



## OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Pismo Beach, CA

December 12, 2014

**STAFF REPORT:** General Plans Update  
**STAFF:** Dan Canfield, Planning Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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### Summary

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

### Discussion

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is generally required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new capital facilities. In 2007, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division performed a review of existing general plans for the SVRAs and determined that six SVRAs needed to initiate or update their general plans. A contractor was secured to prepare some of the general plans. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments.

#### **Ocotillo Wells SVRA:**

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team is using the public and agency feedback on the draft Planning Alternatives to develop a draft Preferred Alternative for the General Plan Update. As part of this process, the General Plan team is consulting closely with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro Field Office. Approximately 21,000 acres of the lands managed as Ocotillo Wells SVRA is owned by

the BLM. A map identifying the lands owned by the BLM at Ocotillo Wells SVRA is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 2).

Through consultation with the BLM El Centro Field Office it has been determined the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan update must also include a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan as amended. This process will include an environmental document compliant with both the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the General Plan update/LUPA will provide the framework for a future transfer of the BLM lands to Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

### **Carnegie SVRA:**

The Carnegie SVRA General Plan team is currently preparing an administrative draft General Plan along with an administrative draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of the draft EIR is to inform decision makers and the public of any significant environmental impacts that may result from General Plan implementation. Once reviewed and edited by OHMVR Division staff and California State Parks legal staff the draft General Plan/EIR will be published for public review and comment.

### **Prairie City SVRA:**

The Prairie City SVRA General Plan team published a revised General Plan Preferred Concept Comment Card on September 30, 2014. During the month of October the Prairie City SVRA General Plan expanded their efforts to inform the public about the revised General Plan Preferred Concept. In addition to email blasts and project website updates, OHMVR Division staff reached out to OHV dealerships in the Sacramento region to spread the word about the revised Preferred Concept and to solicit public feedback. OHMVR Division staff also distributed flyers and comment cards at the Prairie City SVRA entrance kiosk and at the Prairie City SVRA visitor appreciation day event.

The comment period on the revised Preferred Concept ended on October 31, 2014 with Over 400 comments received. Based on the input received on the revised Preferred Concept, the Prairie City SVRA General Plan team is currently producing a preliminary draft General Plan and draft Environmental Impact Report.

### **Commission Action**

For information only.

### **Attachments**

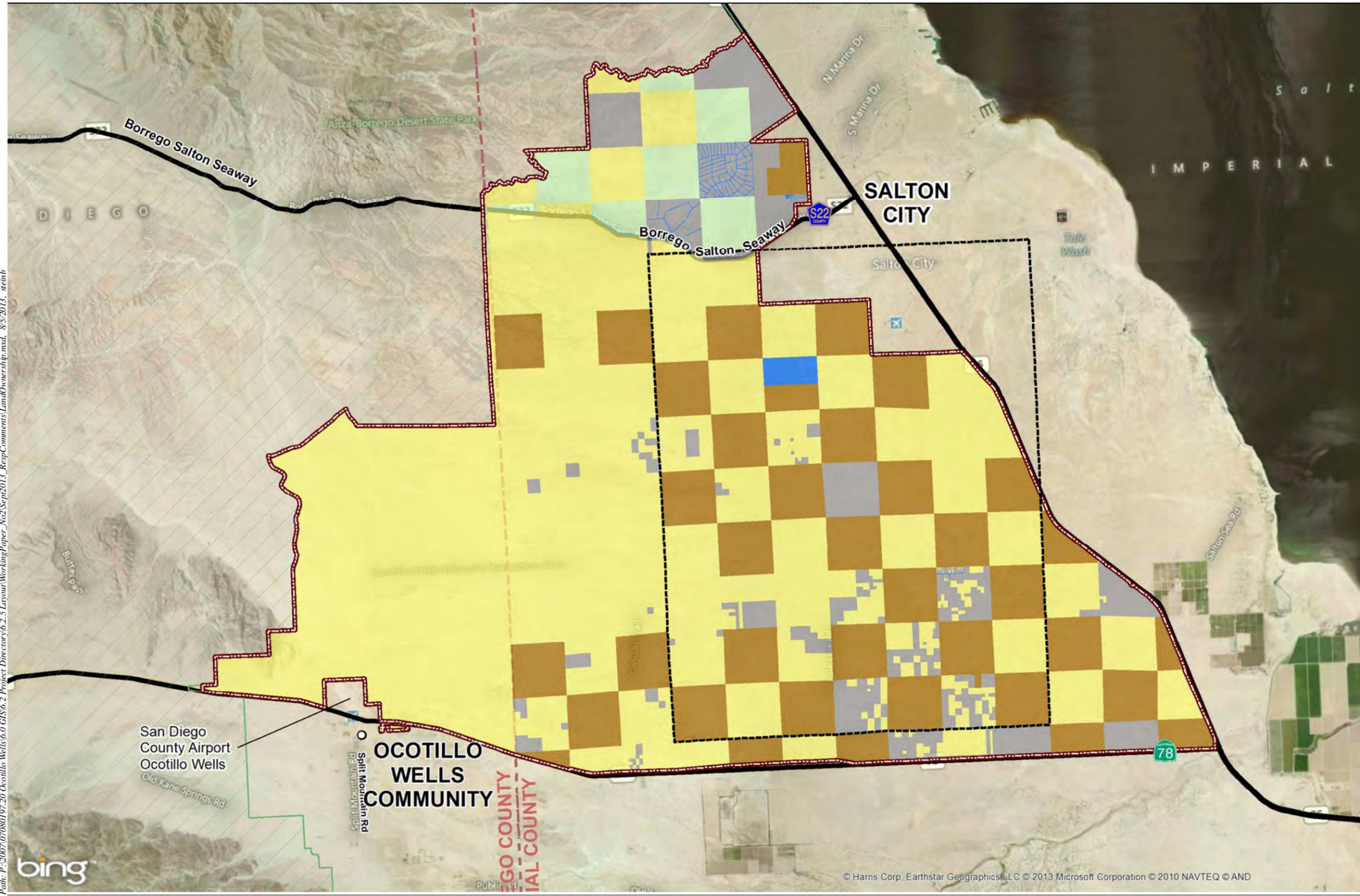
Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – December 2014

Attachment 2: Ocotillo Wells SVRA Land Ownership

## OHMVR DIVISION

### State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update December 2014

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	GP Status & Updates in Progress
Carnegie SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress. Draft General Plan/EIR tentatively scheduled to be published in fall 2014.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012.
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011.
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	-
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981	-	GP update pending, including new and proposed acquisitions.
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	-
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981	-	GP update underway including newly acquired properties. Planning Alternatives online workshop conducted on project website through March 10, 2014.
Prairie City SVRA	1991	-	GP update underway. Revised Draft Preferred Concept online workshop conducted on project website through October 31, 2014.



**Legend**

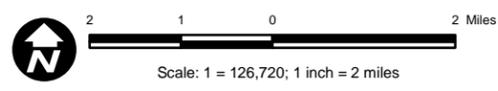
- Ocotillo Wells SVRA Study Area Boundary
- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
- County Boundary
- Truckhaven Geothermal Leasing Area

**Ownership**

- BLM
- CA Parks & Recreation
- County
- State Lands
- Private
- Highways and Freeways

**Note/Disclaimer:**  
 All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the data and information on this map; however, some information may not be accurate. California Department of Parks and Recreation and AECOM assumes no responsibility from use of this information.

Path: P:\2007\07080197.20 Ocotillo Wells\6.0 GIS\6.2 Project Directory\6.2.5 Layout\Working Paper\_No2\_Sep2013\_RespComments\LandOwnership.mxd, 8/5/2013, acinb  
 Source: California Department of Parks and Recreation 2009, 2010; SanGIS 2010; Imperial County 2009; ESRI 2009



**Figure 5**

**Land Ownership**