



RESOLUTION NO. 178-2013

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

**In Support of Federal Legislation Designating the Western States Trail
as a National Historic Trail**

WHEREAS, the Western States Trail stretches from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Sacramento, California, and was first used by the Paiute and Washoe Indians, and later developed into the principal route of travel by the '49ers with their horses and mules journeying between the gold fields of California and the silver fields of Nevada; and,

WHEREAS, from Squaw Valley, USA, to Foresthill, California, the trail follows the historic track described by Professor William Brewer in his survey for State Geologist, Josiah Whitney, August, 1863, in "Up and Down California in 1860-1864; The Journal of William H. Brewer", (Book 4, Chapter 5, Page 446), outlining his travels along the Western States Trail, including the route now known as the Tevis Cup Loop; and,

WHEREAS, the Western States Trail largely retains the same single-track character as was used in the nineteenth century, remaining the most intact, historic, trans-Sierra crossing unaffected by the presence of roads or railroads, embracing the dramatic, natural and cultural history of the Middle Fork of the American River watershed; and,

WHEREAS, the portion of the Western States Trail from *Last Chance* to *Michigan Bluff* along with the *Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge* (aka, "No Hands Bridge"), that crosses the Middle Fork of the American River, the boundary between Placer and El Dorado Counties, are listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, in their respective areas of responsibility, have designated the entire length of the Western States Trail as a National Recreation Trail; and,

WHEREAS, in 1931, Placer County Constable, Robert Montgomery Watson, located and marked the Western States Trail; and, in 1955, it became the route of the world's premiere 100-mile endurance trail ride, the Western States Trail Ride (aka, Tevis Cup); and, in 1974, it became the route of the world's first 100-mile endurance run, called the Western States Endurance Run; and,

WHEREAS, designation as the Western States National Historic Trail conveys no regulatory implications over future federal land use and has no effect on current authorized federal projects.

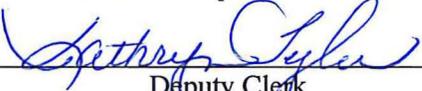
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors, for the County of El Dorado, does hereby:

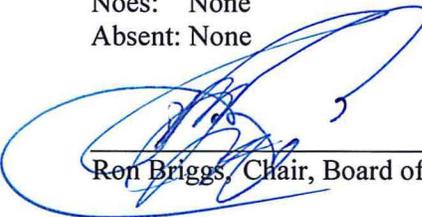
- 1) Express its support for legislation leading to the designation by Act of Congress of the Western States Trail, with the Tevis Cup Loop, as a National Historic Trail, as defined in Section 1244, of Title 16, of the United States Code; and,**
- 2) Urges Congress to enact such legislation, authorization and appropriation necessary to secure the inclusion of the Western States Trail in the National Historic Trail system; and,**
- 3) Authorize the Chair to communicate this Resolution of Support to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Representative Tom McClintock.**

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 18th day of November, 2013, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Santiago, Veerkamp, Mikulaco, Nutting
Briggs
Noes: None
Absent: None

Attest:
James S. Mitrison
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 
Deputy Clerk


Ron Briggs, Chair, Board of Supervisors