

EDC backs off supporting state gas tax hike

El Dorado County's supervisors seem confused about what they want regarding roads and funding.

The elected decided to reconsider their Jan. 24 vote that supported Senate Bill 1 and Assembly Bill 1.

Supervisor Shiva Frenzen was the lone supervisor last month to say no to the bills. Not long after that vote Supervisor Michael Ranalli got cold feet regarding his vote. He represents a very Republican district that is anti-taxes, and groups were already making noise. Ranalli will need those people as he mounts a re-election bid in a year.

The state bills are just starting to make their way through Sacramento. They would raise the gas tax and other fees that drivers would then feel at the pump.

El Dorado County supes' stance now is that because the bills are in their infancy and could change, it's better to hold off on support.

It was CAO Don Ashton who brought the idea of supporting the measures forward because the board had done so last October. At that Supervisor Ron Mikulaco initially brought it to his colleagues' attention. Still, Ashton supports these taxes even though El Dorado would get back less than half of what gas payers would pay. And this idea was instead of a local tax that would stay in the county and be dedicated for roads.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report