

Honorable Lake County Board of Supervisors

October 4, 2017

Dear Members,

The EARTH Town Council represents the area that includes the community of Spring Valley. Spring Valley is accessed by New Long Valley Road which also serves as egress in times of emergencies. Several times in the recent past, Spring Valley residents have had to leave their homes to avoid being trapped by wildfires and most recently a slide closed the road during winter storms. The only other road out of Spring Valley is Old Long Valley Road.

Old Long Valley Road (OLVR), while not ideal as an alternate egress is none the less serviceable except for a wet crossing at Long Valley Creek. During winter this crossing cannot be made at high flow levels and then only by using high clearance vehicles. Many residents would not be able to use their personal cars to exit during emergencies during either a summer dry or winter wet time. When a slide closed New Long Valley Road recently the OLVR exit option was simply not available to a large portion of the population.

The addition of an alternate route for all citizens by adding a bridge over the Long Valley Creek crossing has been discussed for many years and the only other solution has been to push gravel into place to smooth the crossing during summer dry periods which can be brief. This of course can quickly wash out with the first winter flows. Recently there has been talk of pushing gravel into place for next year and the donation of a short span bridge that might work permanently if the road can be relocated to a narrows and the funds found.

The specter of years passing before a more reasonable winter and summer exit route can be permitted and developed is not a compelling thought and we would like to make a suggestion for the interim. The topography of the Long Valley Creek crossing site lends itself to the installation of two or more 72" culverts in a standard well-worn method of stream crossing repeated tens of thousands of times across California. This seems totally within the ability of County resources even during these difficult budget times. This crossing method using partially

buried culvert bottoms is now standard to allow fish passage and the installation can be accomplished using native stream materials such as was done during the gravel pushing days. The permit to use this method is governed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, but a summer build can be accomplished only if the application begins promptly.

The EARTH Town Council urges the Board to direct staff to begin the application process without delay so this road can be available during the next fire season. Your kind attention to this matter at the next available Board meeting is requested.

With Sincere Appreciation,

 Denise Lousdalot

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ERTH Town Council Chairperson