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

May 7, 2014

Dear Supervisor Norma Santiago,

I am writing to register the strongest possible objection to the proposed historical designation for the

- 1) I don't need or want bureaucratic delays like what happen at Ellis Creek Bridge, delaying the project for a year.
- 2) I'm concerned that once the designation is in place, the rules for a designated object or place may change, and we don't want the trail in that potential jeopardy. Right now, designation won't stop travel on the road, but it could in the future...who knows what will change in future historical designation and or regulations
- 3) In spite of the ENF's claims, there has never been a "use" associated with an historical designation, except in the case of cultural and religious tribal uses. OHV use is NOT protected by designation. Currently, the only things that can be protected are objects, architecture, and evidence and artifacts of famous people or events.
- 4) It is likely that designation will do nothing except give environmental groups basis for another challenge. The County has already spent hours of time and many dollars satisfying unfounded environmental complaints. They shouldn't go about providing a new platform from which the environmentalists can complain or sue the county. The Act has been used this way in the recent past on multiple occasions.
- 5) The act calls for both protection and maintenance, but doesn't define who makes a decision between the two when they are at odds.
- 6) One disadvantage of local historical designation is red tape with State and Federal agencies with maintenance or protection.
- 7) Most trails in the national historic trails are thousands of miles long, and provide some very specific historical significance. Like the 3,700 mile long Lewis and Clark Trail, or the 2,300 mile long Pacific Crest Trail. The 22 mile long Rubicon Trail does not meet SHPO criteria to be to registered as a historical trail.
- 8) The required cost to the county and tax payers out weight any benefit that would be realized.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Chris Cowan