



**The County of El Dorado
Department of Transportation/Facilities
Trails Advisory Committee**

3000 Fairlane Court, Suite 1, Placerville, CA 95667
Main: (530) 621-5986 Fax: (530) 621-1681

Jim McErlane
Eileen Crim
Sarah Ramsay
Randy Hackbarth

March 16, 2011

**COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION**

DATE 3-24-11
Cc: Agenda Clerk

2011 MAR 24 PM 3:59

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Board of Supervisors:

At the March 14, 2011, El Dorado County Trails Advisory Committee meeting (TAC) voted to recommend that the Southern Pacific Rail corridor be used for a combination of uses.

- Recognizing the historical significance of the rail being the oldest rail bed in the west, dating back to the gold rush. The rail stays in the location from the El Dorado Y to Shingle Springs for rail development complimenting the work being done by the Rail Historical Society, with trails being improved along side the rail bed for the recreational community.
- Also recognizing the need to supply and support healthy recreational opportunity to the citizens of the community we recommend that the rails from Shingle Springs down to the Sacramento County line be salvaged and a trail system be developed. Making the trails system a multi use venue for recreational users, hiking, biking, equestrian, etc.

In conclusion, the only negative discussed regarding El Dorado Trail was how long it will take before it will be completed.

Sincerely,

Randy Hackbarth
El Dorado County
Trails Advisory Committee

March 23, 2011

Jack Sweeney, District 3 Supervisor
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

**COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION**

DATE 3/23/11
DIST 1-5
File

Dear Supervisor Sweeney,

I am a resident of District 3, a voter, and a volunteer working to assure the proper operation of the El Dorado Western Railway equipment as a functional railroad on the historic old rails in the El Dorado area. As a not-for-profit operation maintained by unpaid volunteers, progress is adequate but slower than we would like. However, we have cleared brush and replaced ties and generally improved the right of way along the 3 ½ mile segment of the corridor where we are authorized to operate.

Today I am concerned about the future of the railroad tracks on the Sacramento-Placerville transportation corridor from Shingle Springs to the Western county line. Some residents of our county would remove the rails and ruin the corridor as a multi-purpose facility. By segmenting the rail line, we would destroy a valuable county asset. Further, the historical legacy and the significance of the railroad in county history are diminished.

It is in the best interest of the county to keep the rails intact on the multi-use corridor within El Dorado County.

Sincerely,



Noland Adams
PO Box 1134
El Dorado, CA 95623
PH 530) 626-3232
FAX 530.626.0536

CC: Sue Taylor, SOC Committee
John Knight, District 1
Ray Nutting, District 2
Ron Briggs, District 4
Norma Santiago, District 5



Fountain Tallman Museum

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

EL DORADO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2011 MAR 23 AM 10:54 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

March 15, 2011

Ray Nutting, Chairman
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

**COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION**

DATE 3/23/11
DIST 1-5
Orig. Bd Clerk

Re: Possible removal of the historic Southern Pacific track west of Shingle Springs

Dear Supervisor Nutting and Members of the Board,

It has come to our attention that the Board of Supervisors may soon be considering a proposal to remove the railroad tracks west of Shingle Springs to make way for a graded bicycle trail. The El Dorado County Historical Society's Board of Directors regularly reviews projects of potential impact to cultural resources in El Dorado County. We would like to state our concerns about the serious and irreversible impact of this possible project.

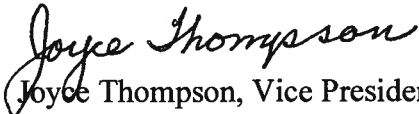
The Placerville Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad has a deep and enduring importance to the economic growth of El Dorado County. A portion of this Branch was the first railroad to be laid out west of the Mississippi. The first depot to be built in El Dorado County was the Latrobe freight and passenger depot in 1864, and the line extended to the Shingle Springs freight and passenger depot in 1865. Fruit, dairy products and other goods were carried by wagon to Shingle Springs and shipped out of El Dorado County via this rail line. All kinds of manufactured goods were shipped into El Dorado County through Latrobe to Shingle Springs where they would be met by freight wagons and carried to Placerville. Southern Pacific Railroad finally extended the rail line to Placerville in 1888 because of the volume of freight and passengers it carried. There were even plans to extend the rail line to Lake Tahoe utilizing a 17 mile tunnel through the mountains! Even though this was never built, track and ties have been replaced over the years, and the freight trains halted in 1986, the significance of this railroad line with the track in place can not be overstated. It is an important reminder of the significance of the railroad to our county's history. We are also aware that there are other groups who are now interested in utilizing the rail. We feel that they should be given that opportunity as well as any other future railroad groups with an interest in the history of the railroad.

The Board of the El Dorado County Historical Society urges you to preserve the track in place and value it as a significant cultural resource that will be enjoyed, used, and appreciated for many years to come.

Our mission is to honor the people who came before us by rescuing, preserving, researching and displaying the county's rich history to ensure that its significance will be appreciated for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. Please feel free to contact me or other members of the our El Dorado County Historical Society Board of Directors if you have any questions about our comments. I can be reached at (530) 621-5865.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Thompson".

Joyce Thompson, Vice President
El Dorado County Historical Society