

To: John Knight, Chair

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

2012 MAY 16 AM 11:10

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COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION

DATE 5-16-12

cc: File

This letter is being written in the hopes that El Dorado County will consider **Safety First**, when examining whether or not to move forward with the proposed Placerville and Sacramento Valley Train. Much has changed in the past 25 Years since the last scheduled train stopped operating on the Folsom to Placerville tracks in 1987. In that span of time, there have been countless new subdivisions; housing developments built contiguous to South Shingle Road including Shadow Hawk; Milton Ranch, Sun Ridge Meadow (back entrance) etc. as well as countless individual properties. Moreover, the intensity of traffic has been alarming on So. Shingle, just since Red Hawk Casino was built. Not only are Residents using South Shingle Road, but there is the addition of Red Hawk Gamblers; Work Day Commuters taking a short cut between Highway 50 and Highways 16 & 49; Students driving to Ponderosa High School on one end, while School Buses and Parents are driving their children to Latrobe Elementary and Miller Hill School on the other end; as well as Federal Express and UPS Trucks in addition to some Gravel Trucks; Cement Mixers; and an occasional Logging Truck. Numerous Bicyclers also use this Road continually, as well. However, the infrastructure on South Shingle Road has remained the same, as a Narrow, two lane Road with No Shoulders, No bike paths; and several twists and turns. More importantly with the dramatic increase in traffic, there is a total and complete disregard for the Speed Limit. It is a common occurrence to see where Cars went out of control and crashed through neighbor's fences. Frequently Vehicles will be Passing in No Passing Zones, as there are very few places to pass on this stretch of road. Also Vehicles very often go over the line and end up on the wrong side of the road as the Drivers cut the curves to make better time. In our view, some serious consideration should be given to the impact that Safety Issues could potentially have on the Railroad personal and Occupants of the proposed Train, as well as Travelers in their Vehicles driving South Shingle Road. Due to prohibitive Cost involved, my Wife was astonished to learn from one of the Executives at the Public Utilities Commission, that there was no intention of putting up Signal Lights or Crossing Arms at any of the Crossings on South Shingle Road; and yet there is not just one or two crossings, there are Five (5) Railroad Crossings on South Shingle Road!!!!!! Instead of Signal Lights or Crossing Arms, the PUC indicated that a Railroad Flagger would stand out in the Road to allow the Train to pass at each one of the five crossings. When my Wife inquired if El Dorado County and the other Entities involved weren't concerned when drivers moving at excessive rates of speed could conceivably plow into a Train load of passengers, she was told the Principles involved could do anything they wanted to!!!!

It is also of paramount importance to draw your attention to the fact that Homeowners in this Area are extremely vulnerable during the peak Fire Season when Tourists would most likely enjoy a Train Ride. A spark from the Train's Brakes, or a careless Cigarette could start an unwanted blaze. According to Wikipedia, the 2000 Census indicated there was 2,643 people in Shingle Springs, remarkably however, the 2010 Census revealed there was a substantial increase in population to 4,432. While all these people don't live on South Shingle Road, it would be difficult to evacuate this Main Road in the event of Fire when there is basically one way in and one way out of this Area. The fact that 10,000 Acres were burned in the 1996 Latrobe Fire could easily happen again. Thanking you in advance to your kind consideration to these vital safety concerns, we remain

Sincerely yours,

John C. Byrer

John C. Byrer

Dated: May 15, 2012

Audrey A. Byrer

Audrey A. Byrer

Shingle Springs Residents

Public Comment 12-0116.2E.1

5/14/12

Edcgov.us Mail - A very loyal voter.....Folsom Train License



LATE DISTRIBUTION

DATE 5-14-12

EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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A very loyal voter.....Folsom Train License

1 message

chris bertram <cbertram@pacbell.net>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 4:39 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear Board Members,

Please support a sensible excursion train plan for El Dorado County. Require P&SVRR (Folsom) to operate Shingle Springs to Diamond Springs ONLY and help our museum build out El Dorado County's dream.

Trail Users are using the rail bed as a trail from Latrobe to the County Line. We can't possibly have trains and trail users using the same rail bed for miles. It's not a plan for success. It's not a plan for trails at all. It's a plan for disaster.

Please uphold Trail Priority!

Thank you,
Chris Bertram
916 933 9394

2012 MAY 14 PM 5:01
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY



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EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Sensible Train Plan for El Dorado County

1 message

Jane Inouye <jminouye@gmail.com>

Tue, May 15, 2012 at 1:05 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Hello

Please support a sensible excursion train plan for El Dorado County. Require P&SVRR (Folsom) to operate Shingle Springs to Diamond Springs ONLY and help our museum build out El Dorado County's dream.

Trail Users are using the rail bed as a trail from Latrobe to the County Line. We can't possibly have trains and trail users using the same rail bed for miles. It's not a plan for success. It's not a plan for trails at all. It's a plan for disaster.

Please uphold Trail Priority!

Thank you

Jane Inouye



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EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Trail priority

1 message

Clement, Alison <aclement@marshallmedical.org>

Tue, May 15, 2012 at 11:18 AM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am a train-lover however I use the trail as a walker, daily. If the excursion train were to extend farther than Shingle Springs to Diamond Springs, the likelihood of extending our walking/biking trail would be threatened. An extension of our bike trail would draw many more regular users, tourists, and attract more funding than an excursion train. Please give Trails priority in your decision today.

Alison Clement

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**SAVE THE RAILS - Ratify the license Tuesday****Paul Lavender** <mac24x7@gmail.com>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 4:25 PM

To: bosone@edcgov.us

Dear Supervisor:

The Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, is group dedicated to the preservation, protection and development of one of the state's remaining Civil War era railroads. They give us ALL the possibility of experiencing railroading as it was in our state's rich historical past. This irreplaceable California treasure is deserving of being preserved and not destroyed for future generations. Once gone, it cannot be replaced.

I urge you to vote to SAVE THE RAILS - Ratify the license Tuesday!

--

Regards,

Paul Lavender

C.
H.

"No better friend. no worse enemy"



Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad: license renewal

Maynard Wright <m-wright@eskim.com>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 4:02 PM

To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

To the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

I am not a resident of El Dorado County, but I would like to weigh in on an issue that will affect those of us who live nearby and who frequently visit your beautiful County. I respectfully urge you to renew the license previously granted to the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad for the following reasons:

1. The present effort preserves a significant piece of California Civil War-era history;
2. Once the rails are removed, restoration of the railroad in the future would be a very expensive undertaking, while leaving them in place now doesn't preclude removing them in the future; the removal is probably irreversible while retaining the rails need not be permanent if you decide later to remove them;
3. As a cyclist, I would probably use the trail by myself. As a grandfather, I would bring three grandchildren, their parents, and my wife to ride the railroad, bringing more cash to the economy of El Dorado County than I would on my bike.
4. As I understand it, a bike trail can coexist with the railroad on the right of way and I would certainly ride that trail;
5. Although I haven't studied the issue in detail, I find it hard to believe that salvaging the rails can pay for more than a small part of the cost of building and maintaining a trail.

I have no personal or pecuniary interest in either the trail or the railroad, but I was made aware of the issue by a friend. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Maynard Wright

6930 Enright Drive

Citrus Heights, CA 95621

916-726-1673



Placerville Rail Line

Baron1miller@aol.com <Baron1miller@aol.com>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 4:05 PM

To: Bosone@edcgov.us, Bostwo@edcgov.us, Bosthree@edcgov.us, Bosfour@edcgov.us, Bosfive@edcgov.us

Dear Board Members, It has recently been brought to my attention that the 5 year lease on the Placerville Rail Line may be in jeopardy of being renewed due to a use dispute between the Railroaders and a Cyclist group. Seems to me that you can build a cyclist path just about anywhere but you can't put a railroad in many places today. Given the rich history of the existing railroad tracks and the uniqueness of being able to ride the Speeders on these very tracks should make their continued use as a railroad an absolute confirmation. I highly recommend and endorse the continued use of the tracks for the railroad club. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Kenneth Miller
6927 Harbor Lane
Fort Myers, Fl. 33919



YOUR DECISION IS OF HISTORICAL VALUE - RENEW THE LICENSE FOR THE RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ron <rohines96@comcast.net>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 11:34 AM

GREETINGS Supervisor John Knight

The Railroad Historical Society is a great asset to El Dorado County and your support costs very little - yet provides so much to your constituents.

While the historical value is significant, it's value to El Dorado County residences (much less the many visitors) includes education for our youngsters, enjoyment of the riders of all ages, enjoyment for the dedicated volunteers, and not least of all income for the businesses in El Dorado County. I know that the times I have ridden one of the rail cars with my grandchildren we have had lunch and shopped in the area.

Your approval of the renewal of the Society's license would be appreciated and of value to the County.

Ron Hines

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Save the Rails

Marilyn Henry <mahen220@verizon.net>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 2:50 PM

To: bosone@edcgov.us

John Knight, Please vote to ratify the license to save the Placerville Line from removal!!

Marilyn Henry Wenonah, NJ



Trail instead of Excursion Train

W Bonnell <w.bonnell@hotmail.com>

Tue, May 15, 2012 at 8:27 AM

To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

As a resident and tax payer of El Dorado county, I have a very keen interest in one of the agenda items that is on the list at tonight's board meeting. Specifically, the Chief Admin office recommendation to the board on a compromise for the license agreement between the Sac/Placerville transportation authority on the Excursion trail. As an avid cyclist myself, I would like to see the rail line be used for a common public bike/walking/horse trail where hundreds of individuals could get exercise and commute to work on (instead of being used for pollution belching trains for a handful of train enthusiasts). I am reminded every weekend when I ride my bike on the streets of El Dorado County how limited our bike lanes are on the roads (compared to Sac County). A class I trail from the Sac County line to Placerville would be an incredible feat and I hope it becomes a reality. At tonight's meeting please take into account the thousands of cyclists, walkers/runners, and horseback riders that would benefit from having this trail instead of an excursion train.

Regards,

William L Bonnell
El Dorado Hills

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hope you have the in depth studies done on the economic viability of RR -the right answer is I'm sure not the quick one

Kathryn Corbett <stellarpass@comcast.net>
To: bosone@edcgov.us

Tue, May 15, 2012 at 6:51 AM

John,

my name is Kathryn Corbett and I have spoken and listened at some of your supervisor meetings. I think this with so many impassioned folks it is a difficult situation and whatever you do I will honor that. My best hope is that you will lean toward really doing the in-depth studies along with of course listening to both sides. I think the answer is in the studies and I am sure would be interested in that study. I right now on my desk have a volume of running tourist trains, **It is from 1977, it is under an inch thick, I also have a volume of tourist trains for 2004 it is about 4 times the width.** I wanted to get the **current one but it is sold out.** I also after looking into grants for other things, found in this economy an **abundance of transportation grants** which I'm certain the rail would be eligible for presented correctly. As well I also found that **in large numbers many local companies and beyond that will offer funding for educational efforts** for such things that played a part in history and can still be experienced today. Rail Road is a fine example of that. There is a large amount of folks who ride bikes and in addition naturalists or nature lovers which I am that absolutely honor the train nature and love to ride there bike and are able to bring it home .

Thank You for the job you do, I mean that most sincerely, Kathryn Corbett 916.353.0556

I'm sorry I can't be present today , though I'm sure I will hear about it.

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Save the his toric rails!!

dave Balestreri <dbalestreri@softcom.net>

Tue, May 15, 2012 at 7:32 AM

Dear Supervisor,

I am w riting to encourage you to vote to ratify the PS&VRR operating license. The rails are an financial asset to the El Dorado County business community and attract tourists from a wide area. The Placerville Branch is al also an historic asset and integral part of El Dorado county's past. Please approve the PSV&RR license.

Dave Balestreri
Vice-President
Motorcar Operators West



P&SVRR in El Dorado County

Charlie Downs <cdow ns@anovanexus.com>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 5:11 PM

To: "bosone@edcgov.us" <bosone@edcgov.us>, "bostw o@edcgov.us" <bostw o@edcgov.us>, "bostthree@edcgov.us" <bostthree@edcgov.us>, "bosfour@edcgov.us" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, "bosfive@edcgov.us" <bosfive@edcgov.us>

May 14, 2012

Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County

Regarding: P&SVRR in El Dorado County

Dear Members of the Board,

I would like to express my strong support for the connectivity of the El Dorado Trail to Folsom and the American River Trail. This connectivity to one of the regions greatest assets will help El Dorado County in our pursuit of attracting business's and business. The American River Trail is a successful example of how such an asset can attract professional business and increase activity for those businesses' s benefiting from trail users as we've seen in Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento and Davis.

Companies find locations that have such assets in order to be competitive with other communities in attracting and retaining young professionals and service providers who are interested in the kind of healthy activity that trails provide. The American River Trail hosts both commuters and recreationists daily and represents millions of dollars of economic activity.

I urge you to support a sensible excursion train plan for El Dorado County such as the Shingle Springs to Diamond Springs **ONLY** and help our museum build out El Dorado County's dream. The proposal to have more excursion miles is not a plan for success given the difficult conflicts with trail users and the investment of capital.

I firmly believe that in terms of economic development the connection of our fine trail system already in place to the County line is low hanging fruit the likes of which would be a differentiator in attracting new business and creating jobs as we compete with other communities in the region and the nation.

Sincerely,

Charlie D.

Charles D. Downs, AIA
Senior Principal



Sacramento Office

916.443.5911 916.443.2965

Public Comment 12-0116.2E.13



LATE DISTRIBUTION

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The BOSONE <bosone@edcgov.us>**Placerville & Sacramento Valley RR**

1 message

Fred Kindel <f.kindel@comcast.net>

Mon, May 14, 2012 at 3:07 PM

To: bosone@edcgov.us

Cc: president@psvrr.org

Dear Supervisor John Knight--

Please vote in favor of the 5 year operating license to provide Excursion Rail Service on the historic "Placerville Branch" rail line in Sacramento & El Dorado Counties. I understand there will be such a vote on Tuesday May 15th.

I live in Folsom and have ridden on the yard cars presently in service on the short version of the rail line. The "Placerville Branch" will be a fine addition to tourist services in the Folsom to Placerville & Placerville to Folsom area. Many people from all around the United States and some from other countries enjoy such historic rail excursions and visit our communities and use our hotels and restaurants in their trips. I & my family have enjoyed similar trips to quite a number of historic rail excursions in Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, California and West Virginia. We enjoyed the trains and we enjoyed being part of the communities in which those trains operate, if even for the short time of our vacations.

The "Placerville Branch" will offer visitors the same sort of enjoyment. And will offer increased tourist business for the Folsom & Placerville communities. We lived in Placerville for a few years in the '80's and enjoyed the community tremendously. Added tourists via a railway would have been a boon for the businesses there then and will be a boon for them now as well.

As for the trails use of the railroad right-of-way, I believe the trails use can co-exist with the railway. We have bicycles we enjoy using and the gentle grade of a trail along the railway right-of-way would also be an attractive feature. It doesn't have to be exclusive—the excursion cars and bicycles can both use it. And should. I believe Placerville & Sacramento Railroad Inc supports both a trail system and a railway system on the right-of-way.

Please vote in favor of the 5 year license. Thank you.

Fred Kindel

118 Canyon Rim Drive

Folsom, CA 95630

Email: f.kindel@comcast.net