

August 07, 2026

Mr. Jonathan Cook-Fisher
Forest Supervisor
Tahoe National Forest

Dear District Ranger Cook-Fisher:

We write in our capacity as Commissioners on the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission and Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Rubicon Trail to express our concerns about the Tahoe National Forest's proposed reroute of a portion of the Rubicon Trail and the issues that may arise as a result of carrying it out.

We had an opportunity to tour the reroute location on July 12th, 2026 [and {scheduled again} on August 5th, 2026] and walked through the staked out planned realignment with interested parties.

These trips, combined with your welcome participation and presentation at the OHMVR Commission meeting on June 17, 2026 have given us an eye-opening overview over the proposed project. As you know, the Rubicon Trail is one of California's most iconic and nationally recognized off-highway vehicle recreation assets, and any proposed projects affecting the trail is going to naturally generate a high level of public participation, input, and scrutiny.

Based on our limited observations, we have concerns over the quality of the soil where the reroute is scheduled to take place, the erosion that may result as a result, the wetlands adjacent to the proposed reroute in several areas, and the impact of a proposed "play area" on the realigned trail and the impact that such an area would have on the Tahoma community that would have to host a potential increase in traffic (and the potential that this may lead those homeowners to seek restrictions on the Trail itself.)

We believe that it would benefit all members of the public and stakeholders to slow the process down and for additional (and broader) community engagement to take place before proceeding with the planned realignment.

As you may know, the Commission established this ad hoc committee, led by Commissioner Lemmon and myself, with the purpose of creating a public forum where interested parties may engage in open discussion regarding Rubicon Trail operations and proposed projects. We would be happy to serve as a forum for additional community engagement or participate in your own community outreach efforts.

Sincerely,

Roger Salazar, Commissioner
OHMVR Commission

Tom Lemmon, Commissioner
OHMVR Commission

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