

From: George and Frances Alderson
To: <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/26/2009 4:17 PM
Subject: Support for the Rubicon Trail Cleanup and Abatement Order

Please enter this message as our comment in support of the draft cleanup and abatement order issued on January 23, 2009 by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to the El Dorado County Department of Transportation.

Although we are not Californians, I (George) visited this area several times, the first being in the 1960s, and my family lived in Sacramento at one time.

We ask the board to take action to stop the erosion, soil compaction, and damage to plants and wildlife caused by ORVs on the Rubicon Trail.

We favor an order closing the Rubicon Trail until a full environmental review can be conducted and appropriate measures are taken to minimize impacts from future motorized use of the trail, if such use must occur.

At the very minimum, the trail should be closed to all wet season use, because the land is most vulnerable to erosion when soils are saturated. Only street-legal vehicles should be allowed, as they are less likely to cause erosion. Specialized ORVs tend to spin wheels for traction, and this churns the soil. The resulting loose soil particles are easily carried downstream by runoff, and into the nearest rivulet or creek.

We compliment the Regional Board and staff for the good work done thus far, and we urge adoption of the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order.

George and Frances Alderson