

OHMVR DIVISION – AD HOC COMMITTEE NOTES

Ad Hoc Committee: Oceano Dunes SVRA – Overview and Public Works Plan

Date of Meeting: August 24, 2022

Time of Meeting: 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Sarah Miggins, OHMVR Deputy Director

Callan Laughlin, OHMVR Division Chief

Tara Lynch, Chief Counsel, California State Parks

Kevin Pearce, Oceano Dunes District Superintendent

Ronnie Glick, Oceano Dunes District Sr. Environmental Scientist

Rose Winn, CAL4wheel

Don Amador, Access Alliance

Amy Granat, CORVA & CORF

Jared McLeod, Friends of Oceano Dunes

Mike McGarity, CORVA

Jen, local resident and on the Vitality Advisory Council for County Supervisor District 4

Bruce Richer, CORVA

Jim Suty, Friends of Oceano Dunes

Kimberlina Whettam, OHMVR Commissioner

Diane Ross-Leech, OHMVR Commissioner

Agenda:

- I. Introductions
- II. Review Ad Hoc Charter
- III. Discussion Topic Areas

APCD/SOA Commission Letter:

- Annual report and work plan calls out achieving a 40.7% reduction in PM10. Call out that OHV and camping is not the cause of PM10 and align with the SCRIPPS study where only 14% was mineral dust. OHV goal is to maximize recreational use. Agreeing to a lower reduction is enticing but still leaves the impression that OHV was/is the cause. Recognize and declare that OHV is not the cause.
- Continuing to spend millions on mitigation when OHV is not responsible. Spending money on questionable data. Threatens viability of the OHV Trust Fund.
- Beyond the mitigation there are broadscale closures. Advocate for acreage to be restored. Not fair to users and Park is crowded due to the closures.
- SOA when approved had very little consultation with the off-road community. It has a broader impact on the entire OHV community with perception i.e., “OHV impacts air quality and is not sustainable.”
- Objective was to reduce PM10 at the Nipomo Mesa, not emissivity in the riding area. Scripps found low results at the Mesa. Can’t correlate the data between

the pi-swirl emissivity to air quality at the Mesa. "Bad Science." Demand that the models be updated to reflect the Scripps study results.

Operation & Maintenance Issues and Concerns:

- Closure at Pole 4.5 has reduced ingress/egress to camping, causing major impact to safety, confusion, and congestion.
- Long lines. Trash-found 40lbs of buried trash at a bonfire pit. Hard to get to the dumpster at Pole 2, thus people are leaving trash around. Need more locations for dumpsters.
- Grand Ave Closure: logistical nightmare-closing main entrance during peak season:
 - Increased traffic has an impact on perspective of the park and the users.
 - Wants to see coordinated clean-ups, too much trash.
 - Money used for mitigation but what about deferred maintenance?
- State Parks agreed to close the park at sunset and removed the ability for night rides. Wants to see night riding opened again.
- Collectively "we've" been managing OHV for years. Rubicon is a great example of how we can work to change behavior. It must be a coordinated effort.

Safety Issues and Concerns:

- Safety must be the No. 1 priority. The 9 SVRAs should be the "jewel and crown" and implores the Division to have the Oceano Dunes Park be the very best that it can be. Specifics:
 - Increase law enforcement, enforce rules
 - Remove dangers from partially buried fences
 - Keep it clean
 - Coordinate with community, volunteers, and user groups
- Grand Ave closure is a big deal and creating havoc. Lack of enforcement witnessed four people on a quad without helmets.
- Issue citations! Word will get out!
 - People riding north of Pole 2, people riding w/out helmets, beach speeding, riding in the ocean, riding in the back of trucks
 - Remove safety hazards - fence posts sticking out of the sand, barely visible
 - Closure fencing partially buried
 - Need more law enforcement
 - Bathrooms E, F & G closed

Education and Signage Opportunities:

- Member thanked Kevin for doing this difficult job. Asked if there is a way to improve education of new users at the park. Ideas:
 - QR code w/bilingual information at the entrance stations
 - Hand-outs to the people in line in both English and Spanish
 - Clam alert – signage needed near beach to protect clams
- Need more signage with rules in both English and Spanish
- Possible billboard

Closures Update from ODSVRA District:

- Multiple parties agreed to a limited stay of the Coastal Commission amended permit in December 2021. One condition was a seasonal closure of the 48-acre foredune and shoreline from Post 4.5 to post 6. Nesting snowy plovers also expanded into areas causing an expansion of closures while nests were active. As a reminder, seasonal closures will reopen October 1st.

Next Meeting topics:

- Operation/Maintenance/Safety/Law Enforcement/Education/Signage
- Closures/Snowy Plover Follow up re: State of the Species
- ODSVRA Hours of Operation