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Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

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February 27, 2009

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

District 1: John Knight
District 2: Ray Nutting
District 3: James R (Jack) Sweeney
District 4: Ron Briggs
District 5: Norma Santiago

RE: Rubicon Trail

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SACRAMENTO
CVRWOCB
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Dear Supervisors,

The Rubicon Trail, located between Georgetown, California and Homewood (Lake Tahoe), in the California Counties of El Dorado and Placer, is generally recognized to be the first and oldest recreational off-highway (OHV) vehicle trail in the United States. This recreational resource provides great enjoyment, adventure and education to County residents and other citizens as well as visitors from around the world. The continued use and long-term viability of the Rubicon Trail as a recreational resource is of social, recreational, historic and substantial economic value to the County and its citizens. However, OHV and other recreational use of the trail present current and future management challenges.

The County developed and began to implement a formal program to establish a comprehensive framework for the management of recreational uses along the Rubicon Trail and to implement plans and policies identified in the El Dorado County General Plan. The objectives of the Draft Rubicon Trail Management Plan (RTMP) define and establish specific objectives and actions which the County can implement to achieve these goals. The RTMP addressed a number of important management issues including wet weather use, non-street legal vehicles and user education. In 2007, the County adopted a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the adoption of a RTMP that would define El Dorado County's management of the Rubicon Trail. That process was subsequently placed on hold.

We understand the County has now received a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, which calls for the adoption of an Operations and Management (O&M) Plan to address sediment, human waste, and petroleum-based spills on the Rubicon Trail. We believe the RTMP could address the conditions of the CAO with no additional O&M being developed.

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (RCD) recommends completion of the RTMP to address the CAO and to reduce resource impacts associated with wheeled motorized use to ensure continued use and long-term viability while protecting the natural and social resources of the Rubicon Trail. The RCD can provide technical support in collaboration with the County upon request.

Respectfully,

William J. Bennett, President
Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District
100 Forni Road, Suite A
Placerville, CA 95667

CC:

Tom Celio, Deputy Director
El Dorado County Department of Transportation
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Placerville, CA 95667

✓ Wendy S. Wyels, Chief
Compliance and Enforcement Section
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