



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, California 95816  
(916) 324-5801 • Fax: (916) 324-0271

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352**

**January 24, 2020**

**STAFF REPORT:** Oceano Dunes SVRA Update – Dust Control Program  
**STAFF:** Dan Canfield, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Oceano Dunes Dust Control Program

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**Summary**

In April 2018, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA) with the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (SLO APCD). The SOA required specific dust treatment to be implemented in 2018/2019 and the development of a four-year Particulates Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP) aimed at achieving certain air quality goals.

In November 2019, the SLO APCD adopted an amended SOA available on the SLO APCD website at: [https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/AMENDED%20Order%20of%20Abatement%2011-18-19 FILED 12.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/AMENDED%20Order%20of%20Abatement%2011-18-19%20FILED%2012.pdf). The amended SOA requires additional specific dust control treatments in 2020 and additional administrative/reporting requirements over the four-year term of the PMRP.

**Discussion**

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located within the much larger Guadalupe-Nipomo dune system that stretches from southern SLO County to northern Santa Barbara County. This dune system formed over tens of thousands of years by natural sand supply and onshore winds. For several years California State Parks has been working with the SLO APCD on regional air quality issues. The region has very high PM 10 air pollution when powerful onshore winds blow across the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Through a natural, wind driven process called saltation, sand grains creep and bounce along the dune surface. Through this process, very fine particles in the dune sand become airborne and are dispersed downwind. The SLO APCD operates an air quality monitor at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) fire station approximately one mile downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA. During those powerful onshore wind events, the CDF monitor routinely exceeds the state PM 10 exceedance standard.

In 2017, California State Parks approved a five-year plan aimed at reducing PM 10 at the CDF monitor and improving regional air quality. The California Coastal Commission permitted this five-year plan under Coastal Development Permit 3-12-050. In April 2018, as part of the SLO APCD Hearing Board process, California State Parks entered into a SOA with the SLO APCD. The SOA required immediate implementation of additional dust control efforts described in the five-year dust plan and the coastal development permit. By September 2018, DPR implemented the dust control measures described in the five-year dust plan, basically fast-tracking the dust control efforts.

DPR undertook a substantial dune restoration effort in support of the SOA and regional air quality in winter 2018/2019. Portions of the dune recreation area at Oceano Dunes SVRA were fenced-off to exclude public access. Thousands of native dune plants were then planted in coordination with the winter rains and moist conditions. The native dune plants are propagated from locally collected seed stock and grown at the Oceano Dunes greenhouse, Cal Poly Horticulture Program and local commercial greenhouses. The restoration process includes application of straw mulch, sterile annual cereal grain seed, native dune plant seed, and fertilizer to support and protect the young native plantings in the dynamic dune ecosystem.

As part of the SOA, a new four-year dust plan or PMRP was created. The PMRP is available on the SLO APCD website, [www.slocleanair.org/air-quality/oceano-dunes-efforts.php](http://www.slocleanair.org/air-quality/oceano-dunes-efforts.php).

As part of the PMRP process DPR produced a preliminary Annual Report and Work Plan (ARWP) in August 2019. The ARWP was not approved by the SLO APCD and was referred to the SLO APCD Hearing Board. On November 18 the SLO APCD Hearing Board issued an amended SOA. Of note from the ARWP and amended SOA process is a new foredune construction project. This foredune project is required to begin by January 2020 with installation of perimeter fencing, and with native plant plantings to follow in the Spring.

### **Commission Action**

For Information Only

### **Attachments**

None