

March 26, 2009

Ms. Sue McConnell  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

RE: Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order – Rubicon Trail

Dear Ms. McConnell:

As an Outdoorsman, Environmentalist and fourth generation Native Californian, I would like to express my appreciation of the difficult and crucial service you and the CRWQCB provide in safeguarding our precious liquid asset. I would also like to convey my sympathy for the manner you are required to respond to public input and my outrage toward those who irresponsibly waste your valuable resources to further personal agendas.

In this era of cumulative drought years and watersheds denuded by forest fires, I'm appalled by the anecdotal, voodoo science and fabricated "evidence" being presented to you by a handful of prohibitionists on a vendetta. I won't get into the science details, but their sedimentation model was thoroughly debunked by Smithsonian scientists and recent water quality studies commissioned for SMUD as part of FERC relicensing process did not support their predicted results. They portray the condition of the Rubicon Trail as swaths cut through vegetation, drenched in spilt oil and covered in litter. There is more litter per mile on Folsom Blvd than on the Rubicon Trail.

I have been recreating in Eldorado County for 50 years, and driving there myself for 40 years. I hike, fish, backpack and drive an OHV on and near the Rubicon Trail. This past summer I had a permanent camp in the area and visited the Rubicon Trail on most weekends. The past several years, I have averaged 3-4 volunteer work events that partnered with the US Forest Service and/or Eldorado County. Many of these were directed toward the elimination or mitigation of hydrological threats and human waste. I, along with many others, have contributed thousands of equivalent work hours that can be credited toward Forest Service budgets for education, maintenance and enforcement. If these prohibitionists cared about the forest as much as they claim, you'd think they could be found alongside me and other environmentalists with shovel in hand – but they're not.

It is disheartening that these prohibitionist use propaganda and OHV use as the boogie man to incite minions of internet environmentalists, whose primary qualification is proper sorting to the recycle container, into generating emails to "save" something most of them have never laid eyes on. These are the people that claim OHV use is killing trout, and then litigate to get rid of said trout for eating frogs.

I, and other Practicing Environmentalists devoted to the health and wellbeing of the Rubicon Trail, urge you analyze the scientific facts, dismiss this frivolous hijack of your already strained resources and be free to return your attention to real issues.

Very truly yours,

