



FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER

Working for the recovery of our Wild & Scenic River, its fisheries and communities.

December 12, 2022

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Via email to: rbohn@co.humboldt.ca.us, smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us, vbass@co.humboldt.ca.us,
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RE: Resolution to Summarily Vacate a Portion of Fisher Road (4G070) South of State Hwy 36 in Hydesville

Dear Chair Bass and Supervisors,

I am writing to comment on the proposed resolution to vacate a portion of Fisher Road, brought before the board on November 8. For a century, this part of Fisher Road has been used by the local community to access the Van Duzen river. Of course, Fisher Road has also served as an important access point for fishing. Now that railbanking is complete and planning has begun for the Great Redwood Trail, it's easy to see this stretch of Fisher Road serving as an important access point to the future trail.

Given that the Great Redwood Trail Agency has just begun their master planning process, now is not the time to remove public access to a publicly owned right-of-way. I also want to emphasize the importance of preserving public access to navigable waters, such as the Van Duzen River. The river is a public trust. Lately, the road ends at a steep bank before the river. But healthy rivers shift over time, and the Van Duzen will keep moving. Please don't cut the public off from our common heritage.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the interests of all of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Alicia Hamann
Executive Director

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