

EDC COB/PV/EDC
Sent by: Cynthia C
Johnson/PV/EDC

07/06/2010 11:46 AM

To "Clement, Alison" <aclement@marshallmedical.org>,
cc The BOSONE/PV/EDC, The BOSTWO/PV/EDC, The
BOSTHREE/PV/EDC, The BOSFOUR/PV/EDC, The
BOSFIVE/SLT/EDC,

bcc

Subject Re: rail/trail plan

Ms. Clement,

Thank you for your interest in the El Dorado Trail/Rail. Your letter has been forwarded to each Supervisorial District.

Cindy Johnson, Sr. Deputy Clerk of the Board

"Clement, Alison"

"Clement, Alison" <aclement@marshallmedical....

07/06/2010 11:46:03 AM



"Clement, Alison"
<aclement@marshallmedical.
org>

07/06/2010 11:46 AM

To <bosfour@edcgov.us>, <bosone@edcgov.us>,
<bostwo@edcgov.us>, <bosfive@edcgov.us>,
<bosthree@edcgov.us>

cc <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Subject rail/trail plan

To the Board of Supervisors:

I would like to voice my views regarding the proposed shared use of the El Dorado Trail from Missouri Flat towards Shingle Springs. I am both a trail-user and train-lover and have often checked on the progress of the Shay engine restoration at the museum near the Fairgrounds. However, I feel strongly that the El Dorado Trail should only be used for foot/bike/equestrian traffic, and that this space should not be shared with an excursion train.

Costs to develop and maintain an excursion train line are much higher than for a bike/hike trail. Also, the safety and space planning for placing a train line next to a bike trail would take a great deal of time and money and is just not practical. There are more volunteers and funds available for the creation of bike trails than for excursion trains. (If the time it has taken for our Shay engine to be restored is any indication of the time it would take for workers to create a train line... enough said about that.) In my job I frequently receive notifications of grants available, and I have seen a number of bike/hike trail grants available, and funds for this purpose greatly out-number those for excursion train development and upkeep.

In our community on any given day, one can pass by the paved sections of our trail and see many walkers, cyclists, and equestrians of all ages enjoying themselves and getting exercise--for free. A bike/hike trail contributes to the physical and health of the community (obesity, mental health, osteoporosis--the list goes on), and I often recommend the trail to visitors to the health library where I work. The number of potential train riders and volunteers are very few compared to trail users of all kinds. I walk on the trail on a daily basis, as do many of my family and friends, and we certainly wouldn't ride on a tourist train with such regularity. Also, proximity to the trail was one my major

considerations when I recently bought a new home.

When the El Dorado Trail is finished (someday connecting the American River bikeway in Folsom to the Lake Tahoe area) it will be one of the best and longest bike trails in the country and a major attraction. The plans to have a section of that shared with an excursion train are ridiculous and would seriously jeopardize what is already one of our county's major health and recreational assets. Please do not allow that to happen.

Thank you,

Alison Clement

work address:

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Placerville, CA 95667 ph. 530-626-2778

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