



El Dorado Western/ Friends of El Dorado Trails

2 messages

William Roby <bill@eldoradocf.org>

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To: The BOSONE <bosone@edcgov.us>, The BOSTHREE <bostthree@edcgov.us>, The BOSFIVE <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "bosfour@edcgov.us" <bosfour@edcgov.us>

Good Morning Supervisors,

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that the Foundation has been working with both El Dorado Western and Friends of El Dorado Trail. The purpose of these discussions has been to create a common direction and purpose. I am pleased to report that out of this process a joint use agreement is being formalized on how these two groups, who have been at opposing points, have come together for the good of El Dorado County. The joint use agreement is being constructed and will be presented to the board of supervisors as a joint resolution.

Friends of El Dorado Trail and El Dorado Western are members of our community who volunteer to provide an unique experience. They represent the local business and are the proprietors of the current train services for tourist and locals alike and maintain our existing trail system. Friends of El Dorado Trail have agreed to build a companion trail along the track line from Missouri Flat Road to Shingle Springs and El Dorado Western has expressed their desire to operate train service from Shingle Springs to Missouri Flat Road only (EDW has determined that any service beyond that current line would not be prudent, from a fiscal perspective, for an excursion train operation). The rest of the existing current rail, running from Shingle Springs to the county line, has both groups in agreement on how it should be utilized.

The goal of both Friends of El Dorado Trails and El Dorado Western is to create a homegrown experience, for walkers, bike riders, equestrians and train within the framework of the established Shingle Plan as presented and approved by the board of supervisors on March 28, 2011. The economic benefit to our communities could be realized in significant ways, such as an extended trail link to the American River Parkway. This parkway is a class I path that attracts in excess of 8 million a year. .

The Foundation has extended invitations to both Friends of El Dorado Trails and El Dorado Western to begin the process of securing grants, developing business plans, and seeking additional community collaboration. All to foster full implementation of the model approved by the board of supervisors.

I am aware that there is a train excursion group called Folsom, El Dorado and Sacramento Railroad Association that has expressed an interest in expanding its service to El Dorado County. After this week's joint powers meeting it appears there is some confusion on direction for the rail asset held by El Dorado County. To better understand this part of the process, I have spoke with Bill Anderson from Folsom, El Dorado and Sacramento Railroad Association and will be meeting with him this next week to gain a better perspective of their participation. I have also connected Dianna Poggetto, Executive Director of the American River Parkway Foundation, and will be meeting with her as well to learn and listen.

Please allow me to end this message with a short note on the Foundation. Over the last four years we have doubled our assets, a feat that is unheard of in the current economy. This has been accomplished by carefully understanding our mission and our communities. We serve you and the other 180,000 that call this wonderful place home.

Together anything is possible, solutions can be found, and direction is always the road before us.

Thank you for your commitment to who we are,

Bill



William Roby
El Dorado Community Foundation
312 Main Street Suite 201
Placerville, California 95667
www.eldoradocf.org