

(Received via e-mail)

From: Dave Bergersen
To: <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>
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Subject:

hello-it disturbs me to hear that the rubicon jeep trail might be eventually closed/or have reduced access to it.i am 54 ears old and been traveling to the rubicon every summer since i was 21 years old.3-5 trips per year for33 years! all the kids in my family,nephews,cousins,neighbors kids and some of my apprentices(construction/remodeling)have been brought up there to enjoy the natural beauty/solitude it has to offer as well as hiking/fishing spider lake,buckisland resavoir,rockbound lake and the river in rubicon springs.i have spent thousands of dollars in placerville and pollock pines as well as lake tahoe buying food/gas/ice/auto parts/camping and fishing equipment and a occasional hotel room.(i believe in supporting local business when ever possible). while up there i spend a fair amount of time exploring on foot the general area.pick up any trash i find and always leave my campsite cleaner than i found it.i understand the importance of public

health and our water supplies-i worked as a public servant for 3 wastewater plants and 1 potable drinking water plant as a industrial mechanic making sure the equipment was maintained and worked properly so the operators could process the water and not have any violations occur.most public agencys that i have worked at have a "can do" attitude when it comes to solving problems/dealing with situations that need to be resolved.the rubicon is no different-there are many dedicated people out there that are willing to help you and the public agency you represent if you give them a chance. closure/restricted access is not a fair sololution.i will be busy this summer on work partys at the rubicon trail helping out as needed to insure it is acessible for the next generation of kids...they are our countrys future! enjoying the outdoors is good for your soul-it has kept me sane and well grounded while i run a hectic labor intensive crazy business. although i retired a public servant at age 52-i spent my life collecting realestate in the bay area...have worked 60-70 hours per week for most of my life. retired with a net worth of 3 million dollars-it was closer to 4 million before the realestate crash.the rubicon is my "church" where i go to relax and sort things out.i have mentored many troubled kids...hire them to help remodel my rentals....teach them valuable skills take them to rubicon for a couple days-week to talk about things....drive my jeep on the trail-you should see the look on their faces!!! teach them how to drive a manual transmission/take them fishing/camping/swimming etc.when they get back their parents phone me and thank me for allowing them to drive my jeep on the rubicon and experiance the outdoors they have never seen before! the rubicon means a lot to me-it has saved some kids from themselves-today a youg man came by and thanked me for the advice i have given him when he was younger

and a troubled youth-at 28 he is a grade 3 operator at a wastewater plant getting ready to take his grade 4-i am proud of him for turning his life around. i currently am working with a 16 year old kid-he is making great progress-because he wants to go to the rubicon with me again and my friends.how can you put a price on that?