

(received via e-mail)

From: Joseph Weinstein
To: <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/2/2009 2:21 PM
Subject: Support for the Rubicon Trail Cleanup and Abatement Order

I write to support adoption 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.

I commend the Board and staff for its analysis of and concern over destructive and unchecked off-road vehicle use which is resulting in ongoing and increasing resource damage on and near the historic Rubicon Trail - including erosion, soil compaction, damage to plants and animals, destruction of and threat to rare riparian habitat, and degradation of local water quality.

If adopted, the Regional Board's Order would be a positive first step - much needed, owing to failure of the Forest Service to implement and enforce strong regulations, and to insufficient effect of well-intentioned volunteer efforts to pick up trash and reduce environmental damage.

Adoption of the Order should be complemented by conduct of a full environmental review so that due measures can be specified and taken to minimize impacts from future motorized use of the trail, if such use must occur. As an interim minimum - in order to reduce erosion and waterway sedimentation and notably benefit water quality - the trail should be closed to all wet season use and to non-street-legal vehicles.

Joseph Weinstein