



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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

OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Virtual Meeting

September 16, 2022

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

STAFF: Alexandra Stehl, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: Acquisition Planning Process for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

Summary

The Department of Parks and Recreation has established processes for identifying and prioritizing acquisitions of real property into the State Parks System. With the passage of SB249 in 2017 and integration of State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRA) operations into Department-wide processes, prioritization, and acquisition of SVRAs are integrated into and will follow the Department's acquisition planning process.

Discussion

The Department Operations Manual (DOM) chapter 2102 specifies procedures for development of acquisition guidelines and acquisition proposals, as well as prioritization and approval of proposals. Due to economic shifts and Department reorganization, the acquisition program has been minimally active for about 10 years, until 2022 when the Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division reconvened the Department Acquisition Review Team.

Process.

Acquisition Guidelines. The Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division (SPRSD) is responsible for developing Acquisition Guidelines on an annual cycle intended to align with the budget process. The Acquisition Guidelines consider a variety of categories of acquisition, including properties that:

- are inholdings & adjacent to current DPR properties
- include significant cultural or natural resources
- improve access to urban users
- expand outdoor recreation opportunities
- improve trail and corridor connections.

The most recent Acquisition Guidelines (for fiscal year 2012-13) are posted at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22846 . SPRSD is working with Department

Acquisition Review Team members to update the Acquisition Guidelines for fiscal year 2023-24, with expected release in December of 2022.

Acquisition Proposals. Through steps outlined in the DOM, Districts and headquarters Divisions submit proposals for acquisitions that address gaps in the State Park System, as identified in the Acquisition Guidelines. Proposals are often developed in collaboration with local partners and/or non-profit land conservation organizations.

Proposal evaluation and prioritization. The Department Acquisition Review Team (DART) is led by the Statewide Planning and Recreation Services Division; members include the Chiefs from Acquisition and Real Property Services Division; Natural Resources Division; Cultural Resources Division; Interpretation and Education Division; Northern, Central, Coastal, and Desert Field Divisions; the Statewide Planning Branch, and as of 2022, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, and the Boating and Waterways Division. DART meets quarterly to review proposals received through the quarter, consider relative merits as they address gaps identified in the Acquisition Guidelines, and incorporate proposals into a prioritized list for acquisition.

DART's list of recommendations is vetted for feasibility and funding by Acquisition and Real Property Services Division staff, and subsequently forwarded to the Department's Planning and Acquisition Committee (PAC) for approval. With PAC's approval, the list of recommendations is forwarded to the Department Director for approval and implementation of the acquisitions.

Considerations. Acquisition of real property into the State Park System also requires review by the Department of General Services and the Public Works Board. A primary consideration is availability of funding for property operation into the future. In addition, DOM section 2102.3 provides that the OHMVR Commission approves acquisition projects for the State Vehicular Recreation Area and Trail System, in addition to all other standard processes and approvals.

Status.

Since resuming activities this year, the DART is currently working on prioritizing proposals that have been received over the last several years, as well as beginning to consider new proposals. Acquisition Guidelines will be released this winter, for the first-time including provisions for acquisition of OHV recreation properties.

Commission Action

For information only.