

(received via e-mail)

**From:** Dan Melius  
**To:** <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 3/2/2009 12:32 PM  
**Subject:** Support for the Rubicon Trail Cleanup and Abatement Order

I am writing to express my support for 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. I am concerned about the destructive and unchecked off-road vehicle use resulting in ongoing resource damage on the Rubicon Trail. I support the Regional Board's effort to prevent this situation from worsening even further.

Even if the Regional Board determines that complete trail closure is not necessary at this time, at minimum the trail should be closed to all wet season use and any ongoing use should be limited to street legal vehicles in order to minimize erosion and subsequent waterway sedimentation. Wet season use of these fragile areas is particularly damaging and contributes heavily to the sediment discharge and non-street-legal vehicles tend to cause greater damage than street legal vehicles. These important interim measures will have immediate and noticeable benefits to the ecosystem and the water quality.

I commend the Regional Board and staff for their excellent assessment of the impacts on the Rubicon from off-road vehicle use and initiating the process needed to stop this damage from continuing. I also applaud them for finally taking action and ask that the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order be formally adopted.

Dan Melius