

## County Update

I hope this message finds you all happy and healthy. It has been a busy season and I can't believe it is already August. So many things have been going on that I would like to catch you up on.

## Pumping

As most of you have been following the pumper truck is up and running this year. It is a long day for staff but they are able to get all the restrooms completed in a day. It is an 18 hour day and I want to thank the staff for doing an amazing job. I truly appreciate it and I know that the community does also. They face many issues along with clothing and other items put into the toilets that do not belong there. It can slow down the day for sure. If you see them out there please thank them and encourage them. It is sometimes a thankless job and a frustrating one at that.

We did experience a breakdown once, but just as planned they brought the truck off the trail and were back the next day with the backup trailer to complete the job. Again, Brian and Joey are amazing and valued by trail users and the County.

## Trail Maintenance

We spend two weeks on the trail with Doug Veerkamp Engineering and an excavator cleaning out drainage and blocking bypasses. Again long days and an excavator operator, Kyle that moved that machine like it was nothing. We went from Axle Rock to the Loon Lake Kiosk. Sadly a lot of the work was intentionally destroyed by users. We were blocking bypasses that were user created trying to keep the users within the right of way. But some users cannot respect that and pulled the logs and rocks out of the way so they could continue to use the illegal route. Some of these are on private property. It is really sad to me. The County continues to try and communicate with the users to stay on the trail. But many ignore the rules and make it difficult for the rest. If you see someone off trail please talk to them and get them back on the trail. It will take all of you to help us. I want to believe they just don't know, but when they blatantly pull the barricades out of the way it is not ignorance.

## Jamboree

The County attended Jeep Jamboree and Jeepers Jamboree. It was great to have these events back. We were able to provide education for the users from all over and answer questions on how and why we do what we do. Camp Rubicon was so much fun and the kids were amazing. I asked the kids what they suggested to keep people on the trail. There were many suggestions from fences to signs. When I asked if they wanted signs on the trail they said we should hide them. They also said we should have rules for adults to follow. LOL it was so cute and for me it showed they were paying attention. We had made spill kits for kids and they went on a walk treating spills as they found them. It was truly a great event and I thank Jeepers Jamboree for inviting us.

## Grants

The State issued their intent for award on Monday. Our Grounds Operation and Maintenance grant and the Education grant are on the list to be awarded. I am very excited. This grant will be for helicopter time and I hope to address many issues at Buck Island in 2022.

We are also working with the Tahoe National Forest on the Planning Grant we received a year ago. They are completing the studies around the mudhole on the Tahoe side. This is very important as it will re-route the trail around a few problem areas that could shut the trail down. The hillside near Miller Creek is sliding off and we would have no way around it. It was identified by California Geological Survey as the biggest threat to the trail. So as we always try to do we are a few steps ahead and trying to create the solution. The Planning grant will study the re-route and once approved we can move to Development. This is very exciting.

### Donations

Many of you made donations to the County for the pumper truck. We took those donations and put them right into the build of the truck as promised. The Board of Supervisors has given the Chief Administrative Officer or his designee to ability to accept donations up to \$10,000 for the Parks Division. What does that mean? Well it means you can make donations directly to the County and we will put the donations into the trail. The County provides restroom supplies, cleaning and pumping, kiosk staff, spill kits, WAG BAGS, brochures, bandanas, trail maintenance, trail inspections and documentation, trail staff and works to keep the trail open and in compliance with the easement agreement with the US Forest Service and compliance with the water board order. The County has been fortunate to receive grants from the State Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division but writing and administering grants takes a lot of staff time. These grants have a 26% match that comes from various trust funds but no General Fund dollars has gone into keeping this trail open. Donation would go directly into the program and into the trail. Donations over \$10,000 go directly to the board to be accepted. Many people have given donations when staff is working at the kiosk and we appreciate all of you and the donations we have received. The County has never charged for the spill kits or other items that you receive at the kiosk. They are all funded by the grants and matching funds.