

April 9, 2010

Comments of Ed Tobin, Marina, CA.

This past Tuesday the San Benito County Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted to reverse their two-year closure of the county roads inside Clear Creek. They also voted to approve a draft EIS comment letter that recommends the selection of Alternative A, the no action alternative. With these actions, the BOS essentially delivered a vote of no confidence to the BLM regarding the closure of Clear Creek and the draft EIS document they produced.

During the course of their month long consideration of these matters leading up to the votes this week, I presented the BOS with information regarding flaws in the EPA report, an OSHA report the BLM withheld from the public and a timeline of events that led up to the release of the Draft EIS. I have arranged for you to also get a copy of my handouts prepared for the BOS and I asked Dave Christy to make copies of the OSHA report the BLM prepared in May of 2008.

I encourage you to carefully review these documents because they show a pattern of bias and deceit that has led to the closure of one of the top OHV recreation areas in the entire country. This body was misled by Rick Cooper prior to the closure and, like the general public, never told that the BLM had an internal report that conflicted with the risk assessment found in the EPA report. It was not until the recreation community made a freedom of information act request that this information came to light.

This knowing omission of the OSHA report and any discussion of employee health issues in the DEIS is shameful and should not be tolerated by the public. I call on the RAC to pass a resolution requesting the BLM withdraw the EIS, return to the existing management plan in effect prior to the closure and immediately reopen the Clear Creek Management Area.

I also ask that this body send a strongly worded letter to the Director requesting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the closure and the EIS preparation.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Tobin', with a stylized flourish at the end.