

Supervisor Jack Sweeney  
August 14, 2012  
Item #20, File ID # 12-1031

Coordination works; but you must work at it!

The Culmination of governmental involvement on the Rubicon Trail is achieved today by the issuance of the easement by the Forest Service and the acceptance of that easement by the County of El Dorado. This action signals the clear protection of the public's right to use this trail; but, with a firm requirement and commitment to appropriate use and maintenance in an environmentally sensitive manner. Also, it is important that we keep this trail available for reasonable use by families and nearly stock off road vehicles.

I sincerely appreciate this Board allowing me the latitude to accomplish this task for our citizens.

This has not been a one person project! We have had the good fortune to have assistance from our great County staff. After a somewhat controversial relationship with the Forest Service, we finally achieved what is a great partnership with them; albeit with some encouragement from the staff of Congressman McClintock's office. All of this was somewhat coached and prodded by the Sacramento Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

And we are proud to have the greatest trail users and property owners in the world! They have allowed us use of their properties, have worked to accomplish remediation tasks, and have been ever present to insist that their rights were protected. The users even created the Rubicon Patrol to support law enforcement. And this year we have a new presence assured by the Sheriff.

And, although many may not be so inclined, I must thank the group known as Panel B, the local environmental group that encouraged the issuance of the clean up and abatement order. They had appealed the Record of Decision issued by the Forest Service that led the way for this easement. In the end they came to realize that the correct process was used and the right conclusion achieved and withdrew their appeal with all of the appellants.

Individually I believe that without the involvement of the following named parties we would not be here today:

For the County

Tom Celio the Boss, Vickie Sanders the get it done gal and money chaser

Steve Kooyman the engineer of the "swickup"

Matt Smeltzer the bridge engineer and money finder

Ed Knapp the attorney of many words

And our crews that have worked diligently and tirelessly on the trail

At the Forest Service

Kathy Hardy, Forest Supervisor

Katy Parr, Lester Lubetkin

Laura Hierholzer the peacemaker

John Sherman forest engineer  
Richard Thornberg Pacific District Ranger  
Debbie Gaynor the get it done gal  
Ramiro Villalvaso the previous Forest Supervisor  
And our gal in South Carolina, Diane Rubbiaco former PAC Dist Rnger

And with the Forest Service Region 5 office  
Josh Ryder their tough attorney that convinced me that we should apply  
Randy Moore the Regional Forester that was sincere about coordinating  
with El Dorado County and lived up to his commitment to get this done  
in one year.

Congressman McClintock's staff  
Rocky Deal District Director  
Norman Gonzales and Ross Branch

California State Parks, Off Highway Vehicle Commission  
Daphne Greene former Director  
Phil Jenkins, Acting Deputy Director  
Brian Robertson, Law Enforcement Officer  
George MacDougall, Grant Administrator

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region  
Marty Hartzell, Engineering Geologist

Mark Smith – Lifelong champion of the Trail, Founder of Jeepers Jamboree

Special thanks for being government watchdogs go to  
Users Scott Johnson and John Arnez for Rubicon Trail Foundation  
And our Panel B Karen Schambach, Rich Platt, Monte Hendricks

And for putting up with me and always knowing where I am and where my  
paper work is to be found, my assistant Karen Feathers

Thank you all for helping get done that which could not be done, at  
least not without all of you giving and taking!!!!

And many thanks to Mike Applegarth for putting together today's ceremony.