

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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JAMES S. MITRISIN
Clerk of the Board



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December 16, 2014

The Honorable Jennifer Montgomery
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Rubicon Trail

Dear Supervisor Montgomery,

The Counties of El Dorado and Placer have many things in common, including our shared geographical, recreational and historical features. The Rubicon Trail is one such example. The Rubicon Trail is 22 miles long and travels 14.60 miles in the County of El Dorado and 7.4 in the County of Placer.

The County of El Dorado has been working on the Rubicon Trail since 2001. In 2009, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order to the county and the Forest Service. In October 2014, the order was lifted with the Water Board members and staff offering words of praise for the work that was completed and the practices that were implemented.

To comply with the order, the County of El Dorado, working with the United States Forest Service successfully: installed two bridges and one seasonal drainage crossing; 475 Best Management Practices (BMP's); developed an educational program; helped secure a regular law enforcement presence; installed restrooms; used helicopters to transport rock to remote locations; developed a Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan; created a database to track and record the work performed on the trail; developed a BMP Toolbox handbook for the volunteers and established an Adopt-a-Trail program.

The success would not have happened if it were not for our partners, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; the Eldorado National Forest; State Parks, Off Highway Vehicle Division; the State Historic Preservation Office; the Rubicon Trail Foundation; the Friends of the Rubicon; the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and various other groups and agencies.

The Honorable Jennifer Montgomery
December 16, 2014
Page 2

The Rubicon Trail is important to our county for many reasons. While the Trail is very much a part of our county's history, it also provides tourism and economic benefits. We have invested \$7.7 million on our portion of the trail, with most of the funding secured through state and federal grants. Our county would like to extend an offer to help your county with your portion of the Rubicon Trail. Our staff has obtained a vast amount of knowledge in working through the process of installing and documenting the improvements, writing the grants, and obtaining an easement from private property owners and the United States Forest Service. We would like to share that knowledge with you and assist you with your portion of the Rubicon Trail.

Our staff would be honored to present information to your board on what our county has learned and the processes and programs we have developed as part of our efforts to protect and maintain the Rubicon Trail. We believe that our staff can be of great assistance to your county in this regard. Please contact Vickie Sanders at 530-621-7538 if you have any questions or need any information.

Sincerely,

Norma Santiago
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: Supervisor Jack Duran, District I
Supervisor Robert Weygandt, District II
Supervisor Jim Holmes, District III
Supervisor Kirk Uhler, District IV