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EL DORADO COUNTY

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Auburn, CA January 20, 2010

EIDorado County Board of Supervisors

330 Fair Lane

Placerville, CA

John Knight, Ray Nutting, Jack Sweeney, Ron Briggs, Norma Santiago

Dear Sirs and Madam,

El Dorado County Department of Transportations Staff has published a recommended Route Recognition plan so that the Rubicon Trail in El Dorado County is defined as ordered by the California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Clean up and Abatement Order issued to El Dorado County and the Eldorado National Forest Service last Spring.

Friends of the Rubicon is appreciative of the involvement of the Department of Transportation in working with all interested stakeholders to come up with a framework for the future maintenance of the trail - which FOTR looks forward to assisting the County in it's implementation.

Friends of the Rubicon has a vested interest in this proposed plan as it recommends the rehabilitation of some routes that the Friends of the Rubicon has managed and maintained over it's 10 year history of volunteer labor on the Rubicon Trail. It is the hard work of our 300+ Volunteers and dedication that keeps the Rubicon alive and it's users contributing upwards of 10 million dollars spent in El Dorado County.

Of the three alternatives presented to you, the Board of Supervisors, by the Department of Transportation, Friends of the Rubicon supports a modified Option 3 that includes of all the Recommended Variants and a maintenance corridor at Little Sluice and Buck Island. This will preserve all existing variant routes in these two areas within the corridors currently on the Not Recommended list.

Friends of the Rubicon is asking the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to add the following "Variants Not Recommended" to Option 3 so that they are included in the Long Term Management plan currently being developed:

Map location (C) is USFS historic trail designated 14N34B. The El Dorado County section of this road is a couple hundred yards long and extends only to the county line/property line. As 14N34B crosses the County line it also becomes private property. If this portion of the trail is going to be considered a part of the County's RS2477 claim of the "Rubicon Trail and it's Variants" then we respectfully request that the trail

be left open for the following reasons:

This section of trail is essential to the Rubicon. While it may have minor sediment issues they can be easily maintained and it is not a sediment source or threat to Ellis Creek.

It is an important egress to disabled vehicles, ingress for users bringing parts to disabled vehicles, egress for injured users who need medical attention, but may not need a helicopter, it provides access to a heli-pad near Jerret Peak, and for expedient evacuation of recreationists in the event of wildfire, there are two lakes that could be necessary for human safety.

If this is not going to be included, then we respectfully ask that the County leave it 'as is' so we may work with the appropriate agencies to include it in the system.

Map location (D) a short section of trail east of Ellis Creek. This area is being requested for the following reasons; It is a section of the original trail, and provides a optional route of increased difficulty, which is a integral part of the Rubicon experience.

Map location (E) the obstacle known as Soup Bowl is a newer area of the trail, that provides a play area. The impression that the trail is constantly blocked and creates a safety hazard is an exaggeration. We are asking that it remains open and that some type of natural barrier be installed to prevent further vegetation loss and that regular maintenance plan be developed to prevent sediment loss.

Friends of the Rubicon is dedicated to working with El Dorado County DOT and the Eldorado National Forest Service to continue to provide the many hours of volunteer labor needed to maintain the health of the Rubicon Trail and to provide a unified voice to motorized users of the Worlds most famous trail, the Rubicon.

It is widely known that General Fund dollars are not spent on the Rubicon, and that Volunteer Labor provided by the Friends of the Rubicon, and grants from the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, and donations to the Rubicon Trail Foundations are used to maintain the trail.

The CAO only asks for the trail to be defined, to develop a long term plan, to complete a saturated soil report, and to fix what needs to be fixed. Most of the bypasses according to CGS are not a source of sediment, and I said most, not all. But the point is, that there is more work to be done on the trail itself that there is work to be done on the bypasses.

In closing,we ask that the board supervisors choose Option 3, including all of the "Recommended Variants" and the 3 additional variants from the "Variants Not Recommended " list (C,D,E).

Sincerely yours,

Jacquelyne "Bebe" Theisen

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