



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Pomona, CA

November 3, 2022

STAFF REPORT: Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Update
STAFF: Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist
SUBJECT: ODSVRA Stipulated Order of Abatement and Dust Update

Summary

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) entered a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA) with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) in April 2018 with a goal of improving regional air quality at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA). The SOA was amended in the fall of 2019 and again in October 2022.

Discussion

Background

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located in southern San Luis Obispo County. The ODSVRA is specifically located within the much larger Guadalupe-Nipomo dune system that stretches from southern San Luis Obispo County to northern Santa Barbara County. This dune system is characterized by high winds and dusty conditions.

California State Parks has been working with the APCD on regional air quality issues since 2011, entering the SOA in 2018. The SOA includes air quality objectives related to downwind concentrations and total mass that originates from the dune field. The SOA requires the use of air quality modeling to determine progress toward concentration and mass targets.

As part of the SOA, DPR produced a four-year dust plan, or Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP, www.slocleanair.org/air-quality/oceano-dunes-efforts.php). The

PMRP outlines a dust control plan for ODSVRA. The California Coastal Commission permitted this plan under Coastal Development Permit 3-12-050. The SOA also established a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), a seven-member panel of technical advisors to

“evaluate, assess, and provide recommendations on the mitigation of windblown PM10 emissions” from ODSVRA.

In the fall of 2018, DPR began implementation of substantial dust control measures aimed at achieving the targets of the SOA. The projects included the 48-acre foredune, in addition to dust mitigation measures in the back dunes. These projects range from planting native dune vegetation and wind fencing to spreading straw to reduce sand movement.

Current Status

As of November 2022, approximately 412 acres of dust control projects have been installed. In addition, in October 2021 the Department made the operational decision to close the formerly seasonal snowy plover and least tern nesting area permanently, encompassing approximately 300 additional acres. While not specifically a dust control project, the Department is working to capture the dust control benefits of this change.

Per the final approved 2022 Annual Report and Work Plan, State Parks has over 700 acres under some form of dust control and that results in a reduction of mass emissions by 40.8%.

In February 2022, the Scientific Advisory Group finished a multi-year effort to refine the emissions targets as set out in the SOA. This work involved a complex effort to assess vegetation changes in the park over 80 years (1939 to present) and further refinements of the emissions and computer model. The SAG recommended a pre-OHV background scenario of a 40.7% reduction in mass emissions over the baseline condition from 2013. They also recommended a series of refinements to the computer model to better capture the effectiveness of certain dust control projects and to capture changes in emissions across the landscape from 2013 through 2019.

The final approved 2022 ARWP (https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/2ndDraft2022ARWP_2022914.pdf) does not include new dust treatment areas, but includes over 40 acres of treatments on areas already under dust control from previous years.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

None