



WESTERN STATES TRAIL FOUNDATION
WESTERN STATES ENDURANCE RUN FOUNDATION

380 HAYES STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102



Thursday, August 09, 2007

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Request for Resolution of Support for Inclusion of Western States Trail in the National Historic and Scenic Trail System

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

We, the foundations committed to the preservation and protection of the Western States Trail between Squaw Valley and Auburn, California, and sponsors of the Western States (Levis Cup) Trail Ride and Western States Endurance Run, respectively, request that you support a resolution to seek and secure passage of legislation leading to designation of the Western States Trail as a National Historic and Scenic Trail.

The Western States Trail has played an important role in the Native American and Gold Rush-era history of California and the West, and also embraces the entire range of splendid scenery from the Sierra Crest to the base of the Valley foothills. Virtually alone among the principal trans-Sierra crossings, the Western States Trail retains its 19th-century historic integrity, unaffected by roads or railroads.

The Western States Trail has been since 1955 the route of the Western States Trail Ride, and since 1974 the route of the Western States Endurance Run, the founding and premiere events of their type in the world.

The Western States Trail passes in its entire 100-mile length through the Counties of Placer and El Dorado, and the Placer County Board of Supervisors has considered and approved a resolution of support at their June 12, 2007 meeting. Furthermore, since a significant portion of the trail is included within the Middle Fork of the American River, a similar resolution of support is being considered by the Placer County Water Agency at their August 16, 2007 meeting. These resolutions of support from the Boards of Supervisors of both Placer and El Dorado, as well as other jurisdictions with an interest in the trail, are critical to ensure federal legislative support for the National Historic and Scenic Trail designation, and have been requested by our Senators. This designation will enhance our respective foundations abilities to attract and apply resources to the preservation and enhancement of the trail network, which in turn will provide continued public access and increased public exposure to this treasured asset.

El Dorado County staff has been provided with specific information regarding this request, and our respective foundation representatives are available to answer any additional questions you may have as you consider this item.

Respectfully,

Tom Christoff, President
Western States Trail Foundation

Tim Twietmeyer, President
Western States Endurance Run Foundation