MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 80-133

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF OLD BIG OAK FLAT ROAD VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

WHEREAS the historical Old Big Oak Flat Road is the only access to the famous Tuolumne Grove Big Trees; and

WHEREAS the Tuolumne Grove Big Trees are the only big trees now accessible by vehicle within Yosemite National Park and Mariposa County and constitute an important attraction of historical significance and renown beauty; and

WHEREAS the Old Big Oak Flat Road is the same road as the historic Old Highway 120 into Yosemite National Park, prior to construction of the new Highway 120, and said road has never before been closed to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park has caused the closure of Old Big Oak Flat Road and all vehicular access to the Tuolumne Big Tree Grove, allegedly for fiscal and budgetory reasons; and

WHEREAS the public still has pedestrian access to said area but persons who are aged and handicapped are denied the opportunity to visit and enjoy this beautiful grove and historic road as a result of the actions of the park superintendent; and

WHEREAS the area in question is one of minimal expense for maintenance beyond that which continues after the closure, and such minimal fiscal expense does not justify the discriminatory denial of access to the aged, infirm and handicapped;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County, a political subdivision of the State of California, as follows:
1. That the County of Mariposa opposes and protests the unjustified and discriminatory closure of Old Big Oak Flat Road to vehicular traffic, and thereby to the aged, infirm and handicapped, and the resulting denial of access to the Tuolumne Big Tree Grove to such persons;

2. That the County of Mariposa calls for the immediate and continued opening of Old Big Oak Flat Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to The Honorable Alan Cranston, and the Honorable S.I. Hayakawa, United States Senators; and the Honorable Tony Coelho, United States House of Representatives; Howard Chapman, Region Director, Western Region; Russell Dickenson, Director, National Park Service.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this fifth day of August, 1980, by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, by the following vote:

AYES: Clark, Taber, Erickson, Moffitt
NOES: None
ABSENT: Dalton
ABSTAINED: None

ATTEST:

JOAN J. LYNK, Clerk of the Board
By: Barbara Knell, Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

RICHARD K. DENHALTER, County Counsel
August 11, 1980

Robert O. Binnewies
Superintendent
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Dear Bob:

As per our telephone conversation this morning. The attached Resolution 80-133 will be rescinded at my request at the Board meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 1980.

I do appreciate the National Park Service' effort in keeping this famous Historical Old Big Oak Flat Road being keep open during the summer months as budgetary costs should very little.'

Sincere thanks,

CARROLL CLARK,
Supervisor, District I

P.O. Box S
Midpines, CA. 95345

CC: bek
enc: 3
cc: Board of Supervisors
County Counsel