



The Miner's Inch

A Melodramatic Comedy

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The Bypass That Time Forgot!!!!

After decades of empty promises by “Gangs of Five” and now “The Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch” have finally sprinkled their blessing on the second phase of the Diamond Springs Bypass aka Phase 1B, work has begun at what cost? More information will be coming along in other articles. I am trying to set the record straight and how much time and your money as well as casino money has been consumed on this project for little improvement in the traffic or roads in this county.

There are many questions that need to be answered. What is the cost of this phase? Why has it taken (XXXX) years to get the project underway? Why is it starting with a questionable winter ahead of US? Missouri Flat Rd from the Missouri Flat Memorial Bleachers to China Garden is failing now at a faster rate with construction equipment and increased traffic. More questions will be coming soon.

More potholes and cracks in pavement where water can enter the subbase and inflict more damage to this subbase leading to failure and hazardous for drivers. Expect to see maintenance crews out fixing these issues in the dark on a Friday night with rain and snow on the ground which has been done before at personal risk, nothing new (REALLY???)

One excuse that has been used to control and delay this project for years is contaminated soil. The contaminated soil (???) was found under the old Caldor Lumber Co Train shed which became Teter’s Auto Wrecking. Next, the Diamond Springs Lime Company became Diametrics that specialized in electric circuit boards etc.

Potential Toxic Materials in Electronics Manufacturing

If Diametrics was involved in electronics or instrumentation, they may have used or generated:

- Heavy metals like lead, cadmium, and mercury (common in solder, batteries, and switches)
- Solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE), acetone, or isopropyl alcohol (used for cleaning circuit boards)
- Acids and bases for etching or plating (e.g., sulfuric acid, nitric acid)
- PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in older capacitors or transformers
- Photoresists and developers in printed circuit board (PCB) fabrication

These substances can contaminate soil and groundwater if not properly stored or disposed of. And back then, environmental oversight was far looser, especially for small industrial tenants.

Diamond Lime Company has been used as the scapegoat instead.

- **Production Process: The Diamond Lime Company** produced quicklime (calcium oxide) by heating limestone (calcium carbonate) in kilns. This process left behind residual lime waste on the site.
- **Residual Waste:** The waste material, primarily composed of calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide, was found in surface soils and fill material. These residues are highly alkaline and react with water to form caustic solutions.
- **Elevated pH Levels:** During rainy seasons, water interacting with the lime waste resulted in elevated pH levels in surface water runoff—posing risks to aquatic life and water quality.
- **Soil and Groundwater Impact:**
- Soil samples showed high pH values, especially in areas with visible lime deposits.
- Groundwater monitoring indicated localized pH spikes, though not widespread contamination.
- **Remediation Strategy:** The RAP proposes excavation and off-site disposal of lime-impacted soil, installation of erosion controls, and long-term monitoring to prevent further pH-related issues.

Now for common sense. Hot lime is created from heating stable limestone and removing an electron making the limestone unstable. It searches for another electron to become stable again which is the reason for skin irritations after contact. It is trying to pull body moisture out of your skin to become stable again.

Do you think that in last 60 years that have had lots of water enter the ground that the limestone will not have become stable again. I have worked in a limestone mine in this county. They are one of the safest mines where you can work, in my opinion.

If limestone is the issue, then this county has a major problem. We have limestone deposits under existing housing developments and one currently being pushed through the county. This project is the Marble Valley Project. There is an open pit at Cool where Diamond Lime got their limestone near Auburn Lake Trails. There are limestone caves out by Fairplay. The El Dorado Limestone Company near the Marble Valley Project. Our county roads were surfaced with asphalt from Diamond Lime Company using their limestone. This could be why our roads have held up as well over the years without an **active maintenance**

schedule. There is a limestone pit on Cedar ravine where soil, contaminated from the El Dorado Lime plant was **hailed in open dump trucks.** There is an old lime kiln nearby where they made hot lime for whitewash to use on buildings in Placerville.

Limestone is used in creating steel, chicken feed and glass and more. At one time Gallo Winery owned the El Dorado Limestone Company to make their wine bottles.

These limestone deposits were created thousands of years in tidal pools where sea life with shells came and died. I asked a spokesman from the Department of water resources "If this problem is as bad as you say, then why does no apparent sign of damage to aquatic life, vegetation and people swimming in Weber Creek downstream, or as adjacent landowners not been filed as a complaint and your review. He had no answer.

The amount of money wasted, and time lost over this issue may be staggering. Just yesterday, the "Three Desperadoes and Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch had on their weekly card game at **Lake Tahoe:**

Legistar Item 25-1562 on the "Infamous Consent Calendar as usual (REALLY???) by the Keeper of the "Black Hole" aka the county DOT to sign Escrow agreement with California Department of Fish and Game for the loss (???) of 0.224 acres (9757.44 sq. ft) (\$20.91) per sq. ft.) of habitat for a total purchase price of \$204,000. (REALLY???) and sign agreement for purchase and sale of Mitigation Credits for \$204,000 with Westervelt, Ecological Services, LLC from Johnson Cosumnes Mitigation Bank pending county counsel approval Who is Westervelt.

Westervelt Ecological Services (WES) is a private-sector ecological restoration firm founded in 2006 and headquartered in Auburn, Alabama. It's one of six business units under The Westervelt Company, a land-focused enterprise with roots in the paper industry dating back to 1884.

WES specializes in mitigation banking, using private capital to restore wetlands, streams, and habitats in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations. They've conserved over 30,000 acres and established more than 28 mitigation and conservation banks nationwide.

Their work generates credits—stream, wetland, and species—that developers and agencies can purchase to offset ecological impacts. WES collaborates with landowners, nonprofits, and government entities, positioning itself as a science-driven, market-savvy steward of restoration. (Really ???how convenient)

Here it is, Yes—there's a confirmed case of a developer adjacent to the Diamond Springs Parkway project receiving a \$1.1 million Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) offset for building affordable senior apartments.

El Dorado Senior Apartments – TIM Fee Offset Details

- Project: El Dorado Senior Apartments, Phases 1 & 2
- Location: Black Rice Road

We need every dime we can get to make **All** of our roads safe again. Just because it is senior apartments, the fact remains that there will be an impact on our roads with another potential 288 cars. If they did this for this developer, how many more developers have been given “offsets” have been granted (REALLY???)

Here is another give me. When this project was dreamed up, it would be inside a commercial improvement agreement for water, electricity, sewer cable, TV. This was never just a road project to help traffic through Diamond Springs. This may be why Caltrans was not involved in Phase 1A of this bypass. Casino maintenance money for road maintenance (???) was diverted here, just like now with Phase IB. Why was this agreement needed to build a road, FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL and the people sitting at the table.

This brings up another freebie, the installation of water and sewer, electricity and cable conveniently brought in for this El Dorado Senior Apartments project as well as property on China Garden Road. This concerns Bypass 1B. There was also the addition of a chain link fence for \$60,000, \$30,000 for more ecology credits on Phase 1A.

Money is tight, we do not need to subsidize developers at a loss to the safety of our roads and Us.

The time has come that we hold the “Three Desperadoes, Madam Minn and the Outriders from Dry Gulch” accountable for their actions and lack of fiduciary responsibility to US, not subsidize developers or their own pocketbook.

The Cheapest Fix & The Black Hole

“The Black Hole”, aka the Department of Transportation has a policy according to the “Keeper of the Black Hole” of “**using the cheaper fix**”. Could this be why the repair on roads that were just fixed are failing at additional county expense? (REALLY???)

Pleasant Valley Road and Mt. Murphy Road are current examples of this policy in use. It has been about two years for Pleasant Valley Road to now have pavement failing in the recent overlay requiring additional time and expense to repair. Could the overlay repair job have been the wrong cheap fix??? Apparently, (REALLY???)

Mt Murphy Road was surfaced(???) with a chip seal coat of two layers of chip and seal (???). It was already failing months in less than a year, before the contractors guarantee expired. County maintenance crews were recently repairing areas of this road where the seal coat failed within a month of this expiration. Why??? Was it an example of the cheap fix???

Possibly the wrong application was used. Mt. Murphy Road is a narrow maybe a lane and a half wide gravel road and no shoulders, deep ditches, steep grade and no guard rails. If fire trucks, garbage trucks or private cars go up this grade and stop or slowdown, the tires will tear through this overlay very easily to get moving again

Government is like a baby. An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other. *(Reagan during his gubernatorial campaign in 1965)*

Mt. Murphy Road



Here are three more accomplishments by the **“Black Hole”**. The first is **“Dead Man’s Curve”** at Pleasant Valley Road and Racquetball Way in front of Jiffy Mart. Someone will get seriously hurt or possibly killed at this intersection, not if but when. It was bad before they put the “cheap fix” of the crosswalk and traffic control. There should have been a signal there years ago. There are at least 12 uncontrolled driveway entrances into a curve with **poor sight distance in either direction as well as cross traffic entering from Racquetball Way.**

So enter the **“cheap fix”**. Put up a sign for traffic speed which is generally ignored, put in a crosswalk that is seldom used and shift traffic lanes over onto what was a shoulder, a brilliant idea.

Next is **“The Gauntlets”** in El Dorado for pedestrian crossings that somebody thought red brick imitation islands and signs would be just the ticket. Somebody failed to take into account state law requiring three feet of clearance for bicyclists. Yes, you could get a ticket if you do not observe this law under the watchful eye of the CHP and not stop and wait for the bike traffic to clear the islands because three feet of clearance was not designed into the islands. Speaking of clearance, semi trucks just squeeze through **“The Gauntlets”**. **The Cheap Fix rides again.**

Now for the **third quick fix**, since all these improvements(????) were down under the same contract. Rumor has it at about \$400,000+. Again little red brick islands were used for a turn pocket at China Garden and Missouri Flat Road. Will this new colorful addition to Missouri Flat road be removed with the construction of the Diamond Springs Bypass Phase 1B (???).

Question, why does everything built in this county have to have red brick or imitation rock thrown in at extra expense and unnecessary especially if you get local graffiti artists sporting their talent.????(REALLY)

Last, however not least, is the brush and tree trimming (Butchering) of road right of ways being done by maintenance workers and contractors. Why spray a bush with weed killer and leave it more of a fire hazard, remove it instead. . Why not remove the entire tree if more than 50% of the drip line is removed. The tree will probably die as a result anyway. Sections of trees are left standing that will not re-grow leaving an eyesore, remove the whole tree. Less overall work and right of way stays clear longer requiring less work and maintenance costs. Restrict the “rotary arm” to brush and not trees as currently being done.

This was done to a tall cedar tree (20 ft) in front of my house, not even in the R/W and on an embankment. The operator mowed off the road side of the tree back to the trunk. When asked why he did it, his response was “it still looks the same from your house doesn’t it???”

Our roads are what tourists and everyone else sees first every day. They speak of pride in our county and the people who live here. Something for litter along our roads and homes

A Brief History of the Miner’s Inch

This publication and all associated with it are a **satire** on "Life In El Dorado County aka the Penal Colony". All characters portrayed are to help the story line of this **satire**. **They are fictional characters. Any similarity to real people is not intended.** This publication serves as a rallying cry for action, a satirical jab at bureaucracy, and a **reminder that collective voices can lead to change.**

The Miner's Inch is not just a whimsical piece of **satire**; it is a chronicle of resilience, humor, and the spirit of a community determined to shape its own destiny.

The Editor

