

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission

Resolution

Recognizing the Significant Contributions of Howard W. Harris to OHV Recreation

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, Howard Harris began providing sustainable OHV recreation use on his Hollister Hills Ranch, and for decades promoted safe, responsible, and sustainable OHV use on the ranch including establishment of the property as a San Benito County approved private OHV park in 1970 and a State Vehicular Recreation area in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Howard Harris sold his Hollister Hills Ranch to the State of California, instead of developers for a much greater profit, to ensure the continued use of OHV recreation on the property; and

WHEREAS, Harris was directly involved for decades in the development of state and federal standards for sustained OHV use, including the enactment of the Chappie-Z'berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Law and the first Federal OHV management regulations in California contained in Presidential Executive Order 11644; and

WHEREAS, Harris served in the following capacities of the US Government:

- Chairman of the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council which developed and adopted the 64-page Federal "Operation ORVAC – Recommendations and Guidelines for the Management of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Domain Lands in California" in 1973, which resulted in the recommendations being incorporated into Presidential Executive Order 11644 on off-road vehicle management in California.
- Chairman of the United States Department of Agriculture's Committee on OHV use Conservation and Stabilization for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Harris had received numerous acknowledgements including a California State Assembly Resolution, a California State Senate Resolution, three U.S. Presidential Recognitions, two Congressional Special Certificate Recognitions, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's "Public Service Award" reading "Howard Harris in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in service to the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior in the management of off-road vehicles on national resource lands"; and

WHEREAS, upon his death in 2002, Harris was described in the press as "one of the most influential people in San Benito County during the 20th century" due to the major and singular role he played in shaping the county's development through his service on innumerable San Benito County organizations, boards, commissions, and advisory committees; and

WHEREAS, Howard Harris' OHV recreation and other efforts were a significant part of the California Point of Historical Interest application for designation of the Hollister Hills Ranch as a California Point of Historical Interest; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OHMVR Commission recognizes the singular, significant, and decades-long contributions made by Howard Harris to OHV Recreation in California.

November 4, 2022

Patricia G. Ureña

Patricia Ureña, Chair
OHMVR Commission



Callan McLaughlin

Callan McLaughlin, Division Chief
OHMVR Division