



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
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**Armando Quintero, *Director***

**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING  
Sacramento, CA**

**July 28, 2021**

**STAFF REPORT:** Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Resources Update – Ambient Noise Monitoring Contract at SVRAs

**STAFF:** Scott Soares, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of Long-Term Ambient Noise Monitoring Contract at SVRAs

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**Summary**

To support PRC § 5090.02 (b) that states, “The Legislature hereby declares that effectively managed areas and adequate facilities for the use of off-highway vehicles and conservation and enforcement are essential for ecologically balanced recreation.” The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division has entered a five-year contract with CSDA Design Group to perform ambient noise monitoring at all of the SVRAs. Coordinating with SVRA and OHMVR Division staff, the contractor will install long-term noise monitoring stations at the SVRAs and will provide in-person noise monitoring for special events. Data provided by these monitoring efforts will track the various contributors to ambient noise in and around the SVRA, locate and evaluate sensitive receptors, and provide analyses to determine if activities attributed to SVRA operations comply with local noise ordinances. By the end of July 2021, the long-term noise monitors will be installed and will start collecting data.

This contract is the first effort to implement long-term noise monitoring across all SVRAs, although there was a previous pilot study at Oceano Dunes and Prairie City SVRAs.

Eight of the nine SVRAs will have at least one long-term noise monitor installed within the SVRA with more monitors being deployed at larger SVRAs. Hollister Hills already has a noise monitoring program that has been in place since 2002, which was initiated following the Renz and Hudner Ranch acquisitions. Until that time, noise from SVRA operations at the boundary of Hollister Hills and how noise could affect sensitive receptors was not well known. CSDA has been performing noise monitoring services at Hollister Hills for the past five years, which has provided the firm with extensive

knowledge and experience with operations at an SVRA. Since Hollister Hills has an existing noise monitoring program, CSDA will review this program and provide recommendations for potential improvements.

Long-term noise monitor stations consist of a pole mounted microphone attached to a steel plate for a stable base. A small solar panel supplies power to the system and a locked box houses the hand-held monitor. The systems are highly weather resistant and transmit data cellularly. Data will be accessible to SVRA and Division staff in real time through a website.

In addition to the long-term monitor stations, the contract also includes two in-person monitoring sessions per year per SVRA for special events or high-use periods at the SVRAs. Data collected by in-person monitoring sessions can be used to determine noise levels at sensitive receptors such as neighboring properties, residences, and sensitive habitats. A report is generated at the end of every in-person monitoring session that provides an analysis of local noise ordinances, presents the noise monitoring results, discusses different noise contributors, and identifies whether there were exceedances of local noise ordinances due to SVRA activity (see Attachment 1).

The long-term monitors will collect data 24 hours per day over the life of the five-year contract and will be used in conjunction with the in-person monitoring sessions to correlate and model noise emissions throughout the entire SVRA. This information can be used by SVRA staff to inform managers about noise emissions related to SVRA operations and to reduce potential impacts to sensitive receptors.

Currently, all eight SVRAs to receive long-term noise monitors have been visited by CSDA staff and long-term monitor locations have been determined.

### **Commission Action**

For information only.

### **Attachments**

1. Clay Pit SVRA Noise Monitoring – Short-Term Monitoring Results