

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors – Rubicon Trail

STAFF: Phil Jenkins, Chief

Issue: The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS) met on January 26, 2010 to discuss the future management of the Rubicon Trail. The County had previously been issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) requiring them to address water quality issues related to use of the historic trail. The specific issue being addressed by the BOS was to determine the alignment of the trail.

Discussion: The Rubicon Trail, which was once a road maintained for passenger vehicles, is today a premiere, and one of the best known, four wheel drive opportunities in the country. Several sections of the trail can be difficult to traverse, and over the years bypasses and alternate routes have been used to go around these sections of the trail. In order for the County of El Dorado to effectively manage the trail, and at the direction of the CVRWQCB, the trail alignment to be maintained needed to be clearly established.

The El Dorado County, Department of Transportation, presented four options to the El Dorado County BOS:

1. Single center-line trail alignment
2. Single center-line trail alignment with several variant routes
3. Option 1 or 2 plus a corridor approach in two locations
4. Trail closure

The BOS heard comments from the public, including two citizen panels which presented concerns regarding the various options. The Board item and a trail map are attached for more detailed information.

After much comment and discussion, the BOS selected a modified version of option #2, including a decision to break up some of the large boulders on one section of the trail known as "Little Sluice Box". This section of trail was the most difficult to traverse due to the many large boulders in the trail.

Status: Information item only; No action is required at this time.