

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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December 10, 2013

Mr. William Burg
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

**RE: Support - Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge
California Historical Landmark Designation**

Dear Mr. Burg,

The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors is in full support of the application to designate the Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge as a California Historical Landmark. The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge, or the “No Hands Bridge” as it is commonly called, has contributed significantly to our county as an economic, transportation, and recreation resource for over 100 years.

Beginning with the completion of its construction in 1912, the Bridge provided for the transport of limestone rock across the American River Canyon from a quarry in Cool to the Southern Pacific main rail line in Auburn. For three decades trains steadily crossed the canyon, gradually creating then supporting employment and economic opportunity for the entire region. The 1940’s saw the removal of the Mountain Quarries Railroad’s trestles and lines of track for use as scrap metal to assist in our nation’s efforts during World War II, yet the bridge stood strong, withstanding over 80 years of river current and numerous floods that have destroyed other, more modern, bridges along the American River.

In 1964, the Bridge once again served the Counties of El Dorado and Placer after the Hell Hole Dam broke and destroyed a highway bridge that connected the two counties. The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge was returned to service to restore vehicle traffic between the two counties until a replacement bridge could be constructed. Today, the Bridge serves as the final crossing of the American River for the Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run and the Tevis Cup 100-Mile Ride.

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The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge was placed on the Register of National Historic Places in 2004. Our Board believes that the Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge is worthy of your consideration for designation as a California Historical Landmark due to its continued economic, transportation, historic and recreation contributions to the County of El Dorado and the State of California. The Bridge is a landmark and serves as a proud testament to early-day engineering and construction, as well as the pioneering spirit and resolve that continue to define our County. We applaud the Placer County Historical Foundation for leading the effort to seek this designation and join them in offering our support.

Sincerely,

Ron Briggs
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado