



Board of Supervisors
320 Fair Lane, Bldg A
Placerville, CA 95667

EDETF

El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation
P.O. Box 321
Georgetown, CA 95634

January 6, 2008



Re: Opposed to Park and Recreation Reorganization proposal

The El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation is committed to increasing the availability of hiking and equestrian trails in El Dorado County. As you know, recreation opportunities are perhaps the single largest reason people buy homes and move to El Dorado County. Many real estate advertisements emphasize trail access as a critical feature because this is what buyers seek.

We need more trails and frequently that depends on being able to reach out to public and private funding sources with a plan and program that includes extensive outreach and community support. El Dorado County is short on funds but long on recreation potential and committed volunteers and organizations tied into the current recreation department. Merging this enthusiastic but fragile network of volunteers and visionary planners into what is primarily a line service agency will weaken both. The mission of the General Services department is to first to maintain what we have and only secondarily to plan for the future. The focus on the immediate need to maintain our roads and buildings in an era of limited revenues will inevitably result in the cannibalization of the less immediate and more long-term recreational planning needs. For this reason, we and other recreation organizations are strongly opposed to any proposal to meld recreation into the general services department.

The current reorganization plan is based on a paper model of efficiency that ignores the radically different nature of routine road and building maintenance and long term recreational planning. We hope you will consider the old adage "if it ain't broke don't fix it." Let's preserve El Dorado County's excellent recreation planning services by continuing a model that is working. Diverting the limited dollars available for recreation and recreation planning into general services will undermine what is the best part of the County and what is most essential to a vibrant future for El Dorado County.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Stuart Porter, Vice President and Trails Committee Chair
El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation

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