



Vickie Sanders <vickie.sanders@edcgov.us>

Public Comment - PRC13-47

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To: Vickie Sanders <vickie.sanders@edcgov.us>

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PRESERVE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding the Jan 30, 2014 special meeting for the El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission, I would like the following comments preserved in the public record for discussion item PRC13-47.

My **main point** is simple. The county's Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) has proven itself to be ineffective, inefficient, and incapable of serving the public sufficiently. The county should acknowledge this fact and seek to modify its business model to better serve the public.

My **recommendation** is to have the county Parks & Trails department collaborate closely with community-based organizations as a first line of service. Then as appropriate and necessary, either county staff or representatives from the community can come speak to the PRC during public meetings.

Background:

The county government plays a necessary and important role in managing and providing trail and path resources for residents and tourists. Having these government functions operating smoothly and efficiently to maintain and advance these important resources is critical for quality of life and our local economy.

The problem is that the business model today is broken. More to the point, TAC is broken. TAC has not accomplished much of importance in recent history. The board spins endlessly without making decisions. And the things they do talk about don't really reflect the priorities of the community. The problem is two-fold. First you have a group of individuals who collectively cannot get the committee to function well. Second, you have a Browns Act committee that practically firewalls the community from having any meaningful collaboration with its county government.

As a prominent trails community organizer and someone that networks with many people across the county and locally, I can say that the community knows our trails and paths best. We know what needs to be added. We know what needs repair. And we often times are willing to contribute to getting things done, whether that is volunteer labor, grant writing, organizing, outreach, or whatever.

I'm writing you today to let you know that the county government isn't serving its public constituency well at all. There is a better business model that allows for the community to partner better with county government. We are out here and we want a collaborative and efficient government that partners with the community-based organizations. We want a government that produces results for the betterment of trail users and geo-tourism across the west slope.

Respectfully,
-mike o'neill
EDH Trails, founder
Resident of El Dorado Hills