

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DATE: October 24, 2006  
FROM: KEN GREHM / <sup>YD</sup>PETER KRAATZ  
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE TRAIL KNOWN AS "MCKINNEY RUBICON TRAIL"

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**ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION**

Approve a resolution declaring the "McKinney Rubicon Trail" as a non-maintained public four wheel drive trail.

**BACKGROUND / SUMMARY**

Originally a Native American trail connecting the Sacramento Valley and Lake Tahoe, the Rubicon Trail was re-discovered by European immigrants in the 1840s. By the 1890s, the trail had become an actual road (by the standards of the day) and was used to reach the Rubicon Mineral Springs Resort and Hotel. Throughout the 1920s, the Rubicon Springs Road was being promoted as the best route from Georgetown to Lake Tahoe. However, when the Rubicon Springs Hotel closed in the late 1920s, the road fell into disuse. The route has been used by four-wheel drive vehicles since the early 1950s and has become one of the most famed, four-wheel drive trails in the world because of the challenging and technical driving conditions in a rugged and remote setting. The trail is a popular four-wheel drive recreational within the Counties of Placer and El Dorado (see attached location map).

Placer County currently recognizes the portion of the McKinney Rubicon trail also known as McKinney Rubicon Springs Road, within the Tahoe Basin, from the crest of the Sierra to McKinney Estates as a public road that is not maintained by the County.

El Dorado has begun developing a trail master plan to guide future management of this recreational facility. Placer County staff proposes adopting the following resolution to support the movement to ensure that the entire trail will be open for public use in to the future.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

This activity is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Section 15301(c), operation and maintenance of an existing facility.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of maintenance for the trail is an ongoing effort. The proposed action does not create a required financial burden on the County. Staff has been successful in obtaining grants to maintain and improve the trail. We would continue to work with stakeholders to seek out off-highway trail grants and encourage trail user groups to provide volunteer labor and donations in an effort to maintain the trail.

**Attachments:**

Resolution  
Location Map

**Before the Board of Supervisors  
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING  
THE TRAIL KNOWN AS "MCKINNEY RUBICON  
TRAIL" AS A NON-MAINTAINED PUBLIC FOUR  
WHEEL DRIVE TRAIL.

Resol. No:.....

Ord. No:.....

First Reading:.....

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors  
of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held \_\_\_\_\_,  
by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

ATTEST:  
Clerk of said Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WHEREAS the "McKinney Rubicon Trail" is a world renowned off-highway vehicle trail  
that is partially located on federal lands within Placer County; and

WHEREAS the Trail has been in public use for at least 150 years; and

WHEREAS the Trail provides valued recreational asset for the citizens of Placer  
because of the technically advanced driving conditions that exist in the open space  
environment for off-road vehicle enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS the County desires that the Trail continue to be available for public use into  
the future;

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that this Board recognizes the "McKinney Rubicon Trail" as a public trail;

**AND HEREBY** states its intent to use all reasonable measures available to it to ensure continued public access.

