

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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April 23, 2024

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Placer
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Rubicon Trail Maintenance

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The Rubicon Trail traverses El Dorado and Placer counties and three U.S. Forest Service units, with county boundaries overlapping Forest Service unit boundaries. The two counties have authority and responsibility to enforce state and federal laws and county ordinances within their respective jurisdictions. The counties also have authority to enforce federal laws and regulations on National Forest System Lands (NFSL) within their boundaries, under separate cooperative law enforcement agreements.

The current Memorandum of Understanding between all parties documents the cooperation between the parties to manage, maintain and enhance the Rubicon Trail “to foster: a seamless user experience; the trails long-term sustainability and availability to the public; user safety and education; the protection of the natural, cultural and historic resources along and surrounding the trail; and the enforcement of regulations along the entire length of the trail.”

El Dorado County’s current role on its portion of the trail includes facilitating the Rubicon user and volunteer groups, maintenance, education, law enforcement, grant writing and administration, and environmental monitoring. Over time, El Dorado County successfully developed unique fixes and techniques for trail maintenance and management, which could be performed and applied within Placer County to further the goal of “a seamless user experience”. Our Board supports the option of an agreement with Placer County for El Dorado County extending maintenance activities on the portion of the trail within Placer County’s boundaries. If supported by your Board, our staff will work in concert with staff at Placer

County, the Forest Service, and State Parks to explore options for potential terms for an agreement and a structure for ongoing coordination and oversight.

Respectfully,

Wendy Thomas
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Andy Fisher, County of Placer Parks and Trails Program
Brian Robertson, OHMVR Division, State Parks
Joe Chavez, Tahoe National Forest, United States Forest Service
Katy Parr, Eldorado National Forest, United States Forest Service
Jacob Quinn, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, United States Forest Service