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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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Re: Proposed Recission CAO R5-2009-0030, County of El Dorado & U.S. Forest Service::
Rubicon Trail

Chair Longley and Members of the Board:

I was a member of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (retired 1-7-13) and represented that Board at the hearing when the subject CAO was issued (April 23,2009). I was less than happy at that time because I believed that we could solve our own problems without outside agency interference!

I now know that without your Board's order we would not have had the success that we have had in reclaiming and minimizing the problems on the Rubicon Trail. Your order served as the catalyst to success. Many times parties involved with the trail wanted to do something other than resolve the issues and the CAO over our heads brought us together.

More difficult than resolving the on ground issues, was obtaining the easement eventually granted by the Forest Service. However, after special meetings with your staff and all of the parties, we finally obtained that easement.

It would take four pages to identify all of the good work and problem resolution and the parties that were brought together to get us where we are today. All I want to say here is that under the CAO your staff held our feet to the fire. Together we reached consensus on one of the toughest projects ever. But,with a little persuasion from your Board and staff, we are now at a beautiful place on the Rubicon Trail. It is not only "The Granddaddy of the off road vehicle trails, it is now known as being well kept and shall stay that way in the future.

I appreciate all that your staff has helped us accomplish and concur that it is time to rescind the order. The Rubicon Trail has proved that it needs and deserves the care that was promulgated by the order.

Sincerely,

Jack

James R. "Jack" Sweeney