

Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Dust Control Program - Particulate Matter Reduction Plan Subsequent Environmental Impact Report Public Scoping Meeting

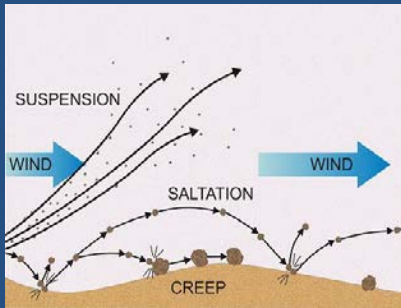


Image Sources: Greg Jasion, OHMVR Division, and Google Earth Pro



July 2, 2019
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

Introduction - Scoping Meeting Goals

Tonight's meeting is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Public Scoping Meeting. Our goals are:

- Inform / promote understanding of the updated Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (Oceano Dunes SVRA) Dust Control Program – Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP)
- Receive input on the scope and content of the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division) is preparing for the PMRP



Introduction - Scoping Meeting Agenda

To accomplish these goals, we will:

- Provide brief background information on the Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program
- Review 2019 PMRP activities and components
- Review the CEQA process for the proposed project
- Receive public comments and questions



Project Background - Why Is The PMRP Needed?

The PMRP is the latest and most comprehensive plan to improve air quality downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA.

- Studies, reports, and air monitoring data show elevated PM10 levels downwind of Oceano Dunes SVRA
- Strong winds (10+ mph) drive “saltation”
- Complex dust emission process

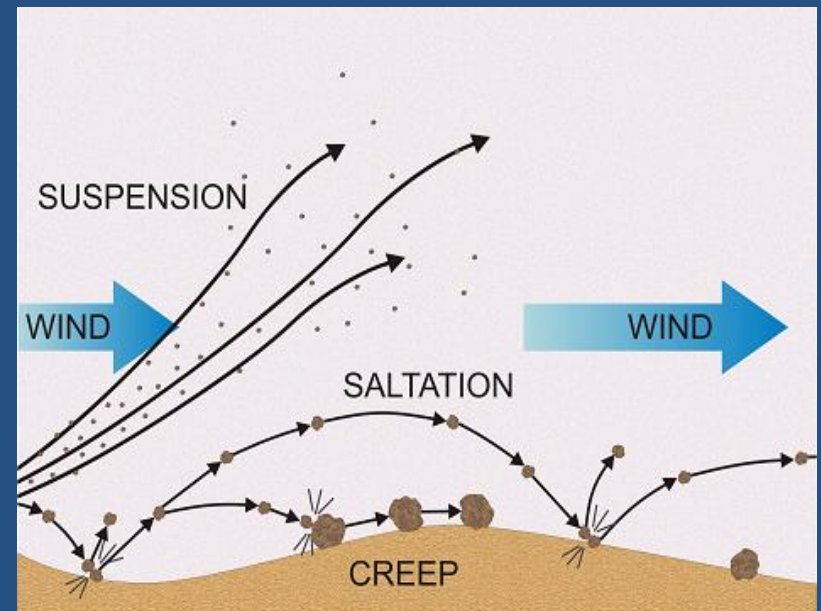


Image Source: Greg Jaison, University of Southampton, 2012

Project Background - What Is PM10?

PM10 is a regulated air pollutant under the federal and state Clean Air Acts. It is a *criteria* air pollutant . . .

- Standards are based on health or other specific criteria
- Small particles – 1/7th size of human hair – that can travel deep into lungs
- Causes respiratory symptoms, heart attacks, other serious health issues

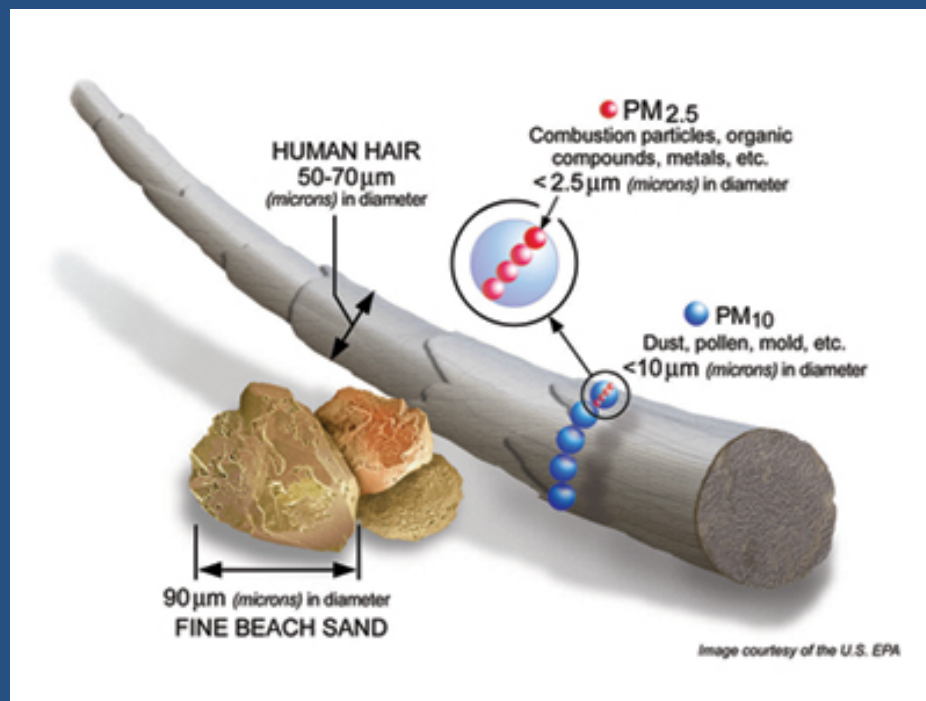


Image source: U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation PM “Basic Information” website: <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics#PM>

Last updated 11/14/2018

Project Background – Local Dust Control Actions

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) is responsible for controlling air pollution and protecting public health in San Luis Obispo County.

- Nov. 2011 - SLOAPCD adopts Rule 1001, Coastal Dunes Dust Control Requirements
- Sep. 2014: SLOAPCD and OHMVR Division enter into Consent Decree
- June 2017: SLOAPCD issues a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the OHMVR Divisions for violations of Rule 1001
- Apr. 2018: SLOAPCD Hearing Board approves Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA)



**Figure 1 from
March 2013 PMRP**

Project Background – Stipulated Order Of Abatement

The SOA requires the OHMVR Division to prepare a PMRP that:

- Achieves State and Federal ambient air quality standards (over a four year period)
- Reduces maximum 24-hour PM10 baseline emissions by 50%
- Includes annual reports and work plans reviewed by a Scientific Advisory Group that detail specific dust control activities and progress towards SOA goals

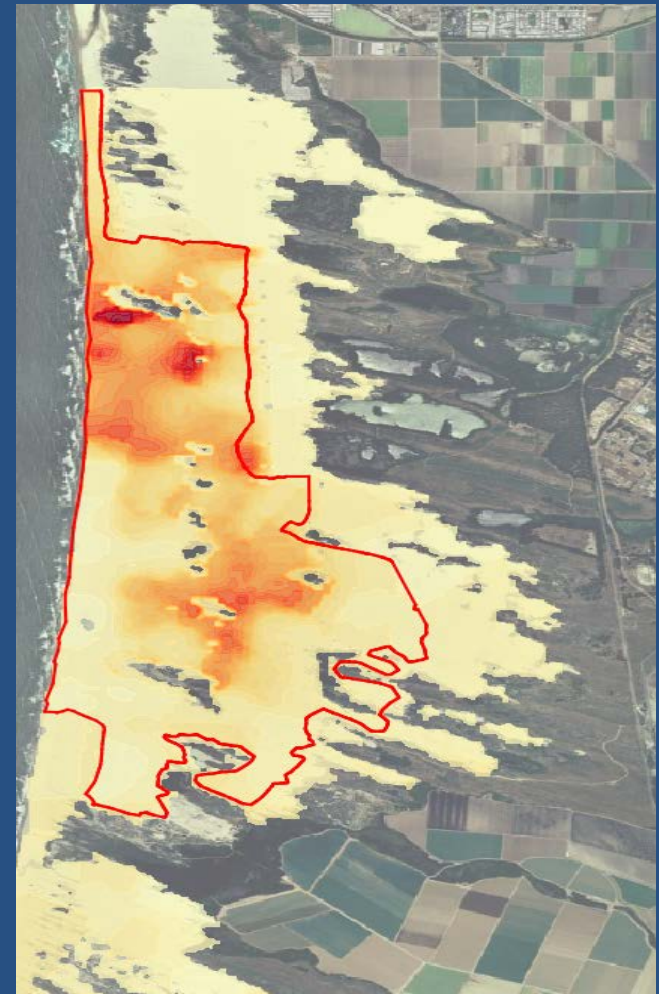


Figure 4-1 from June 2019 PMRP

Project Background - Environmental Review

Previous environmental and other reviews related to the PMRP:

- Dec. 2012 – OHMVR Division issues Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study for Dust Control Project
- Mar. 2013 – SLOAPCD conditionally approves 2013 PMRP
- Feb. 2015 – OHMVR Division issues Revised NOP for Dust Control Project
- Aug. 2016 – OHMVR Division issues Dust Control Program Draft EIR
- Mar. 2017 – OHMVR Division certifies Dust Control Program Final EIR
- Feb. 2018 – California Coastal Commission issues Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for dust control program
- Apr. 2018 – SLOAPCD Hearing Board approves SOA
- June 2019 – SLOAPCD approves final 2019 PMRP
- June 2019 – OHMVR Division issues NOP for an SEIR



Project Overview – What's Changed Since 2017?

2017 Dust Control Program EIR

- Covers 5 years (2017 to 2022)
- Project area approx. 690 acres (stopped at marker post 7)
- 100 acres of vegetation, but no near-shore foredune
- 40 acres of seasonal dust control measures

2019 PMRP EIR

- Covers 4 years (2019 - 2023)
- Project area approx. 1,500 acres or more
- Approx. 133 acres of total vegetation (90 new, additional acres, including an approx. 23-acre near-shore foredune)
- 40 acres of seasonal dust control measures

The PMRP represents the OHMVR Division's latest plan for addressing dust levels, improving air quality, and meeting SOA requirements.



PMRP Description

The June 2019 PMRP is a conceptual planning document. Section 6.3 of the PMRP is the basis for the PMRP EIR and involves:

- Foredune development (approx. 23 acres)
- Planting vegetation to replace wind fencing (approx. 50 acres)
- Restoring back dunes to vegetation cover (approx. 60 acres)
- Continued seasonal dust control efforts (approx. 40 acres)
- Continued trackout control / dust and meteorological monitoring

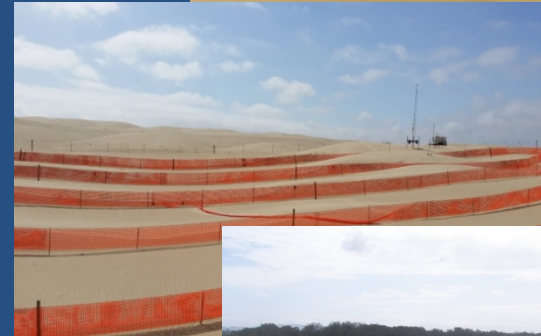
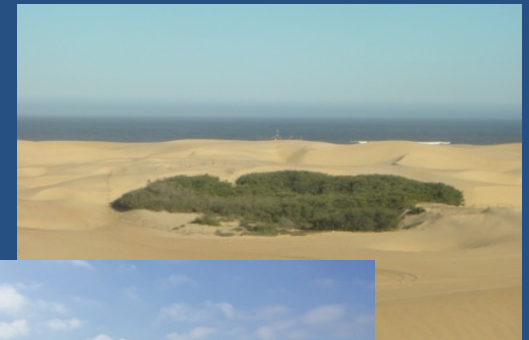


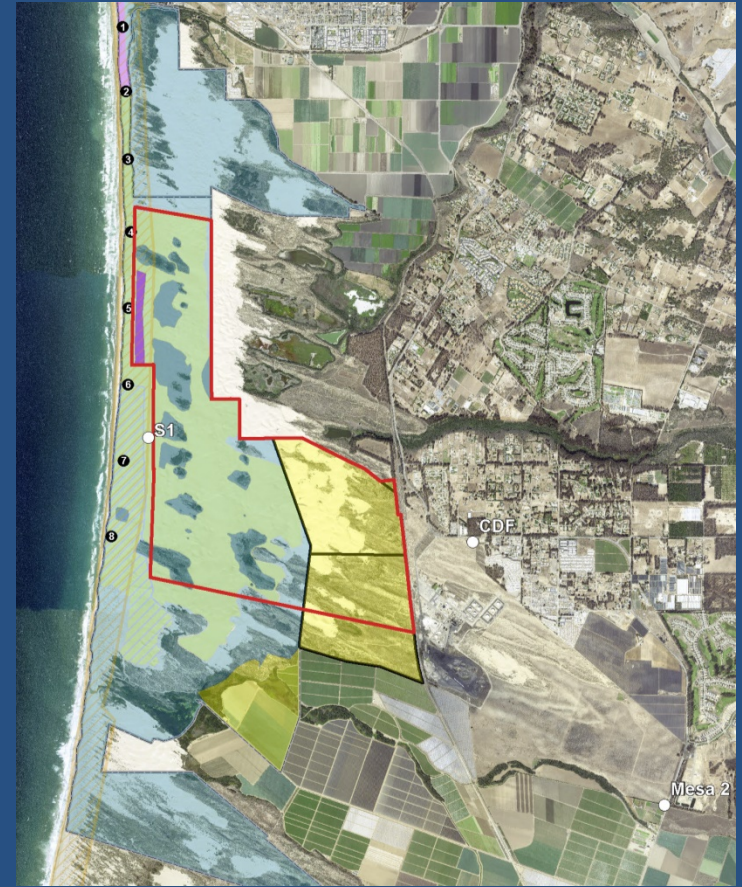
Image Sources: OHMVR Division



PMRP Project Area

Encompasses most of Oceano Dunes SVRA:

- Based on CARB and SAG modeling results
- Large enough to capture projects in a variety of areas
- Also includes Grand / Pier Avenue (Pismo State Beach entrances / exits)
- Entirely within the Coastal Zone (CCC, SLO County, and Grover Beach jurisdiction)



Preliminary EIR Project Area

PMRP Project Area - Environmental Resources

- Ecosystems in or near the project area include open sand and dune scrub fore- and back-dunes
 - Several threatened or endangered plants and animals have been documented at or adjacent to the project area
- Cultural resources are present in the project area
- Resources subject to ongoing conservation programs



Image Sources: OHMVR Division

PMRP - Vegetation

- Develop 23-acre foredune behind tidal zone
- Plant approximately 110 acres of other new vegetation over a four year period
 - Locally, collected native dune vegetation
 - Locations to be determined in coordination with the SAG
 - 50 acres will replace existing wind fencing
 - 60 acres of backdune vegetation possible
 - Net increase from 2017 EIR = 90 acres



Image Sources: Google Earth Pro, OHMVR Division



PMRP - Wind Fencing / Straw Bales

PMRP would continue temporary/seasonal deployment of artificial dust controls (approx. 40 acres per year combined):

- Approx. March thru September
- Certified weed-free straw
- Provides immediate benefit
- Also stops upwind sand blowing into control area
- Material availability – requires 1000's of bales, miles of fencing



Image Sources: OHMVR Division

PMRP- Air Quality and Meteorological Monitoring

PMRP would continue temporary and long-term monitoring activities:

- Meteorological equipment (including SODAR)
- Sand transport equipment
- PM10 equipment
- LIDAR equipment

Monitoring equipment would inform preparation of annual work plans and reports and each years' dust control projects



Image Sources: OHMVR Division



PMRP- Track-Out Prevention

PMRP would continue development of trackout infrastructure:

- Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue
- Physical structures that control vehicle track-out onto public roadways
- Street sweeping

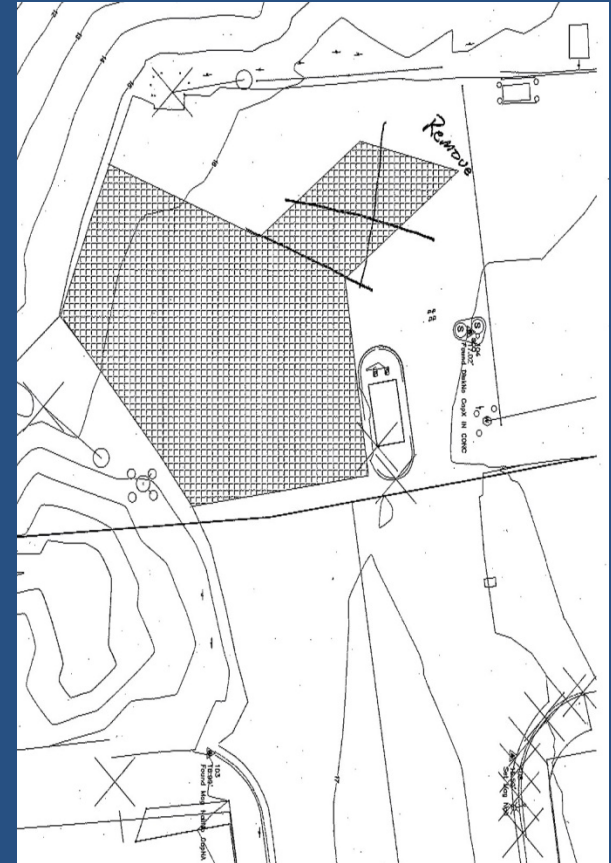
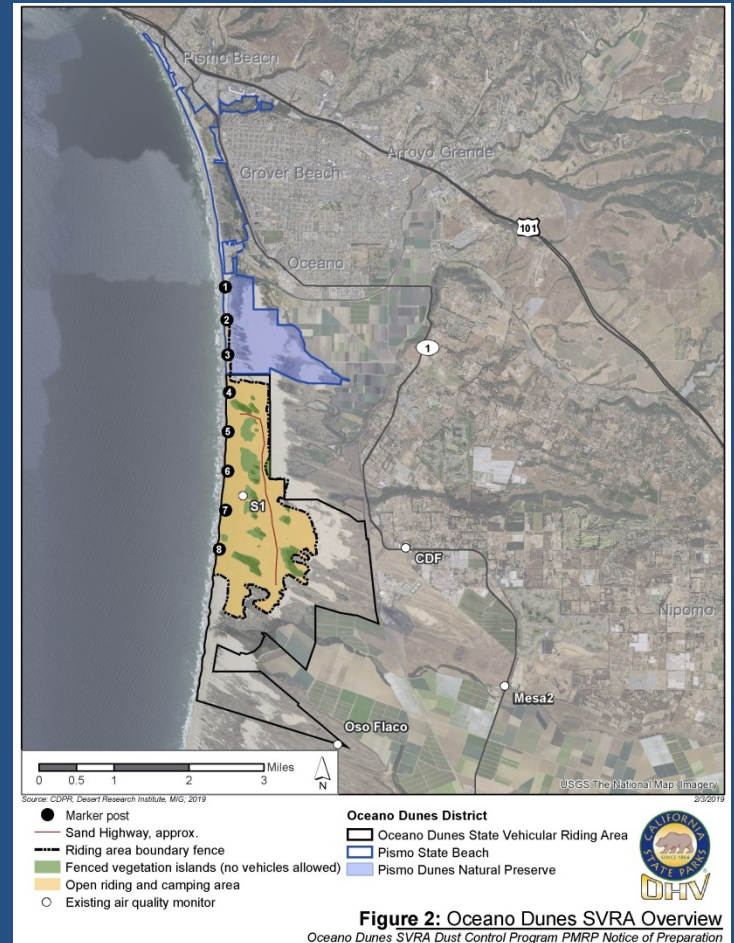


Figure 7-3 from June 2019 PMRP

Dust Control Project – What Is The CEQA Process?

The OHMVR Division has determined a Subsequent EIR should be prepared because the PMRP may involve new or substantially more severe impacts than identified in the 2017 EIR. The SEIR process will involve:

- 1) June 17, 2019 Notice of Preparation
 - 30 day review and comment period
 - Public Scoping Meeting
- 2) Publish a Draft SEIR
 - 45 day review and comment period
- 3) Publish a Final SEIR
 - Responds to comments on Draft SEIR
 - Identifies project revisions
- 4) Certify Final SEIR / Approve Project
- 5) File Notice of Determination



What/ Why Is An SEIR Being Prepared?

A Subsequent EIR is a follow-up document - it is prepared after an EIR has been certified (i.e., the 2017 Dust Control Program EIR).

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, a Subsequent EIR must be prepared when:

- There are substantial changes in a project, or the circumstances under which the project is carried out, which will require major revisions to the previous EIR due to *new significant environmental effects* or a *substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant effect*.

The PMRP EIR involves different activities (e.g., foredune development), in a larger project area, pursuant to a new overall dust control plan.



PMRP – Potential New/More Severe Effects

2017 EIR Impact and Description		Preliminary 2019 PMRP Effect
REC-1: Impact on coastal vehicular recreation (significant and unavoidable)	The Dust Control Program would limit and interfere with coastal vehicular recreation. The EIR estimated up to 70 acres of permanent impact (vegetation) and 43 acres of seasonal impact (e.g., fencing) for a total of 113 acres of OHV recreation impacts at worst-case.	Additional vegetation plantings may be substantially more severe impact. Loss of camping/public access from foredune development may be a new significant impact.
BIO-2: Impacts on special-status species and their habitat (Less than Significant)	The Dust Control Program could result in direct and/or indirect effects on special-status species and their habitat, including western snowy plover. The EIR avoided critical habitat for the western snowy plover.	Planting of foredunes and other dust control actions in critical habitat for snowy plover may be a new significant impact.



What Environmental Issues Will the Draft SEIR Address?

The following issues will be addressed in the Draft SEIR:

- **Aesthetics**
- Agriculture/Forestry Resources
- **Air Quality**
- **Biological Resources**
- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases and Energy
- Hazards / Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- **Land Use and Planning**
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- **Recreation/Public Access**
- Transportation
- Utilities

The PMRP SEIR is on a fast track schedule. Where appropriate, the PMRP SEIR will incorporate by reference information and findings from the 2018 certified EIR.



What Other Topics Will Be Addressed in the Draft SEIR?

The Draft SEIR will also consider:

- A reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The alternatives will be defined based on the SEIR analysis, Parks data, and responses to this scoping effort. A No Project alternative will be included in the analysis of the alternatives considered.
- Cumulative Impacts – two or more individual effects, which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts

The Draft SEIR will identify potential project permits:

- Coastal Development Permit
- Local Encroachment Permit
- Incidental Take Permit



Public Scoping Meeting Comments

Please limit comments to the scope and content of the information in the SEIR. For example:

- The SEIR Project Description should provide information on the location of dust control measures.
- The SEIR Biological Resources impact analysis should consider impacts to western snowy plover.
- The SEIR should consider a specific alternative to the project.

Comments not related to the SEIR do not inform the SEIR process. For example:

- Vehicles do not belong on a beach.
- Housing developments cut down trees and made dust worse.
- The Coastal Commission shouldn't reduce OHV use.



Dust Control Project – Written Comments on NOP

Three ways to make public comments - comments tonight, comments in writing, and comments via email.

Please send written comments to:

- OHMVR Division, Oceano Dunes District
ATTN: Mr. Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
- OHVinfo@parks.ca.gov
(Subject: “Oceano Dunes SVRA PMRP NOP”)

Submit written comments by Wednesday, July 17, 2019



PMRP - Additional Project Information

The June 2019 PMRP is available on the SLOAPCD's website:

- <https://www.slocleanair.org/air-quality/oceano-dunes-efforts.php>

The NOP is available on the Oceano Dunes SVRA "Particulate Matter Information Website":

- http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26918

The Draft SEIR will also be available on the SVRA's "Particulate Matter Information Website"

Thank you!

