



County of El Dorado

Chief Administrative Office

Parks Division

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Terri Daly
Chief Administrative Officer

September 11, 2014

Pamela C. Creedon
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95760

Dear Ms. Creedon:

I am writing to support the rescission of Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R5-2009-0030 for El Dorado County (County) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest (Forest Service) issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (CRWQB-CVR).

The County took responsibility for the Rubicon Trail on April 23, 2009 when Supervisor James Sweeney told your Board that El Dorado County would accept the CAO. Since that time the County, agencies, stakeholders and your staff have worked cooperatively to achieve the requirements of the CAO. Here is a small list of accomplishments:

- With the help of the Rubicon Trail Foundation (RTF) accurate trail counts were achieved in 2009 and 2010.
- The County created an educational campaign that captured the attention of the users and made a tremendous difference on the trail. This campaign was implemented using the Friends of the Rubicon Trail volunteers (FOTR), RTF, mid-trail staff and law enforcement staff on the trail. Trail markers were installed by FOTR and RTF to identify the trail.
- The County completed a survey of the trail including centerline and agreed-upon width from each side of that line.
- The County working with the Forest Service developed and implemented the Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan (SSWQPP) which documented the trail and the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were installed. This document is the Management Plan for the County.
- In 2010, the County installed a restroom at Ellis Creek after receiving permits from the Forest Service

- The County, with the help of the RTF, developed a program to address sanitation. RTF created a Unimog Septage Pumper Truck that traverses the trail and hauls the waste from portable units placed on the trail to a septic tank located behind the restroom at Ellis Creek. Eight portable units have been placed.
- Spill kits were created and Hazardous Material Sheds were installed for the safe removal and containment of liquid and solid wastes generated from vehicle use.
- Bio-response was introduced to the trail in 2011. This non-toxic product has bacteria that digests the oil and fluids from vehicles and removes it from the granite and soil.
- The County has installed 475 Best Management Practices (BMPs), closed alternate routes, and reduced the rocks in Little Sluice.
- The County installed two bridges one at Gerle Creek and one at Ellis Creek.
- The County also installed a multi-plate arch at the FOTR Seasonal Drainage Crossing.
- The County received an easement from the US Forest Service on August 14, 2012.
- The County and the Forest Service have developed winter monitoring protocols.
- The County developed an Adopt a Trail program which has engaged the user community as stewards of the trail.
- The County has two resident Sheriff's deputies on the trail every weekend and holidays during the season which is usually May through September.
- State Parks and Forest Service have also established a law enforcement presence on the trail.
- The County, State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division and the Federal Highway Administration have invested over \$7.7 million in grant and matching funds on the Rubicon Trail.

The success of this order goes to the Water Board staff and the many agencies, stakeholders, property owners and individuals who worked and continue to work collaboratively in the best interest of the trail. The County and its partners have proven their commitment to the Rubicon Trail today and into the future. El Dorado County supports the rescission order as drafted by CRWQB-CVR staff report transmitted on August 19, 2014 and recommends its adoption by the Board.

Sincerely,



Kimberly A. Kerr
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer