



Fw: Item 57 on June 29th agenda
The BOSONE to: Cynthia C Johnson
Sent by: Loretta M Featherston

06/24/2010 03:09 PM

Item 57 on June 29th agenda

Jackie Neau to: bosone, bostwo, bosfour, bosfive

06/24/2010 02:09 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I see there is a resolution on next week's agenda (item #57), June 29th, 2010, to "operate a historical railroad operation" on the tracks from Mother Lode Drive to Missouri Flat Road. I'm confused. I received an email from Supervisor Sweeney's office on June 10th, 2010 that stated, "***there is not a vote before the JPA Board or the EDC Board that is happening anytime soon,***" regarding trains.

I personally went to the department of transportation this past Monday and spoke with Anne who submitted the grant for the new historic train museum and trail. It's a great idea to have that train museum, and the $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile demonstration train right along the extension of the El Dorado Trail! Anne also said she had just received a fax that acknowledged the receipt of the grant and said she would be notified in the fall as to whether they would receive it or not. It seems premature to be making decisions next week to extend something that may or may not happen until the fall.

In the meantime, by putting trains on the rails now, you would be blocking summer access to the public to use those rails for recreation, as some do. You also would be ignoring the many emails that have told you they don't want an excursion train, especially if it means not having a trail. There is no trail planned if the grant doesn't come through. Shouldn't we wait to hear about that grant before moving forward with additional plans?

The emails you have received represent just a small portion of the support in this county for a trail. If it would make you feel more confident that you are representing the people, I would be more than happy to start a petition, and bring you the voice of thousands.

The cost of building a class 1 trail vs building a class 1 trail next to the rails in El Dorado County has not been determined yet, and it is the main basis of our resistance to the excursion train. These tracks were purchased with taxpayers money. If we can only afford to have a train or a trail, shouldn't it benefit the majority of those who funded it?

There are many facts yet to be presented to you. Just this morning I spoke to Rails to Trails in Washington DC and she said there have absolutely been cases like ours where the rails have been pulled. She also said if in the future, a real train wanted to run on the corridor, the trail would have to sell it back. She said while laying new track seems very costly, it's also very costly to improve

abandon rails like these before they can run real trains. So you see, we are not jeopardizing the possibility of running future trains by pulling the tracks.

Please vote no to the resolution of the train folks to “operate a historical railroad operation” on the tracks from Mother Lode Drive to Missouri Flat Road. Let me be clear. I am not in opposition to the train museum and the ¾ mile of demonstration rail. There is no urgency to run a train for a museum that hasn't even been funded or built yet. There are many negotiations and compromises to be made along the 28 miles of track from Placerville to Latrobe. Please allow all the arguments to be made and the process to take place without giving the advantage to one party, like the train enthusiasts, by granting them this new premature access to the rail line.

Thank you,
Jackie Neau



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