedication will occur immediately now that there is no expectation of a school being built at Bass Lake.

El Dorado Irrigation (16 acres). This property is in the transactional stages, with an expected transfer of ownership by summer of 2019.

El Dorado County (42 acres). This property acquisition is actively being discussed with county staff, with the expectation that an agreement for either an outright transfer or long-term lease be solidified by spring of 2019.