

Trails "A" Us



May 13, 2014

El Dorado County  
Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors:

Under Item 42, you have before you Resolution 053-2014 to dissolve the El Dorado County Trails Advisory Committee, as well as the Sacramento-Placerville Corridor Oversight Committee, being recommended by the El Dorado Parks & Recreation Commission. Change is good, that is why there are elections, but advisory committees and commissions are volunteers trying to help bring about change through elected officials. Out with the old, in with the new. There are those in the community that believe it is time for change and they have solicited their officials with comments such as, "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 act, and seek to modify its business model to better serve the public." I don't agree with this statement, and I am offended by it. I can't take credit for the following words, but I respect them, and I often thought this was the TAC's mantra and the committee did not even realize it.

**DON'T QUIT**

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, when the road you're trudging seems all up hill, when the funds are low, and the debts are high, and you want to smile, but you have to sigh, when trouble is pressing you down a bit, rest if you must, but don't quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns, as everyone has probably learned, and many a failure turns about, when you might have won, had you stuck it out. Don't give up, though the pace seems slow, you may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out, the silver lining of the clouds of doubt. You never can tell, how close you are, it may be near when it seems so far, so stick to the fight when you're hardest hit. It's when things seem worse that you must not quit.

The above is exactly what the TAC did for many years. They did not quit, even when the decision was made to eliminate a Park & Recreation Department. The committee recommended not to do it, but it happened. It was found to be a bad decision. TAC plugged along trying to keep the needs of the park and trails community in the forefront, and now once again, there is a Park & Recreation Department.

May your decision to try something new, against something proven, be as much of a success for the community, as TAC has already been. Not all business models, are necessarily an idea whose time has come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melba J. Leal". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

MELBA J. LEAL ~  
Past TAC Member/Trails Advocate

M. Leal Public Comment  
5-13-14 # 42