

**MEMORANDUM**  
Office of  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
County of Placer

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5  
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3

DATE: July 23, 2013

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION - Approve a Resolution supporting Federal Legislation designating the Western States Trail as a National Historic Trail.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Resolution supporting Federal Legislation designating the Western States Trail as a National Historic Trail.

**BACKGROUND**

The Western States Trail initially came into being as a Native American track and in the middle years of the nineteenth century developed into the principal route of travel by foot and stock between the gold fields of California and the silver fields of Nevada. William Brewer in his journal ("Up and Down California") for August 30, 1863 describes his travel from Squaw Valley to Foresthill along the Western States Trail, including the route now known as the Tevis Cup Loop.

The Western States Trail largely retains its single-track character as it was used in the nineteenth century, remaining the most intact historic trans-sierra crossing, unaffected by the presence of roads or railroads. The portion of the Western States Trail from Last Chance to Michigan Bluff has been listed in the National Register of historic places in the United States, as well as the Mountain Quarries Railroad bridge ("No Hands Bridge") that carries the Western States Trail across the Middle Fork of the American River, boundary between the counties of Placer and El Dorado.

The Western States Trail embraces the dramatic natural and cultural history of the entire watershed of the Middle Fork of the American River. In 1931 Placer County Constable Robert Montgomery Watson located and marked the Western States Trail; in 1955 the Western States Trail became the route of the world's first and premiere 100-mile endurance trail Ride, the Western States (Tevis Cup) Trail ride. In 1974 the Western States Trail became the route of the world's first and premiere 100-mile endurance run, the Western States Endurance Run.

Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, in the respective areas of responsibility have designated the entire length of the Western States Trail as a National Recreation Trail. Designation of the Western States National Historic Trail conveys no regulatory implications over future federal land use and has no effect on current authorized federal projects, to include the Auburn Dam.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None