

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: El Dorado County and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Rubicon Trail

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Rescission of Cleanup and Abatement Order R5-2009-0030

BACKGROUND: On 23 April 2009, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R5-2009-0030 for El Dorado County (County) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest (Forest Service). The CAO was adopted to address water quality impacts on the Rubicon Trail, an off-highway vehicle route connecting the town of Georgetown in El Dorado County to Homewood, on the west side of Lake Tahoe. The Rubicon Trail ranges in condition from a well-defined dirt road to granite domes, ledges, and rock debris that create moderate to difficult passage for street legal vehicles and off highway vehicles. The water quality impacts included human sewage, sediment transport to surface waters, and spills of oil and grease. The CAO required that County and Forest Service work together to cease the wastes due to motorized vehicle use to waters of the state, and to submit a number of reports.

ISSUES: As of this date, all required reports have been submitted and significant actions have taken place to better manage the trail and prevent water quality impacts. The last major issue was the ability to manage the trail during saturated soil conditions (i.e., when snow melt is flowing down the trail or has created large ponds in the trail). During the winter of 2013-2014, the County fully implemented its Saturated Soil Plan, which included a winter monitoring program (with the results posted on the County's website) and the ability to close the Rubicon Trail when conditions are such that vehicle traffic could cause sediment transport to surface waters. In 2014, the County closed the Trail for three periods, for a total of 34 days.

RECOMMENDATION Staff recommends that the CAO be rescinded. No opposition has been voiced as to the rescission of this Order. However, the County, and possibly other parties, would like an opportunity to address the Board concerning the work that has been accomplished.

Mgmt. Review ___WSW___
Legal Review ___PEP___
9/10 October 2014
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670