

Hi Ruth,

I'm Don Robinson, President of the Mother Lode Goldhounds. We are a minerals recreation organization based out of Auburn and Foresthill, California. We are a California non-profit Corporation. We primarily do gold prospecting and utilize the Auburn State Recreation Area as a base for many of our activities. We were a serious part of the development of the Auburn Recreation Plan at the very beginning, back in 1993. I was part of that effort.

Your Order Number 690-006-2010 violates everything that was written and agreed to at that time. This order is dated March 29, 2010, but was not delivered by Mike Lynch, your Auburn Recreation Manager, until April 23, 2010. This first delivery was made directly by Mike Lynch to Dennis Robnett at Pioneer Mining Supplies in Auburn.

We have also been informed that we may no longer gold pan or sluice as we have done in the past and as was agreed in the initial planning of the unique recreation area.

The implementation of this order is extremely serious for tens of thousands of recreational prospectors. This will also directly affect the tourism businesses of Auburn, Foresthill, Colfax, and all the neighboring towns. The income loss to the State will also be evident because people utilize the camping area of Mineral Bar, Yankee Jims and Ruck-a-Chucky solely for the purpose of finding some gold, regardless of the minute quantities.

The uproar and reaction to this directive will be furious and the reactions far beyond what the State Parks has likely ever seen.

I'm requesting an urgent meeting with you to discuss this issue. I'll invite to join us several of the heads of other organizations similar to ourselves. Hopefully we can start a dialog that will end this costly error by the State Parks system.

For the moment, I also request you to withdraw the implementation of this order, since there has not been any public input on this Directive. A public hearing is imperative for such a decision.

Ruth, I'll also send this as a postal letter to you, just in case you need it for formal documentation.

You can reach me at this e-mail address or by phone. Thanks for your consideration.

Don Robinson  
President, Mother Lode Goldhounds

cc: Jim Hutchings, GPAA  
Assemblyman Ted Gains  
Assemblyman Dan Logue  
Senator Dave Cox  
Jennifer Montgomery Supervisor 5th District, Placer County  
Bruce Kranz, Colfax City Manager  
Congressman Tom McClintock  
Robert Richardson, Auburn City Manager  
Jim Holmes, Supervisor 3rd District, Placer County  
Ron Milligan, Operations Manager, Bureau of Reclamation