

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING TRANSCRIPT - UNAPPROVED

February 28, 2014
8:59 a.m. to 5:23 p.m.

The Lodge at Blue Lakes
5135 West Highway 20
Upper Lake, CA 95485

IN ATTENDANCE:

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Paul Slavik, Chair	Diana Pérez, Vice Chair
Ted Cabral	Breene Kerr
Kevin Murphy	Edward Patrovsky
M. Teresa Villegas	

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS Absent: None

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF:

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

1 AGENDA ITEM I - CALL TO ORDER at 8:59 a.m.

2 AGENDA ITEM I(A) - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3 Commissioner Kerr led the meeting attendees in the
4 Pledge of Allegiance.

5 AGENDA ITEM I(B) - ROLL CALL

6 All Commissioners present.

7 AGENDA ITEM II - APPROVAL OF AGENDA

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a motion to approved.

9 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Move to approve.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: Second.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Vote.

12 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Agenda is approved.

14 AGENDA ITEM III - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: And approval of the minutes of
16 the November 16, 2013 meeting. Motion please.

17 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: I move to approve.

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'll second.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor, aye.

20 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: So it's unanimous.

22 First of all, I'd like to welcome all of you
23 folks here, cold and rainy day. I'm from Southern
24 California, and it's a big difference for me to be
25 walking around in the rain for three days, but

1 absolutely welcome it.

2 **AGENDA ITEM IV (A) - COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'd like to start off with the
4 Commissioners' reports. I think I'll start off
5 initially, and then we will just maybe -- let's end
6 with Commissioner Kerr. He has something to say. This
7 may be his last meeting. So we'll start with Kevin and
8 work our way down.

9 I had actually a pretty busy January and
10 February from a Commissioner's perspective. Started
11 off December 10th I was invited to Hollister by Jeff
12 Gaffney, District Superintendent there, to meet with
13 Ernest Chung, who is the Parks and Rec Commissioner for
14 the State of California. This was a precedent-setting
15 situation, folks. This is the first time in my memory
16 that a Commissioner from the Parks and Rec Commission
17 actually went to a state park and met with other
18 commissioners.

19 So Commissioner Murphy and myself met with him
20 with staff, and I would say it was a very eye-opening
21 discussion about the beauty and the sophistication of
22 State Parks care of the land at Hollister. It really
23 opened his eyes, I believe.

24 So followed up with that, he invited me to a
25 meeting of his commission in Sacramento. So

1 January 24th, I attended Parks and Recreation
2 Commission meeting and was welcomed there as a person
3 of equal stature of the rest of the commissioners.
4 Once again, from my perspective, this was a
5 groundbreaking thing.

6 That meeting talked about various issues, but
7 what was near and dear to all of our hearts here as
8 Commissioners was urban parks. So we had kind of a
9 dialogue there, which I will talk about in a minutes to
10 kind of -- it's going to continue on.

11 I want to thank staff, Tina Williams -- where
12 are you, Tina? I want to thank Tina because I had
13 about six hours to kill after that meeting, and she
14 took me around Sacramento. And if anybody hasn't been
15 to the Railroad Museum there, it's absolutely an
16 amazing place, just beautiful. And actually I'm a
17 third-generation Southern Pacific guy, so it was
18 especially meaningful to me because actually my
19 grandfather worked in those shops, so it was kind of
20 cool.

21 February 8, I attended an El Mirage ATV Safety
22 Training Course grand opening. At El Mirage, which is
23 about an hour and a half from L.A., there is a
24 24,000-acre BLM site there. That's what I would
25 consider pretty close to an urban park itself. They

1 dedicated 54 acres specifically to an ATV and safety
2 training course. So they fenced it in. They have tot
3 tracks. They have a pretty extensive course. You can
4 imagine for 54 acres, they're able to do quite a bit,
5 so it's pretty cool. And Chief Jenkins was there as
6 well as some other staff folks. That was pretty good.

7 February 10th, I attended an urban park outreach
8 meeting at the Hungry Valley CCC dormitory up in Hungry
9 Valley. This was a meeting that was kind of an
10 outgrowth of the first meeting with Ernest Chung. So
11 we continued that dialogue, and Commissioner Villegas
12 and myself attended this meeting with two other of
13 their commissioners, and a whole slew -- and I'm just
14 going to run down the list of the people here because I
15 think we got a lot of the right people in the room at
16 the same time to talk about working on urban parks.
17 Chris and his staff were there, and I have to thank
18 staff absolutely for the wonderful job they did at
19 putting together this meeting. Also was L.A. County
20 Parks director and two of his deputies, an L.A. County
21 Sheriff's captain and several of his park rangers, two
22 Parks and Recreation Commissioners from L.A. County --
23 they were from the L.A. area, but Parks and Recreation
24 Commissioners, and the director of the Institute of
25 Community Health and Well-Being at Cal State

1 Northridge, which is a really good connection talking
2 about working within the community with kids.

3 There was also the executive director of the
4 National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council. He
5 was there, and he was kind of the impetus for this
6 whole thing coming together in one place. He was from
7 Montana. He was going to be in Southern California.
8 We kind of put this meeting together around his
9 schedule. Nick was there from AMA and then Teresa and
10 myself.

11 And the outcome of that meeting is that we have
12 put together a small working group of these folks.
13 We're going to meet on March 10th and continue this
14 dialogue, and what I'm hoping to do is find a place in
15 L.A. County that we can actually do an off-highway
16 vehicle recreation training type of thing, get kids off
17 the street and get them involved in all kinds of
18 aspects of the outdoors in their backyard. So that's
19 kind of the initial goal for this thing.

20 I'm sure Teresa will have more to talk about as
21 we go along because she's going to be involved in it.
22 She's right in L.A. in the political mainstream of L.A.
23 and heavily involved in that kind of stuff.

24 And, once again, I want to thank Kent Miller and
25 his staff for putting it together. After the meeting,

1 which was about a three-hour meeting, we went out on a
2 tour of Hungry Valley, and there were many people on
3 that tour that had never been to Hungry Valley, never
4 been to an OHV park before, and their eyes were totally
5 opened up with that tour.

6 Then I attended February 12th a Parks Forward
7 meeting in L.A., and that was an interesting situation
8 itself. I got two minutes to talk. I was over there
9 talking to those folks, pretty high-level group of
10 people. If any of you haven't been to one of those
11 Parks Forward meetings, you can kind of put your two
12 cents in for off-highway vehicle recreation. It's a
13 good opportunity to do that.

14 And then, lastly, I would say that I would thank
15 the BLM. On Wednesday, I came down here and together
16 with Ted Cabral and myself and BLM and Becky from the
17 Forest Service, we drove around for four hours around
18 Cow Mountain, great experience. And then thanks again
19 to the Forest Service for the next day for the
20 wonderful tour we had in spite of the rain and
21 everything.

22 So that concludes my report. More than I've had
23 to say for a long time.

24 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Commissioner Slavik, thank
25 you. If I may, before we continue with the rest of the

1 Commissioners' reports, if it's okay with everyone,
2 Supervisor Carre Brown from Mendocino County Board of
3 Supervisors would like to say a few words, if that's
4 okay with everyone.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Absolutely. We had a discussion
6 on that, and I got carried away.

7 SUPERVISOR BROWN: Hello, everyone. It's
8 certainly nice to have you all here. I want to welcome
9 you not only to Lake County but also to Mendocino
10 County. This lake is where I spent my summers as a
11 youth, and this particular region has always been very
12 important to me.

13 The work that you do -- I ran all your bios off
14 the website, very impressive backgrounds. And the work
15 that you do is important, and hearing you talk about
16 the L.A. area, city children in urban areas do not get
17 the opportunities that our children around here have
18 had growing up.

19 Also, I would like to tell you Cow Mountain -- I
20 don't know which side you went on, but that's in my
21 district as well.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: South side.

23 SUPERVISOR BROWN: Was it the south side? Okay.
24 As well as part of the Mendocino National Forest.

25 So I want you to come to Mendocino County, too.

1 We have a lot of beautiful urban kind of forest areas
2 that turn very rugged. We're a long geographic county,
3 and we have Jackson State Forest. Maybe you heard,
4 maybe you didn't, that the rugged Mendocino coast has
5 been named the third top place in the world in 2014 to
6 visit, and that was by the New York Times.

7 So sure would like to welcome you back to get
8 some more opportunities to see this part of the state,
9 the region where we live, and thank you very much for
10 being here.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Wonderful place.

12 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: For my report, in November
13 I completed my Senate interview for confirmation.
14 Still waiting to hear about that. I toured Metcalf
15 with Deputy Director Conlin and Commissioner Kerr and
16 Jeff Gaffney, and I also did an interview with Amy
17 Granat for CORVA.

18 In December, I toured Hollister Hills with Paul
19 Slavik and Ernest Chung. That was a very productive
20 meeting. I thought a lot was accomplished there. It
21 was nice to bridge some gaps there and tried to bring
22 Parks together all the way around. I thought that was
23 a very productive meeting.

24 I also met with Hollister Hills staff to assist
25 them in planning for a trials area that they're going

1 to be opening there.

2 And in January I spoke at a Timekeepers meeting
3 and did a little question and answer for them. So a
4 fair amount. Thank you. That's it.

5 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Good morning, I will
6 start with the December meeting. I testified also
7 before California Parks Forward dealing with urban
8 parks and their need to create more infrastructure
9 buildings within the Department on urban parks, not
10 just for State Parks but also for off-highway vehicles.

11 I also met with Assemblymember Rendon on the
12 possibility of introducing legislation for urban parks,
13 which has been done I think in February, earlier this
14 month. And so we will be working on tracking that
15 legislation.

16 And, lastly, I also attended the meeting that
17 Paul alluded to earlier in February dealing with urban
18 parks and our L.A. County Parks and Recreation Division
19 at Hungry Valley and gave them a tour.

20 Our whole premise on dealing with urban parks is
21 really to capture a lot of folks who aren't able to go
22 to our parks and also be able to capture youth to be
23 able to invite them to our national resources. As a
24 Commissioner who doesn't frequent OHV parks, I find
25 that our parks are large and vast. And although we

1 have maybe 1500 acres in a park, maybe 10 percent of
2 that is for off-highway vehicle use, and the rest is
3 for natural resources and doing best management
4 practices on a lot of the land. And I really want to
5 highlight that to those folks that don't get the
6 opportunity to go to these parks. So I want to do
7 that.

8 And also in the sense of when I talk about
9 building infrastructure, that's building infrastructure
10 within the Department of State Parks to be able to also
11 bring more resources and knowledge to the folks that
12 are actually using the parks for -- so we can have more
13 data, more description, more demographics, things of
14 that sort, things that are maybe not captured by our
15 Green Sticker program, but to have institutional
16 wherewithal that the Department is actually capturing
17 the type of users that we have. So that's it.

18 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: I also attended a Parks
19 Forward meeting, and I agree with you, I think it was
20 very informative and enlightening to hear the comments
21 and some of the questions that were asked, so I did
22 that.

23 I also followed up with the newly-appointed
24 supervisor from San Luis Obispo, Caren Ray, who we
25 provided a tour of Oceano, and then I did follow up

1 with her in a subsequent meeting just to further
2 discuss some of the concerns that I had. And I
3 continue to be involved with Oceano Dunes, given the
4 proximity to where I live, involved in that.

5 And recently the Governor has appointed a new
6 California Coastal Commissioner, and that commissioner
7 is actually from our area, from Pismo Beach. So I look
8 forward to scheduling a meeting and meeting with him at
9 some point.

10 And I know what I'm looking forward to is maybe
11 this year if possible scheduling some additional tours
12 that I'd like to even do on my own, if it's possible,
13 to follow up with some of the trips that I did a year
14 ago of some of the State Parks. I'm interested in
15 doing that this year, doing some follow-up work. Thank
16 you.

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: This is kind of my home
18 area, being up here in Northern California. And it's
19 really nice to see everyone up here. We had a couple
20 of tours and things, and I just want to say thank you,
21 first off, before I get into my report for all of the
22 effort put in by different agencies and staff and such
23 to be able to make this happen.

24 As far as the efforts I've been making since the
25 last meeting, I met with General Jackson, Director of

1 State Parks. You know, it's very refreshing to have
2 such an open-door policy and a person that I believe is
3 in firm command of the State Parks situation and is
4 open and positive when it comes to OHV, the OHV
5 program.

6 We discussed the Johnson Valley situation, and
7 we also discussed the future of the OHV program. So I
8 think it was very well. He introduced me to some staff
9 there, and he basically made it clear to me that he
10 supports the program 100 percent, and that the doors
11 are open, and I can have access to him whenever I felt
12 I needed access to him.

13 I also decided to jump into the Johnson Valley
14 process as it was moving along. Congressman Cook's
15 office had a wonderful representative that Deputy
16 Director Conlin gave me some contact information for,
17 Dawn Row. She worked very hard on the bill to be able
18 to get the area protected as far as the BLM property in
19 the future and not be able to be switched in to other
20 use. I worked with her on that process.

21 And I also contacted Senator Dianne Feinstein's
22 office and worked with Jennifer Duck, gave them a
23 letter expressing my views on the Johnson Valley
24 situation and also discussed the possibilities as we
25 move forward with protecting other OHV areas in

1 California maybe in conjunction with some of the
2 wilderness protection things that Senator Feinstein
3 wishes to move forward. And so they would like to be
4 able to have me in the negotiations as that moves
5 forward.

6 From there, let's see, another issue, California
7 Air Resources Board, have been to a couple of different
8 meetings with the Air Resources Board regarding the Red
9 Sticker motorcycles and ATVs. The Red Sticker Program,
10 it looks like it's going to be changed slightly. They
11 are asking for public input. They're also going to be
12 testing -- I believe it's 18 new vehicles. And the
13 feeling --

14 Well, first off, the staff of the Air Resources
15 Board has been very engaged with the OHV Division, and
16 they have been very open to listening to public comment
17 and getting the input from the enthusiasts and such.
18 The one area I'm extremely disappointed in has been the
19 manufacturers' response through the Motorcycle Industry
20 Council.

21 Now, the manufacturers haven't spoke for
22 themselves, so maybe it's not their message. But the
23 Motorcycle Industry Council has basically said that we
24 are not going -- that the manufacturers will not sell
25 the Red Stickers or race vehicles in California if

1 these regulations moved forward. And I told her that
2 wasn't an option is basically that was my opinion.

3 With that, the staff of the Air Resources Board,
4 I asked them to contact the California Motorcycle
5 Dealers Association because that association would
6 be an association that would be very much against the
7 manufacturers just outright withdrawing their product
8 from this market. So that will put some pressure on
9 the manufacturers.

10 So I just kind of want it in the public minutes
11 or whatever here that I would like to see the
12 manufacturers participate 100 percent in this process.
13 Because the general feeling is that the new racing
14 vehicles with the fuel injection systems that they have
15 could pass the Red Sticker -- I mean the Green Sticker
16 standards and then we wouldn't even need to have a Red
17 Sticker. They're testing vehicles to verify that, but
18 those fuel injection systems are very efficient and
19 would just take a couple of more modifications to make
20 the latest Green Sticker standards. There also was a
21 survey that come out with that process, and I was able
22 to have a hand in on designing that survey.

23 Forest Service, I've been going to a couple of
24 different Forest Service meetings. There was a
25 dialogue that was on the subject of fire, which that

1 issue has come -- we had to deal with it in the OHV
2 community over in the Grindstone Ranger District of the
3 Mendocino National Forest, the Stonyford Riding Area,
4 and I know Don Amador out in the crowd has done a lot
5 of work in the volunteerism to be able to get that
6 moving forward again. That was acknowledged at that
7 meeting. Volunteerism is a very important thing that
8 has come up in these Forest Service dialogues and also
9 public input. So if you have the opportunity, I would
10 suggest to go to them.

11 I also have been discussing the future planning
12 documents with the Forest Service, the NEPA change
13 document and also putting the OHV perspective in play
14 there, discussed the connectivity that would be
15 necessary if we were able to move forward with the
16 Statewide Motorized Trail. And there was support for
17 that, and there's going to be language put into the
18 planning documents to support that type of
19 connectivity.

20 From there, the Governor's office has contacted
21 me on a couple of issues. One of them was they want to
22 have a little better communications between myself and
23 them, so they kind of wanted to have -- some of the
24 issues and things that were coming up, to be aware of
25 them. So I've committed to doing that.

1 I also want the people to know that the
2 Governor's Office supports the OHV program. They think
3 the OHV program is a quality program, and that it's
4 something that is operating properly. It is very
5 beneficial to our state and to the enthusiasts that
6 ride the off-highway vehicles.

7 Last thing would be -- last couple of things is
8 also with Paul Slavik, we went on the tour of Cow
9 Mountain. I would like to say, Rich and Trent, that
10 was a real nice tour that you guys did. I know this is
11 your region up here. Once again, being from the area,
12 I appreciate any improvement and stuff put into that
13 area.

14 Trent, the plan you kind of went over with us
15 was perfect. I really loved it. It encompassed both
16 motorcycle and ATV recreation, but also was very
17 mindful of four-wheel drives, and I think it was very
18 well-rounded, and I think it was environmentally
19 friendly, too. So I really appreciate what you're
20 doing, and I hope to see it move forward.

21 Forest Service, Mendocino National Forest is one
22 of my favorite places to recreate in, and it's really
23 cool to see over the years how everything has changed.
24 Yes, we have lost some spots up there, some trails over
25 the years. But other things -- like an example we saw

1 on the tour was the Penny Pines Campground. That was
2 kind of user created, and then the Forest Service
3 jumped in and backed it and made it into a real
4 campground, hardened it, put in toilets, did a lot of
5 nice things. And that's really responding to
6 community, and I think that's important.

7 I spoke to the situation at Crabtree Hot Springs
8 with the access on the OHV corridor. I believe that's
9 extremely important because the OHV corridor is
10 everything from access to fires, for emergency
11 medical-type situations if someone was hurt out there,
12 but also just for the obvious recreation to go back and
13 forth between the two ranger districts because there's
14 premium OHV experiences on the fringes of each part of
15 the ranger districts.

16 And then lastly, I guess they thought I was
17 doing a pretty good job over there in the Governor's
18 Office. They put me on a short-term appointment to
19 begin with. I guess they wanted to see what I was made
20 of. So I got reappointed as of the 15th of January, I
21 believe it is, and I will be through January 15th, 2018
22 is my appointment. So I really thank the Governor's
23 Office for believing in me. I will do the best I can
24 to make sure that this is a quality program here in the
25 State of California. So thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Good morning,
2 everybody. It's a pleasure being here the short time
3 that I've been here. I had some travel problems at the
4 airport yesterday and ended up getting up here late and
5 missed most of the tour, but appreciated the part that
6 I was able to attend. And it's a beautiful place up
7 here. I haven't been up in this part of the state in
8 about 25 years, so it's a pleasure to be up here again.

9 During the last couple of months since the last
10 meeting, I've been pretty busy. On the 16th of
11 December, I attended the U.S. Forest Service public
12 meeting in the town of Phelan. This involves a Forest
13 Service OHV plan for an area called Baldy Mesa, which
14 is a small wedge-shaped portion of the San Bernardino
15 National Forest that's west of Cajon Pass, for those of
16 you that are familiar with I-15 going in between L.A.
17 and Las Vegas.

18 This area has been neglected pretty much for
19 years. It's needed attention. The Forest Service has
20 come up with a plan for designated routes to replace
21 the pretty much uncontrolled use. For whatever reason,
22 many of the locals think that there wasn't a lot of
23 local input into the plan, and it raised a lot of
24 objections. And the plan has been appealed, and the
25 public hearing, which was attended by about 100 people,

1 didn't go particularly well. The follow-up, which I'll
2 talk about later, went much better.

3 But on the 9th of January, I accompanied several
4 BLM officials, including the District Manager of the
5 California Desert District, on a tour of Wonder Valley,
6 which is east of Twentynine Palms, to look at some of
7 the OHV issues out there firsthand. It was
8 interesting, got to see a lot of places I hadn't seen
9 before and talk about some of the issues.

10 On the 5th of February, I was a guest at the
11 King of the Hammers. I want to thank Tina Williams and
12 Brian Robertson for showing me around. I got to see
13 firsthand a well-managed event. I'm very happy, thanks
14 largely to Congressman Cook's office, that this event
15 will continue and that much of Johnson Valley will
16 continue to be open for OHV use.

17 As Ted mentioned, I was very concerned about the
18 proposed transfer. And while I would have liked to
19 have seen some differences in the compromise that was
20 eventually worked out, like most compromises, nobody
21 got everything that they wanted, but it seems like
22 everybody got something that was acceptable. So I
23 think we can work with what we have.

24 On the 11th of February, I testified in federal
25 court in a mitigation hearing regarding the West Mojave

1 Plan. For those of you that don't know what the West
2 Mojave Plan is, it's also called WEMO. It's a travel
3 management plan largely regarding off-highway vehicles
4 for areas that are covered mostly by the Barstow and
5 the Ridgecrest Field Offices. There have been some
6 problems with on-and-off route use in some of the
7 limited-use areas that led to a successful
8 environmental lawsuit several years ago. And since
9 then, there has been a succession of mitigation
10 hearings.

11 And right now the situation is before a federal
12 magistrate, who has seen some of the areas that are
13 involved. Probably the hottest point is Juniper Flats
14 area, which is about 10 miles south of Apple Valley,
15 where I live in the high desert. And the area has had
16 a lot of problems with the designated routes -- the
17 designated route system hasn't been followed. The area
18 has become something of a de facto open area. This has
19 led to some user conflicts with the equestrians and
20 hikers and others. And the magistrate has seen the
21 area. He's unusually well-informed. We don't know
22 what's going to come out of the mitigation hearings.

23 I did attend a meeting -- actually, on the 19th
24 of February, I attended two meetings. First was an
25 open house regarding the Baldy Mesa Forest Service OHV

1 plan that I talked about earlier. Unlike the public
2 hearing, this open house was held -- the Forest Service
3 did more of an open house kind of thing with displays
4 and different tables, people to talk to, different
5 forest officials. And the attitude of the Forest
6 Service officials seemed to be much more open, also the
7 opponents of the project. There was a lot of
8 discussion going back and forth.

9 It was a much more productive meeting than the
10 public hearing was. And some of the issues -- some of
11 the objections of the opponents of the projects seemed
12 to be addressed; whereas, after the Phelan hearing, it
13 looked like this thing was probably heading for court.
14 I see some real opportunities for resolution to
15 alleviate some of the locals' concerns. And also, too,
16 I think that the Forest's efforts in the area are
17 needed, the area needs attention. And the intention of
18 the Forest Service is to apply for an OHV grant to
19 manage the area.

20 And I got a lot of questions during the open
21 house about how the grant process works, which I'm
22 still on the education phase myself after being on the
23 Commission for about a year. And so I was able to
24 bring some of the opponents of the project together
25 with the grant staff successfully, so there's been a

1 lot of back and forth going on since then. And I think
2 some kind of resolution that's going to be acceptable
3 to both the OHV community and the opponents of the
4 project is going to be possible in this case.

5 That same evening I went to a BLM open house
6 later on regarding an OHV grant, restoration grant that
7 BLM and the Friends of Juniper Flats, which is an
8 environmental group, are working together for Juniper
9 Flats. This is something that I think will help
10 mitigate some of the problems up there.

11 There are also problems with inadequate law
12 enforcement of the route designations, and at least the
13 BLM and some of the groups that have concerns are
14 talking with each other and starting to work on some of
15 the problems. And I have some hope there that we can
16 get some resolution and won't have to deal with another
17 closure.

18 So that's all I have.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: Okay. Well, great, we've
21 got a very active group of Commissioners here, as you
22 can see.

23 And I'd like to first of all thank the folks
24 here in Upper Lake and the surrounding areas, the two
25 counties, for hosting us, and I did get a chance to get

1 up into the park quite a bit yesterday afternoon after
2 the official tour, and I've been here once before. But
3 I will say that I was very impressed with the size and
4 the scope of the breadth of the various outdoor
5 experiences that can be had up in the Mendocino and
6 came away feeling that this is really one of the crown
7 jewels of our system and hoping that we can put more
8 resources into further developing it.

9 It's certainly got a lot of potential, and I
10 think if our Grants Program is properly utilized by the
11 various agencies here that you could certainly have a
12 great impact on the local economy. It's not a very
13 well-known area, but I'll do my best to let people know
14 in the Bay Area.

15 We discussed the trip we took to Metcalf, and I
16 believe that is very much on point to the Urban Parks
17 Initiative, which we're going to talk about later in
18 the program. But just to remind everybody that that
19 facility is within -- it's less than an hour's drive
20 from 5 million people. And as I look on the list of
21 various municipalities around the state, the number
22 two, San Francisco/Oakland, and I believe it's number
23 six or seven, San Jose, are both adjacent to Metcalf,
24 and I think that it deserves more support, and I'd like
25 to see that expanded as part of this Urban Parks

1 Initiative in addition to working on the L.A. area.

2 I wanted to also thank everyone that took care
3 of us down at the Hammers. I think that's another
4 event that deserves a lot of support by the Commission,
5 and there was certainly a lot of support this year in
6 the area of law enforcement.

7 But as a sort of piece of go-forward advice for
8 the Commission, I think there are certain priority
9 areas and opportunities that should be focused on, and
10 that's certainly one of them. I think that has
11 potential to eventually become an event on the order
12 of, let's say, the Baha or the Prairie City car rally
13 if it's properly nurtured and continued.

14 I wanted to say a few things about my experience
15 on the Commission since as soon as we can get another
16 member appointed, I am going to be retiring from the
17 Commission. I'm leaving with a lot of wonderful
18 memories, including riding through the Hammers with
19 John Kerry and his friends in their quarter million
20 dollar rock crawlers. Let's see, shooting the little
21 Sluice Box up on the Rubicon is something I'll never
22 forget. Listening to Don Amador's booming voice
23 yesterday as we toured the Mendocino certainly sticks
24 in my mind. And, of course, the Hangtown Motocross is
25 something that I recommend everybody attend if you

1 haven't been there before. And, lastly, I got quite an
2 education on geology from Will as we talked about the
3 various aspects of Clear Creek.

4 And I wanted to give the Commission just a
5 little bit of advice on my way out the door. One is
6 don't pick a fight with the EPA. And also one of the
7 things that I've seen here, by the way, locally is
8 don't pick a fight with your local water district. And
9 I was very impressed with the apparent cooperation
10 within the Forest Service as they seek to improve of
11 the situation in the Middle Creek sort of -- all of the
12 drainage in the Middle Creek. They're really doing a
13 great job of keeping the sediment out of the creek, and
14 that, really, you don't want to get on the wrong side
15 of your local water district. And it looks like
16 everybody up here is really cooperating. It's nice to
17 see that as opposed to what we see in some of the other
18 areas of the state.

19 I hope that the Commission will continue to
20 prioritize those iconic areas such as Hollister Hills,
21 the Hangtown Motocross, the Hammers, I think this area
22 deserves to be prioritized and developed further, and,
23 of course, the urban parks that we hope to have more on
24 the front burner.

25 But you know we can't do everything. We've only

1 got \$65, \$70 million, and I encourage you to
2 concentrate on those real iconic areas that we will
3 really have a hard time explaining to our grandchildren
4 why they aren't open for them.

5 I only leave here with a couple of regrets. One
6 is I'm sorry I wasn't able to do more to help during
7 the budget crisis. We certainly all worked very hard,
8 testified before the Legislature, and I'm just glad
9 that things have worked out the way they have, and
10 we've been able to continue the Grants Program. And
11 I'm sorry we were unable to push through the license
12 plate program, but maybe someone else would be able to
13 take that up in the future.

14 And, lastly, I just want to thank the staff and
15 everyone all the way down the line. You're always very
16 gracious when we come to the parks, whether we're for a
17 meeting or not, particularly Vicki, who I don't know
18 how she does it all, but she's always there when we
19 need her.

20 So thank you very much for the opportunity.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

22 **AGENDA ITEM IV (B) - COMMITTEE REPORTS**

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: So next item on the agenda is
24 committee reports. Do we have any committee reports?
25 Having none, we will move on. I think everybody kind

1 of spoke their piece, and we're going to talk more
2 about committees later on.

3 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I've been in e-mail
4 contact with Larry Smith from the ARRA in
5 Washington, D.C., and he just gave me an update on the
6 Clear Creek Management Area with HR 1776. He said that
7 that needs to go before a hearing before it can go
8 before I think the House for a vote. So it's inching
9 its way through the processes that it needs to go
10 through. So there is something going on, just so
11 everybody knows.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Before we go on to
13 the next Business Item, I would like to say something
14 about the Parks Forward Initiative. Three of the
15 Commissioners here have attended those Commission
16 meetings, and I'd have to say I'd like to ask staff to
17 take a look at the last meeting that they had in
18 Los Angeles and the reports that were given by those
19 commissioners to the public. There is significant, I
20 think, information there that can benefit us in the
21 long-term.

22 One of the reports by one of the executives of
23 Sutter Health was about the tie-in with health and
24 outdoor recreation and how much money we spend as a
25 population on health when, in fact, if the people were

1 outdoors, you know, we would spend a lot less money.
2 And I think I tried to bring up a point to them that
3 our community, our off-highway vehicle community, we're
4 not passive recreationists. We're out there doing
5 things, and we should get more -- I think not notoriety
6 but more credit is a good word for that.

7 And the other one is -- there are three
8 Commissioner reports. The other one that I thought was
9 interesting was the changing demographics of the people
10 that are now looking at outdoor recreation. And, in
11 fact, with the Latino community getting more and more
12 part of the overall mix in California, a lot of those
13 folks, to them outdoor recreation is a picnic in the
14 park. They have no concept of the backwoods
15 experience. And if they continue with that without an
16 education process, it brings them more into a back
17 country relationship, we're going to lose that advocacy
18 when it comes to the voting situation when it comes to
19 the budget time. They're absolutely critical to be
20 brought into the mix of the people that understand and
21 appreciate outdoor recreation in California. I just
22 wanted --

23 I don't know if anybody had any other comments
24 about the Parks Forward Initiative.

25 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: You know, both of those

1 reports were a long time coming, so I'm glad that they
2 were able to be presented. Unfortunately, I just
3 wasn't able to attend, but I'm glad that Paul was able
4 to speak on behalf of the OHV Commission.

5 I think it's important that when these reports
6 are done, it's not just about recreation parks that we
7 see at the redwoods along the coasts, but it's also
8 about our OHV parks, and have our information included
9 in those reports, which I don't believe that they were,
10 especially on the active recreation and health, just to
11 be able to provide an additional perspective. But it
12 would be good just to continue monitoring those
13 meetings and to provide input and written comments on
14 our behalf to the commission as they make their
15 recommendations for I think it's the fall.

16 But this is a critical time. The California
17 Parks Forward Commission is looking at their operations
18 for the entire State Parks system and looking to make
19 changes. And whether it is that we -- how is it that
20 we play a role in this process is very important. So
21 whether our comments are, you know, minute or bigger, I
22 think it's important that we provide that information
23 to this commission. And whoever else is able to attend
24 these meetings, I would definitely encourage, and even
25 staff from our OHV Commission as well, just to provide

1 additional comments and also provide comments to these
2 reports that are coming out.

3 I mean they also had the financial report on how
4 the agency collects fees and what they do with them and
5 how all that plays out. I think it's critical for us
6 to evaluate those and see how we can provide additional
7 information on that.

8 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: How do you think that it
9 would be best for us to stay up-to-date and
10 participate? How do we go about doing that? What do
11 you suggest?

12 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: In a multiple of ways to
13 be able to do something like that, obviously following
14 the meetings that they're having. I'm not sure of the
15 schedule. Their website has that information. But
16 also reach out to the board members to be able to
17 provide a tour.

18 I know that Commissioner Lance Kahn expressed
19 interest, when I went in December, to do a tour of one
20 of our parks, but that hasn't come to fruition just
21 because of scheduling. But reach out to the
22 commissioners as well, even if it's a cold call. We
23 are commissioners in our own right, and we can express
24 interest on the subject matters that they are speaking
25 to, so I think that's another way to provide comments.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: We can go ahead and
2 request some of those reports that came out, and that
3 way we can promulgate it amongst the Commission. You
4 guys can review them. If you want to make an opinion
5 on the report, though, it would have to be as a
6 Commission unless you attended individually and just
7 made an individual comment. We can certainly request
8 reports.

9 You're right, Paul, they sound very interesting.
10 I would like to take a look at them.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes, and for the strategic
12 planning for the future, those are things to take into
13 consideration.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yes, absolutely.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Before we move on, there's
16 another individual here that I would like to announce.
17 Jim Steele, I guess he's a candidate for Lake County
18 Supervisor. Jim, would you like to get up and
19 introduce yourself?

20 JIM STEELE: The candidate has nothing to do
21 with the remarks. Here in Lake County, a resident,
22 30-year biologist with Fish and Game retired, ten years
23 as a consultant for environmental issues around the
24 state. Really love to have outdoor recreation here in
25 California. We're planning with trails, that sort of

1 thing. We're trying to bring the economy back.

2 Big interface issue with all of that, and that
3 is we're on top of volcanic soils here, and when you
4 recreate here during these rainstorms, those soils come
5 into the lake high in phosphorous. You get a
6 phosphorous/nitrogen relationship that releases
7 bacteria, and in the summer our boating recreation
8 and/or users of the lake are affected by that.

9 So in the alchemy of your decisions and you make
10 priorities, make sure that the sensitivity of where you
11 do these things is also there. So it's not just the
12 great user interface for you, it's the impact potential
13 for us. And with that I think there are solutions for
14 every single one of these problems, and we'd love to
15 continue the relationship of having you come here and
16 recreate in Lake County.

17 **AGENDA ITEM V (A) - BUSINESS ITEMS - URBAN PARKS**

18 **OPPORTUNITIES**

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Business Items, Urban Park
20 Opportunities. Mr. Canfield.

21 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD. Good morning,
22 Commissioners. Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning
23 Manager, presenting a report on a very exciting topic.

24 It will be kind of a follow-up to some of the
25 Commissioners' reports, and that topic is urban parks

1 opportunities. You have a report in your binder behind
2 Tab No. 4. It's also been made available to the public
3 on the back table.

4 As we've heard so far today, a movement is
5 underway in California to promote connecting urban
6 communities with outdoor recreation. First and
7 foremost, as we've heard already today, as a result of
8 the 2012 California State Parks Stewardship Act, a
9 Parks Forward Commission has been formed. This
10 Commission has been formed to develop a long-range,
11 sustainable vision for the California State Parks
12 system.

13 Now, just conveniently this Parks Forward
14 Commission has released a draft outline of their
15 initiatives, really just like in the last couple of
16 weeks. And I'm happy to report that one of the
17 components in this draft outline is this concept of
18 providing parks and recreation facilities, outdoor
19 recreation facilities to urban communities and also to
20 communities that just don't have -- that are park poor.
21 They don't have a lot of parks already. So that is one
22 of those draft focuses that the Parks Forward
23 Commission is working on.

24 Also, here for the OHMVR program, the 2009
25 strategic plan has an objective that has an urban

1 element, and that objective is to create new OHV
2 opportunities within a 60-mile radius of urban areas.

3 You may be asking what counts as an urban area
4 in California. Well, attached to your report is a list
5 of the 57 urban areas in California as determined by
6 the United States Census Bureau, and that was with
7 their 2010 census. So you do have a list of 57 urban
8 areas.

9 I think it's noteworthy that if we were to take
10 a map of California and map the eight SVRAs and draw a
11 circle around them in a 60-mile radius, each SVRA would
12 encompass at least one of those urban areas. I do have
13 to disclose Ocotillo Wells is very, very close, at
14 being about 58 miles from El Centro that's on the list,
15 but it does count if you're looking at that 60-mile
16 radius which is coming from that strategic plan.

17 The OHMVR Division has several active projects
18 that have an urban element, including two proposed land
19 acquisitions at Hungry Valley SVRA. Hungry Valley
20 SVRA, as we discussed today, is the SVRA that serves
21 the Los Angeles urban area.

22 And just earlier this month, there was a meeting
23 held we've heard about already. On February 10th,
24 there was an urban outreach meeting held at Hungry
25 Valley SVRA. In attendance were representatives of the

1 Commission, the Division, the State Park and Rec
2 Commission, as well as other officials that the Chair
3 has discussed.

4 And the topic of conversation was how do we
5 connect urban communities with outdoor recreation,
6 specifically OHV recreation. And so I'm very excited
7 also that this dialogue has started, and we're willing
8 to assist the Commission in developing this policy.

9 This item is on the agenda as a Business Item
10 which allows the Commission, once they've had
11 discussion and received public comment, to take action.
12 Possible action that I heard discussed just a few
13 minutes ago, one possible action, would be would the
14 Commission possibly want to submit a letter to the
15 Parks Forward Commission supporting certain elements of
16 their initiative. That would just be one possible
17 action.

18 That ends my report, and I would like to turn it
19 back over to the Chair for discussion on this topic.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, Dan.

21 Any discussion from the Commissioners?

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I think Breene has talked
23 about this in the past, and I know behind the scenes I
24 have, is that, a tie-in with like a youth-type program
25 or entry-level beginner-type thing with these urban

1 parks is something I think that would be important. If
2 there can be some kind of a management in a way of --
3 if we had a -- for the very entry-level youth riders,
4 if we had like a hunter safety-type course where it was
5 like an online game that had a little
6 question-and-answer-type situation at the very end of
7 it so they can get a certification, and then that
8 certification gives them entry into some of these parks
9 or something, that's what they need to have before they
10 enter it, so that we kind of start putting people down
11 the channel of being educated about the OHV system and
12 how to be a responsible OHV user.

13 I think, you know, it's always important to
14 educate the youth and get into them. And I think it's
15 been proven in many other areas that when you use an
16 interactive type of an experience electronically and go
17 from there, that is something that could be of benefit.
18 So I just wanted to put that into the mix possibly.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'd like to suggest as an
20 action item that -- I noted that the OHV Division is
21 currently listing three urban initiatives, and I've
22 certainly tried to lay the groundwork for the Metcalf
23 being included as a fourth urban initiative.

24 And just to reiterate, you know, San Jose has
25 1.7 million people, and Metcalf is within ten miles of

1 all of those people. In the entire Bay Area, there are
2 5 million people, and they are all within 60 miles of
3 Metcalf.

4 And I've discussed with some of the other fellow
5 Commissioners, and also with the staff and Chris, that
6 I have a lot of personal contacts on the Board of
7 Supervisors who currently run this park, including
8 relatives that work in the offices of some of the Board
9 of Supervisors. I've chaired with these people on
10 commissions, and I think Metcalf could benefit from an
11 additional focus by this Commission.

12 So I don't know what this meeting was you had at
13 Hungry Valley, but I'd like to have a meeting like that
14 at Metcalf and would like to offer my continuing
15 services to lobby for whatever strategic plan the
16 Commission wants to push forward to expand that
17 facility.

18 And speaking of the youth and also speaking of
19 relevance to the rural areas, you know, Metcalf and
20 other urban parks are places where people get
21 introduced to OHV recreation, where they test their
22 equipment out, where they learn how to ride. I would
23 be a little reluctant to take a 10-year-old on some of
24 the single tracks that I saw yesterday until they had
25 had the opportunity to go to Metcalf and learn a little

1 bit on how to use a clutch.

2 So this only strengthens the visitation for the
3 rural areas if we can get these large urban populations
4 into this type of recreation. And our former Deputy
5 Director, Daphne, used to say OHV is the gateway drug
6 to the outdoors, and I certainly found that to be true
7 among a lot of young people that I've taken out, that
8 they're now not only still riding, but they're also
9 environmentally conscious and aware of the development
10 of pressures that can sometimes affect wildlife habitat
11 and other issues that are near and dear to all of us.

12 So I want to ask that Metcalf be added to the
13 list. I would like the Commission to consider taking
14 formal action to do so, and then also that would
15 provide a nexus for some staff resources to continue to
16 be put into this initiative. And, like I say, whatever
17 it is the Commission deems appropriate for additional
18 resources into this important urban area, I would be
19 happy to facilitate in the negotiations with the County
20 of Santa Clara.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Comments by myself here, most of
22 you know there was an off-road PAL program here in
23 California. There was a cops and kids approach to
24 this. This was kind of the beginning of the urban park
25 kind of initiative because we were taking urban kids

1 and teaching them to ride and then sending them back
2 into the neighborhoods that they came from. They had
3 no experience in that before. So this is the
4 continuing discussion.

5 What we've got to figure out is how to make this
6 program viable. And, Deputy Director, I think we need
7 your leadership in this because there are certainly
8 challenges. One of the challenges is equipment. Most
9 of the vehicles that are currently in the program have
10 been there since the '90s, and they are just plumb worn
11 out.

12 So we're going to have to have some resources.
13 There may be some opportunities from the manufacturers.
14 I wouldn't count on that however. I think the training
15 component of this program is pretty well in place. We
16 know what we need to do there. We do need some
17 additional facilities. And even though -- take, for
18 example, Hungry Valley has a great facility, but it's
19 an hour and a half away from L.A.

20 One of the discussions I think Teresa and I had
21 with this working group is how we can bring that
22 training to the neighborhoods themselves, and maybe
23 it's a trailer loaded with all of the equipment -- at
24 one time we had that -- and take it right into a
25 neighborhood park in a city and actually do a training

1 class on the grass where these kids played soccer. I
2 don't see that that's impossible. And with the
3 connection we have with Cal State Northridge and L.A.
4 County Parks and Recreation, that may be feasible, and
5 then that would be awesome just to take it right
6 downtown.

7 So there's challenges, and I think what we need
8 to do is just figure out a way to push forward on this,
9 make it a higher priority, and get everything we need
10 to get behind them including the community. You folks
11 out there in the audience, you need to be invested in
12 this as well, talk to your police departments, talk to
13 the people that make the decisions at the county level.
14 Maybe there is a park in your local community that
15 might be looking for something like this.

16 It's an awesome way to get kids diverted from
17 negative behavior, which at a Parks Forward Commission
18 meeting I said the word "testosterone." One thing
19 about these Parks Forward meeting, they are webcast, so
20 got to make sure when you say what you say, you can
21 back it up.

22 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: The only thing I would
23 like to have with that, Paul, there seems like there is
24 a disconnect in physically, like you said, bridging
25 that gap and who's going to do that. So we need input.

1 We need suggestions.

2 We need brainstorming on who would be willing to
3 do that. It might be one group. It might be a
4 combination of groups. One group might be able to do
5 the training while another does the transportation,
6 YMCA, police officer association, firefighters union,
7 something. So we need input. We need suggestions, and
8 hopefully we can put all of the strings together and
9 make it happen.

10 Because like you said, this is super important.
11 Motorcycles gave me a focus when I was a kid. I've
12 never been a stick-and-ball sports kind of guy. I bet
13 if you go around the OHV community, that's a pretty
14 polar point of view. For the people that don't fit
15 into that mold, this is what gets people going and what
16 keeps kids on the straight and narrow, gives them
17 something to focus on other than going off in wrong
18 directions. So I hope we can make this happen.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Deputy Director, can we hear from
20 you?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yes, we're into it.
22 That's why I was very excited by your holding that
23 working group down in Hungry Valley and why we
24 supported that as best we could. I think you know
25 we've assigned now the person who is running our

1 training, Greg Schumaker. He's going to be staying on
2 with us trying to get this program back up and running.

3 We are exploring some opportunities of some of
4 the folks that we might be able to go in and ask for
5 equipment from, both on the commercial side. And then
6 if we have to, if we have to do purchases, that might
7 take a little bit longer, but we're looking at what's
8 going to be required to do all of that.

9 I think it's a great idea. It's an excellent
10 idea to get the kids out. And as you heard, it's
11 something that we are absolutely aligned with the Parks
12 and Recreation Commission, and that just makes life
13 even easier because there may be opportunities where we
14 have urban parks to be able to borrow some of their
15 terrain to do some of these training classes and things
16 like that, not turning it into an OHV park but just to
17 borrow a parking lot or something like that to be able
18 to do some of this work for the kids, to make sure we
19 take care of them.

20 So we're looking at all options, and that's why
21 some of our discussions about some new alternative
22 off-road vehicles, like electric bikes and all of that,
23 are very interesting to us because they offer a pathway
24 to get people trained up. We're going to continue to
25 look at it. It is a focus for us. And thank you very

1 much, Paul, for your initiative because you're the one
2 that got it kick started and got it started back up
3 again.

4 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Deputy Director Conlin,
5 following up on Commissioner Kerr's statements on
6 Metcalf, what's the likelihood that that area could
7 expand in OHV recreation? I've never been there, so
8 I'm trying to picture this area. But what's the
9 likelihood that we could add it?

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Well, there's a couple
11 of different discussions there. One discussion is
12 what's the likelihood of them asking for a grant to
13 make an expansion on their own. We talked to them a
14 little bit about that out there. They do have some
15 land options and things like that. That's what the
16 Grants Program is there for. So if they wanted to
17 explore that, absolutely, the County has that option,
18 and they have the ability to go in for it.

19 The one about, does this suddenly become a park,
20 that's a longer range determination, and that's
21 something we would have to proposed to the Legislature,
22 and we would have to do a much longer look at that.

23 There are some very good things about it. It is
24 a great park. It is located in close to an urban area.
25 There are some problematic things about the land that

1 we would have to make some decisions about. And right
2 now we do have a good relationship with the County
3 where we're providing a lot of the operations money and
4 they're providing the staffing money.

5 So we at this point are going to work with them,
6 continue to work with them, but, yes, absolutely, it is
7 one of the places we can point to as our money going
8 into a park that's right next to an urban area and
9 something important for those folks to be able to get
10 to.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: If I can just say, there may
12 be some public comment on this issue, and perhaps maybe
13 we could entertain a motion after we've heard that
14 public comment.

15 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: One last comment, I
16 think that the -- I know that the project that we're
17 working on now for our own parks and doing a
18 partnership with our L.A. County Sheriff and L.A.
19 County Recreation Parks, it came together because of
20 just existing relationships. And the tour at Hungry
21 Valley was a good opportunity for all of that synergy
22 to come together and just put it in place.

23 I think that what we're doing right now is just
24 kind of setting up steps that could be emulated
25 throughout the state. Whether it is in the San Jose

1 area, Metcalf, or what have you, this is definitely a
2 program that we are just kind of identifying. And as
3 Kevin has mentioned, it would be good just to get input
4 to be able to see what other partnerships can be formed
5 so a program like this could be done throughout the
6 state.

7 And then perhaps seeing how it is that we can
8 keep it within the Department in a codified version so
9 it's done and it's implemented and it's
10 institutionalized.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's a good point.

12 Having no other conversation on this from the
13 Commissioners, I'd like to call for public comment.

14 AMY GRANAT: Just as an aside, you may want to
15 consider doing, as the Parks Forward, in a webcast or
16 something. It kind of would be nice to involve all of
17 the OHV people. It may give them an opportunity if
18 it's possible.

19 Amy Granat, Managing Director of the California
20 Off-Highway Vehicle Association.

21 And it is wonderful to address all of you. And,
22 Commissioner Kerr, very sorry to see you go, but I
23 thank you for your service all of these years. It's
24 been a pleasure.

25 The urban parks, there are a couple of things we

1 wanted to touch on. CORVA has worked really hard with
2 L.A. County to get Littlerock going. We've had great
3 meetings out there. We have an advantage of having a
4 board member who lives in Juniper Hills that has
5 addressed Juniper Hills Town Council a couple of times.
6 They're kind of the main area for dissension for that
7 park or problems.

8 One of the very disturbing parts that I found
9 out about that, is that people were making a
10 distinction due to the quality of the people they felt
11 would come and visit the park. It's not the first time
12 I've heard it, but I think it's something we have to
13 really combat against. All of us are very fine people,
14 and yet that impression that is out there, that OHV
15 enthusiasts are somewhat lawless or won't obey the
16 rules, when I find actually 90 percent of them to be
17 exactly the opposite.

18 But that was made, a point -- we had a meeting
19 with L.A. County Parks, and that was one of the issues
20 brought up. I'm not exactly sure what we can do about
21 it as a community. I think each one of us can serve as
22 an ambassador. I just did find it very upsetting, and
23 I thought I would mention it in this venue since we're
24 all concerned with OHV recreation.

25 There were a number of different problems all

1 over the state that Commissioner Cabral has been always
2 open to discussing with me, that I feel the OHV
3 Division and Commission has to be more involved, and
4 one was yesterday.

5 Kenney Glaspie addressed a Forest Service
6 meeting, Sierra Cascade Dialogue, and it was great to
7 see him there. It was tremendous to have input on the
8 OHV side, especially when they're talking about water.
9 And this is the kind of interaction -- I thank the
10 Division very much for allowing Kenney to be there.
11 But this is the kind of interaction we need.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thirty seconds.

13 AMY GRANAT: I'm done.

14 DEAN JOYNER: Good morning, thank you. In with
15 the urban parks --

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Your name, please.

17 DEAN JOYNER: Dean Joyner representing Marin
18 County Motorcycle Association and Lake Pillsbury
19 Homeowner Association.

20 And in regards to the motorium in Marin County
21 on motorcycles right now, in the '70s we tried some
22 urban parks with failure because of poor planning due
23 to insurance liabilities. I'm a strong supporter of it
24 because the fact of the sustainability of our passion
25 of off-pavement vehicles starts with our youth. If we

1 get them on board, teaching the practices, teaching
2 uphill-side and what we damage, how we do things, this
3 is a great start.

4 My biggest concern is as a citizen was it was
5 always liability issues. As a landowner, how am I
6 going to give my land up? How am I going to be liable?
7 We have private opportunity already we lease in Marin
8 County. I think it's great. I know we have 375
9 supporters just in our club for something like this.
10 So liability issues, the right land, the right
11 programs, got our support. Thank you.

12 RICK LAVELLO: Good morning, Commissioners. My
13 name is Rick Lavello. I'm with Southern California
14 Mountains Foundation, formerly the San Bernardino
15 National Forest Association, and I'm the off-highway
16 vehicle volunteer program coordinator.

17 And I'm going to speak on the urban parks
18 opportunities. I think that's a really great idea. If
19 there's any way that I can be a part of that in the
20 L.A. area, I would really like to do that. We actually
21 have a program right now that was started by one of my
22 predecessors, Rick Russell. He is one of the founders
23 of the program, and it's called Kids on Public Lands.

24 And once a year we take two days on the weekend,
25 it's usually done in September, and we bring -- on

1 Saturday we bring up 25 boys, and Sunday they bring up
2 25 girls from the local YMCA in Anaheim. And what they
3 do is they take them through, and ASI comes out, and
4 they do some ATV Safety Institute presentations. They
5 have a couple of other educational programs that they
6 take them around to, the discovery center, Big Garden
7 Discovery Center, then they take them out on a jeep
8 ride. My volunteers get out there, and they volunteer
9 their time in their jeeps, and then they take the kids
10 on a jeep ride during the day.

11 So I think that's a really great program, and if
12 there is any way I can help assist in the Orange
13 County/L.A. area, I would really like to do that.

14 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Do you have any kind of
15 literature or anything on the program that shows how
16 it's outlined or anything that you can get to us that
17 we can look at as a possible framework or working model
18 of this? Do you have anything like that that you can
19 get us?

20 RICK LAVELLO: Yes. I will actually talk with
21 Rick Russell on that. He has more -- I have some
22 stuff, but he's actually the person that had started
23 the program and does it. My volunteer is just to
24 assist with it.

25 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Thank you.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: To follow up on that, that's like
2 one component of like a broader program that I think we
3 could do, actually take the kids out on a day on a
4 jeep.

5 NICK HARRIS: Good morning, Commissioners. And I
6 would like to take a second to thank Commissioner Kerr
7 for his service. Sorry to see you go. I remember when
8 you first joined the Commission, and it's been nice to
9 get to know you.

10 I just wanted to follow up on the urban parks
11 issue. I did get to go on the Hungry Valley tour, as
12 you mentioned, Paul. I thought it was great, and I
13 thought it really followed up on the Parks Forward
14 Initiative meeting that I had gone to in Auburn three
15 months ago -- two months ago, and I'm really glad to
16 see the acceptance, I guess, that I'm feeling from the
17 other side of Parks.

18 And the fact that based on some of the reports
19 you've given as well, Paul, it's just nice to see us
20 seen as a partner, and I guess as an equal partner, and
21 not just a funding source potentially.

22 But I also agree that as we go forward with this
23 idea, be it as a temporary -- at a city park for a
24 weekend kind of a situation or if we acquired some
25 property and we wanted to do that urban interface

1 training, I think we need a consistent
2 institutionalized type of a training program, and I
3 think that would be the key so that the participants
4 would receive the same training. Because let's face
5 it, for a lot of these folks, this will be their
6 initial introduction to OHV recreation. So it's a
7 great opportunity to start them off on the right foot.

8 And so I just really support the concept, and I
9 do think that it is something we've tried to do in the
10 past. I know the Off-Road PALS Harold Soens, of
11 course, was very involved. So it would be nice to see
12 it brought to the next level, and I very much support
13 it, and thank you for your efforts on this issue.

14 Thank you.

15 KATHLEEN MICK: Good morning, Commissioners and
16 OHV Division, staff members, public. My name is Kathy
17 Mick, and I work for the Forest Service.

18 In regard to this Urban Parks Initiative, Paul,
19 I guess I would ask you what is the goal and are you
20 thinking too small? And then think about your target
21 audience. I challenge you to look around the room and
22 ask people to raise their hands if they're under the
23 age of 30 or under the age of 25. And then I would
24 also challenge you to look around the room at the
25 cultural and ethnic diversity in the room and whether

1 there is any, and if so, how much. So that all ties
2 into this piece that you're talking about when you're
3 talking about urban area.

4 And then so in terms of that, can your audience
5 afford the machines that you're talking about and
6 can -- so you take them out for a day, and now you've
7 set up an expectation, but they go back to the
8 neighborhoods in which they live, and they can't afford
9 the machines, nor can they even afford the gas to put
10 into the machines. So think about that and look at
11 the -- explore that socioeconomic divide as you work
12 into this.

13 Now, what I have to offer is that there's some
14 models out there, and you know Trini Juarez and you
15 know Jim Oftedal from the Forest Service, and there is
16 a model of the Central Valley Consortium. And what
17 that does is it brings kids from the Central
18 Valley/Fresno areas to jobs at the Forest Service.
19 They have jobs for high-school-aged kids and kids all
20 the way into college. And they've been at the State
21 Fair, and they run the Camp Smoky for two weeks at the
22 State Fair.

23 But what this offers them is summertime
24 employment and sometimes even employment through the
25 year. And what it does is it exposes them to outdoor

1 recreation, other types of resource jobs, and more
2 importantly it exposes them to the woods. And in the
3 Fresno area, even though the woods can be their
4 backyard, they're not used to going and participating
5 as you mentioned.

6 So maybe the option is to create these parks and
7 create some sort of employment opportunities for these
8 kids so that not only do they get to get jazzed about
9 coming and learning to ride, but they also have an
10 offer of a summer job, whether it's cleaning toilets or
11 doing trail maintenance or putting in signs or what
12 have you, so that not only -- maybe at the end of the
13 day you encourage that high school student to get good
14 grades and go onto college, which the Central Valley
15 Consortium is a proven tool that it does.

16 We do render a yield with the Forest Service of
17 future Forest Service employees, and they want to come
18 back after college and work for us. But sometimes they
19 want to go on and be nurses or doctors, but what we've
20 done is we've created a future citizen who is committed
21 to land stewardship. And I think that's really what we
22 want to do, is create this next generation of land
23 stewards no matter whether they're into OHV riding or
24 not. I mean that's one facet of it. I think we need
25 to look at the more important component.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: I feel compelled to say that this
2 program that we're talking about is not an initiative
3 to sell dirt bikes to kids. I think everybody needs to
4 be absolutely clear about that. This is an
5 introduction to a back country experience to public
6 lands using the ATV and motorcycle as a tool, only a
7 tool. And we've been kind of misconstrued about that.
8 Some people think that we're just trying to sell dirt
9 bikes to kids.

10 However, having said that, what Kathy has said,
11 if that is the followthrough, if a kid gets introduced
12 and rides a motorcycle, and he's got to get a job in
13 order to get a motorcycle, right, Kathy? So that could
14 be the gateway to the next level for that kid to get an
15 idea in his head to do something rather than target
16 practice or something.

17 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: That's my exact -- that's
18 me that you're talking about. When I was a kid, I
19 wanted a motorcycle. My dad said, "No, they're too
20 dangerous. Just go snow skiing." I went snow skiing
21 and broke my leg. I came home my dad says, "Well, if
22 you can afford it, you can have all of the motorcycles
23 you want." From that day forward, I was mowing lawns.
24 I delivered newspapers. I vacuumed cars at the car
25 wash. It gave me something to shoot for.

1 What that ends up being is a ladder of
2 responsibility for people. You start out with a goal:
3 Okay, I want to buy a motorcycle. Then the next goal:
4 I want to go to college, so you go to college. It sets
5 kids on a pathway of responsibility and working towards
6 goals that I think is positive.

7 But you do bring a big-picture point of view to
8 it, that is very true, and we appreciate that.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: All of these things have been on
10 the table.

11 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: I agree. Thank you for your
12 comments, Kathy. And if you get an opportunity, I
13 would like to see that program. So if you don't mind
14 letting me know who the contact person is, I'd
15 appreciate that.

16 BOB PHILLIPS: My name is Bob Phillips, and I'm
17 with the Forest Service. There's actually -- for those
18 of you who want to look at the websites, there is a
19 Northern Consortium out of Willets, and then there is
20 Southern Consortium out of the Los Padres. And you can
21 go to either of the forest websites and find out all of
22 the information you need on the consortiums. There is
23 one in Fresno as well, and that was the first and
24 probably the largest of the groups.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

1 Any other discussion.

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes. I'd like to discuss
3 what Kathy brought up. I think the diversity has
4 always been a big issue in OHV use. We're starting to
5 see Latinos and Hispanics starting to move more into
6 this, and I think that's just because of the
7 percentages we have in our state is what we're seeing
8 there. The actual reaching into the communities has
9 been a fault that we've had that's been very poor.

10 And there's a program, the National Youth
11 Program, using minibikes that is something that I think
12 should be looked at, maybe a partnership or at least
13 modeling after their program. And what they did there
14 is they had it where they went into intercity or
15 troubled youth-type things, they put them on a
16 contract. They had to live up to certain expectations,
17 and then they would get the opportunity to be able to
18 participate in the program, be able to use a minibike
19 and be able to ride it under these organized events and
20 stuff. They would even go as far as taking ownership
21 with it as far as doing maintenance and stuff like
22 that.

23 So I know that Paul has worked with that program
24 when he was with American Honda. So I don't know if
25 there is anything you would like to add.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're all saying -- we're all on
2 the same page.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: So I've listened very
4 intently, and we've had a lot of various topics here,
5 the 99 percenter versus the one percenters.

6 You know, what I'll say is this: Over the last
7 few years the OHV community has continued to increase
8 in diversity. Twenty years ago, I didn't see a lot of
9 young girls and women out on the trails. Now I see
10 them all the time. You mentioned the greater
11 participation by minority groups.

12 But you can't do any of this stuff without a
13 facility, and it's got to be close to an urban area or
14 else it takes 50 bucks worth of gas to get to where
15 you're going.

16 So it would be very helpful to me locally in
17 promoting the Urban Parks Initiative in the Bay Area if
18 I can get some type of indication from the Commission
19 that they are interested in Metcalf. As I said, we
20 have had some informal meetings out there. There's
21 been some talks going on. What I found when I talked
22 to the Board of Supervisors, that people are very
23 uneducated on this. And I need kind of -- I need to be
24 able to say to them that this is one of your priority
25 focuses.

1 So if I could ask the Commission to designate
2 Metcalf as an area of interest in their Urban Parks
3 Initiative. And I'm not asking for you to say you want
4 to turn it into a state park or something like that,
5 but you've identified this as a high priority within
6 the Urban Parks Initiative, and then we can get some of
7 these things going in the Bay Area that you've done
8 down south.

9 So I would like to ask the Commission to make
10 the formal designation. I'm looking for a second.

11 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I'll second.

12 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I just want to ask Deputy
13 Director Conlin. I mean in a way it's kind of almost a
14 typo to not have Metcalf included on this list because
15 these are just examples of ones that you're doing. You
16 have on this -- it says, "The OHV Division is currently
17 involved in several urban-area related projects."

18 And Metcalf certainly qualifies as one that
19 you're involved with, correct?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Absolutely, yes. We've
21 been involved with it. I think what I'm hearing from
22 Commissioner Kerr, Breene is saying that he would like
23 that to be a higher priority, like looking at some of
24 these places like Littlerock and some of the
25 possible -- some of the acquisition areas that we've

1 looked at before, not necessarily for acquisition but
2 for additional support.

3 My proposal would be, Paul has now formed a
4 working group. The working group is interagency. It's
5 cross-functional. We're participating in that. I
6 would throw this in front of that working group and see
7 if we want to also make that a top priority for study
8 and see how we can make Metcalf better within the
9 current framework, which is the Grants Program, which
10 is encouraging them, which is looking at what they're
11 doing and then try and reinforce their efforts out
12 there as something that we can support. We can support
13 them several ways, and I think that's an opportunity
14 for that working group.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Okay. With that, I think
16 to speak to where you're at with this, with your
17 motion, Breene, is maybe we should include the three
18 listed on this list and add Metcalf to it as primary
19 examples of the urban -- like our starting points with
20 these urban parks and that we want to continue the
21 program, and maybe do that in a letter that goes to the
22 OHMVR Division supporting this program.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: Any type of official action
24 that mentions Metcalf, that indicates a priority
25 interest on the part of the Commission and perhaps

1 refer it to a working group, I think it could be deemed
2 as an -- I think having an official action of the
3 Commission is important, in whatever form that takes,
4 which indicates a willingness for Commissioners to
5 continue to focus on this, in addition to their work
6 down in the L.A. area.

7 And then that could be taken as evidence of your
8 official interest in this and could be brought to the
9 Board of Supervisors. Because if I'm in a meeting with
10 Cindy Chavez or Joe Simitian, I need to be able to say
11 you talked about this, you agreed this fits into your
12 criteria of this initiative. And then they can direct
13 their staff to do whatever, and I'll be happy to stay
14 involved in this locally.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: The reason I'm kind of
16 jumping in here is I'm trying to pay attention to the
17 Robert's Rules of Order. We have a motion and a second
18 here, and it hasn't been recognized by the Chair, so
19 this is my opportunity to speak; otherwise -- I'm not
20 trying to be rude here, so I guess what I'm saying is
21 now, Kevin, you're doing this because you're
22 supporting -- you want to have Metcalf also supported
23 on this list?

24 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Yes, I do.

25 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: So what I'd like to do is

1 I would like to throw in a motion here that's going to
2 be -- that's basically doing exactly what Breene would
3 like to do, but I would like to make that a little more
4 formal. I would like to have a letter -- submit a
5 comment letter to the OHMVR Division supporting these
6 urban park-related projects, the projects to be the
7 ones that are listed on our worksheet, the City of
8 Lompoc, Los Angeles County, Littlerock area, Hungry
9 Valley SVRA, and Metcalf.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Just one cautionary
11 note, understand we have a grant process that is
12 independent of this. So the grant process, the
13 requirements of that are that this body and I cannot
14 influence the grant process. So they can apply for
15 grants. We can consider them to be an urban park that
16 we support, and we can look at everything we can do to
17 support them, which are things that can be done within
18 the grant process but also outside the grant process.
19 But the influence of the Commission and myself on the
20 grant process to raise them in priority cannot happen.

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Do we have to change the
22 verbiage, put a word like "concept" in?

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I think maybe you say
24 it's another area of interest as an urban park. I
25 think that's --

1 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'm not worried about the
2 grant process. Metcalf can stand on its own. But the
3 problem is right now the Board of Supervisors doesn't
4 even know it practically exists. There is limited
5 grant writing resources within a county organization.
6 I just think that adding them to the list would be
7 important to getting the county to participate more
8 broadly in the grant process.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. Maybe the
10 Commission can express it as this is a high-priority
11 urban park, and that we'd like it to be looked as an
12 area of interest.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Continuing the discussion before
14 the motion is actually formalized, I think we need to
15 be a little broader than that. Because if we just talk
16 about Metcalf, I think we're missing the point of this
17 whole discussion for the last hour and a half here,
18 whatever it's been.

19 I would like to see a letter that says that the
20 Commission fully supports -- something along the lines
21 of fully supports the Urban Parks Initiatives around
22 the state including Metcalf, and other examples I think
23 exist right now that we're not putting on this list.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: If somebody wants to come
25 before you and suggest some other areas, that's their

1 business. I put forward a motion I'd like to have
2 Metcalf included on your list of priorities.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Do you agree that it's
4 appropriate to put several areas, or do you want to
5 make that specific?

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: Well, you've got room for
7 all kind of motions under this action item.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Have two separate motions?

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: Maybe that might be more
10 appropriate. I don't see any legal problem with that
11 that I can think of. I just note in the agenda you
12 have not identified Metcalf. I'd like to request that
13 it be added to this type of list of areas of interest.
14 "Significant interest" actually would be the wording
15 that I would like to see.

16 And I don't know -- I don't know if there is a
17 letter or what it is, or just send an official
18 recognition that this is an important priority for the
19 Division. I don't know how you enshrine that in a
20 document, but the minutes are probably adequate.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: And then just back to
22 pro forma, so we've had a motion, we've had a second,
23 and then we had Commissioner Cabral also brought up
24 another motion. So we need to decide what we're going
25 to vote on and do that. Because now we're starting to

1 kind of get mixed motions.

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Exactly. I'm sorry, I
3 lost my train of thought here. I just got a bad
4 message on my phone. A long time friend of my family
5 just passed away, so I'm sorry.

6 I think where I was going with this is I wanted
7 to have an official recommendation to go to the
8 Division that included our desire to support not only
9 the concept of the program, the urban parks, because I
10 think the County Park program with Metcalf that Breene
11 is supporting here, which I support 100 percent, is
12 something that is -- what's going to be a very key
13 component to this as we move forward with these urban
14 parks is partnering with counties.

15 So with that, I just want to make sure that we
16 craft something to go to you guys that shows our
17 support for this program as a whole and with County
18 Parks being involved such as Metcalf, is the direction
19 I was looking to go. But I don't know how to wrap it
20 all up right now because I'm a little emotional.

21 COUNSEL TOBIAS: So what we can do --

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: It's a modification to my
23 motion which says that generally we want to send a
24 direction from the Commission to the staff that we are
25 highly supportive of the Urban Parks Initiative and

1 that we would like to add County Parks such as Metcalf
2 in particular to this list that is currently -- that's
3 kind of a working list of interest. And I would accept
4 that modification. Is that okay with the second?

5 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Yes, that's fine. I
6 second that.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: I think I can leave it up to
8 the Chair to summarize, or maybe the minutes will be
9 summarizing this.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: The minutes will
11 summarize.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is the actual letter going to
13 come out of this motion, or is this going to be created
14 as a separate piece?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Do you want to do a
16 letter, or do you just want to work off that motion?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would like to see a letter
18 that's more concise and something that you can carry on
19 to a supervisor.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes, that would be nice.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: A motion that we say we support
22 it, I think we're all in agreement with that. The
23 letter is going to take longer.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Can I recommend then
25 maybe we do a subcommittee, and maybe it's perhaps

1 yourself, Paul, and Breene, and you can draft a quick
2 letter, and then we can use that.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Subcommittee just for the letter?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Sure.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. That's fine. We're going
6 to talk about subcommittees --

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: We have general direction
8 for what the content of that letter is if we have a
9 positive vote here, and the Chair would write the
10 letter in potential consultation with me.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yes, ad hoc committee,
12 okay.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: So should we vote on the motion?

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: We should.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a vote. We have a
16 second.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do we have to do roll call
18 now according to these new rules?

19 COUNSEL TOBIAS: I think if you want to do it
20 all.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. All in favor, aye.

22 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Passes unanimously.

24 All right. Thank you. Now it's time to take a
25 break. The recorder, Cheryl, needs some rest.

1 (Returned at 10:57 from a break starting at 10:36 a.m.)

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any last thoughts on the Urban
3 Park Initiatives? So we have a motion that's been
4 passed. The next step is to write a letter that I
5 guess I will do with Teresa. The two of us -- we're
6 going to talk about committees, and I'm kind of putting
7 the cart before the horse here a little bit, but I
8 believe Teresa and I will be on the Urban Park
9 Committee.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: And we will do the letter and
12 then accomplish all of the things that we've been
13 talking about.

14 **AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Let's start public comment on
16 non-agenda items. So we're going to take public
17 comment on non-agenda items, and if anybody has
18 anything they want to talk -- this is stuff that's not
19 on the agenda. As we go along, we will take the
20 additional comments on the agenda items as we move
21 through the agenda.

22 BRUCE BRAZIL: Good morning, Bruce Brazil
23 representing CORVA, California Off-Road Vehicle
24 Association. It's been a while since I've had an
25 opportunity to address the Commission, the Division and

1 Cheryl.

2 I'd like to make some comments. This is beyond
3 the expansion of Carnegie SVRA. I didn't see it on the
4 agenda. I figured this would be the appropriate point
5 to do it.

6 Three weeks ago, the Livermore City Council had
7 one of their meetings. And previous to that a lot of
8 the people that were opposed to the expansion of the
9 Carnegie SVRA attended a meeting, expressed their
10 concerns. So the off-highway vehicle public advocates
11 for the expansion of Carnegie thought they better get
12 together and present the other side of the story to the
13 city council. Well, the meeting turned out beyond
14 standing room only. One of the city council members
15 said this is the largest turnout of the public he's
16 ever seen.

17 During the meeting the council repeatedly said
18 that the expansion area is outside of their
19 jurisdiction physically, outside the city limits, so
20 they were going to allow the Livermore Area Recreation
21 and Parks Department to do any sort of review of an EIS
22 or the draft EIS.

23 A couple of the members of the public reminded
24 the council that the EIS under CEQA is not just the
25 physical environment but also the human environment,

1 which would be how it affects the surrounding
2 communities, the people, and even the financial effects
3 that the decisions could make. So hopefully the city
4 council will have a little bit different view of what
5 they may or may not be able to submit and also that
6 they would only have the same input as an individual.

7 Then early this week, the Livermore Area
8 Regional Parks and Rec Department had a workshop, and
9 this was in -- they're trying to get a new -- basically
10 a long-term business plan going. And so people broke
11 up into little groups with topics to comment on and
12 present them. There were a few comments with concerns
13 about the Carnegie expansion, a couple of others of us
14 that spoke up basically in favor saying that State
15 Parks could fill in the lack of motorized recreation in
16 the Livermore area under the Livermore Area Parks
17 Department.

18 Anyway, I thought you would be interested in
19 just a little update on that. Thank you.

20 RICK LAVELLO: Commissioners, my name is Rick
21 Lavello. I'm from the Southern California Mountains
22 Foundation.

23 And I wanted to comment on the Baldy Mesa
24 project that Commissioner Patrovsky went to some of the
25 public meetings on. Now, I was not at the meeting in

1 December because I had to go out of town for Christmas,
2 so it was a holiday period.

3 So I was at the meeting on the 19th, and I was
4 one of the presenters at that meeting, and I was
5 presenting on my education and safety program. I had
6 the sound monitoring equipment out there and was
7 showing people how the sound monitoring equipment
8 works. We do go out to kiosks, and we have a kiosk and
9 set them up in staging areas of the local places in the
10 San Bernardino National Forest. And what we do is we
11 go out and we offer voluntary sound checks and stuff
12 like that. I was kind of showing the people there what
13 we do with that. Plus, I had maps we hand out to the
14 people, we had maps that we hand out to the forest
15 visitors, also, had a display on my education program.

16 I do On the Right Trail presentations in the
17 local school districts and at the L.A. Country Fair. I
18 had a dealer liaison program where me and volunteers go
19 out to different dealerships, and we hand them out
20 materials so that -- maps and educational materials so
21 that they can basically educate the public on what
22 they're buying. So, anyway, I was displaying at that.

23 I also had been holding public meetings on input
24 for my grants since October, the second Wednesday of
25 every month, at a restaurant named Sizzler. It's kind

1 of a centralized location. And basically we're
2 actually putting in for two grants. We're going to put
3 in for a restoration grant, and we're also going to
4 continue with the education grant.

5 One of the residents from Phelan, his name was
6 Terry, he came to my meeting on the 12th of February,
7 and he was also at the meeting on the 19th of February.
8 And we sat down and we listened. He heard the
9 proposals on what we were going to propose to apply
10 for. Then I actually let him get up and comment to all
11 of my volunteers.

12 At my meeting on the 12th, the forest, San
13 Bernardino was --

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thirty seconds.

15 RICK LAVELLO: Okay. Anyway, basically all of
16 the comments that they got, Ed, are going to be
17 incorporated into our grants. Okay. Thanks.

18 RANGER FRANK AEBY: Good morning, Commissioners.
19 Frank Aeby, Acting District Ranger, on the Lake Ranger
20 District. And I just wanted to take a minute here to
21 express my gratitude to you and the staff that helped
22 us put this tour together yesterday and express
23 gratitude for allowing us to showcase some of our trail
24 system to you in our area. Next time hopefully the
25 weather will pan out better and you can see a lot more

1 of it. Thank you.

2 ERIC LUEDER: Good morning, Commissioners. Eric
3 Lueder representing the Marin County Motorcycle
4 Association and its 375 members and its families.

5 It's a pleasure to be here this morning. I just
6 wanted to thank the Commission for coming to northwest
7 California finally after many years. While I was on
8 the Commission, we didn't manage to make it up this
9 way, so I was very happy to see this venue and this
10 site highlighted because it really is a jewel of
11 California for the OHV program and a testament to what
12 the Forest Service collectively has done with the OHV
13 Division.

14 I just want to say a couple of things about the
15 tour, first that we still have some remnants of lunch
16 left over from yesterday. In the back of the room, we
17 have some drinks and a few apples. So that was donated
18 by District 36, Marin County Motorcycle Association,
19 and the Lake Pillsbury Cabin Association. So anybody
20 that's around, feel free to have a drink and an apple
21 on us.

22 In any case, I'm happy to see that the
23 Commission is really active and carrying on some great
24 programs, and I'm excited to see what's going on with
25 all of that. I'm really happy to see the new

1 management staff at States Parks and the Division. I
2 had an opportunity to meet General Jackson a couple of
3 occasions and, of course, Deputy Director Conlin and
4 and am very impressed with their energy and leadership.
5 So other than that, I don't have a lot of say. I just
6 wanted to say thanks.

7 DEAN JOYNER: Dean Joyner representing Lake
8 Pillsbury Homeowners Association and Marin County
9 Motorcycle.

10 One thing I haven't seen in looking through the
11 minutes is Adopt-a-Trail programs and bringing the
12 communities into this system to see what they can bring
13 to enhancing our trails, our recreational facilities,
14 et cetera.

15 I know there are issues with budgetary
16 constraints with the government. I'm a public citizen.
17 I don't know what it's like to be in your shoes, but it
18 seems like budget is a big issue. So asking for help
19 seems like an easy solution from people that care about
20 what they're doing. And being stewards of the
21 environment, we can bring a lot to the table. Not just
22 a bunch of dirt bikers, mountain bikers, hikers, we've
23 got the ability to take care of kiosks. We can
24 maintain trails. We can do community outreach. There
25 are all sorts of things the community can do for free

1 because we love what we have up here. It is a jewel.

2 I'm currently trying to work with the Forest
3 Service Station in the Upper Lake and Adopt-a-Trails of
4 the Windy Gap Trail, which we'll be talking to Mike
5 Vernon about through their group, something we would
6 like to take on.

7 Once again, just asking for help instead of
8 expecting it will go a long way. I think the
9 Adopt-a-Trail Program that has been pretty inactive in
10 Northern California is something that needs to be
11 looked at. I don't have the answers. It's just
12 something out there.

13 I would also like to take a moment here to
14 commend the three groups, the U.S. Forest Service,
15 which has a great working relationship in this region,
16 fantastic. Once again, same with the budgetary issues,
17 lack of workers right now. We're making some really
18 good headway. We have 71 homes up in the Pillsbury
19 Tract. I'm the president of the association, and we're
20 making headway with the long-term of lack of some
21 management, so very good progress.

22 BLM Ukiah, awesome group and people that we work
23 with. It's promoting events to trail riding, to
24 camping. They take an area that can be overrun, ruined
25 and destroyed by locals and keep it alive and clean and

1 safe for the people visiting. I want to commend BLM
2 Ukiah, fantastic job.

3 And this is my first experience with the OHV
4 Commission, I hope to see more of it and am really
5 impressed. Thank you.

6 JERRY FOUTS: Hi, esteemed Commissioners. I'm
7 Jerry Fouts, American Motorcyclist Association,
8 District 36.

9 I would just like to say we want to be partners
10 with the Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. We want you
11 to use us as a resource. I'm certainly -- what the
12 esteemed guest before me mentioned about volunteer
13 trails and doing trail work, in the SVRAs especially
14 just doesn't happen, and I don't know why. We've been
15 volunteering.

16 We do an event at Carnegie SVRA, our club.
17 We've volunteered to come out and work on trails, do
18 whatever they want to do for 23 years. Twenty-three
19 years we've been begging to let us come out there and
20 show you what we can do, okay?

21 Aside from building a bathroom about the third
22 year we were out there, they've never taken us up on
23 it. You all know what it does, the ownership it builds
24 in those places from communities and from different
25 clubs. We want to participate. We want to be part of

1 that. We want to be your partner, so use us.

2 A good example of our partnership is District 36
3 has been doing outreach sound testing days in the SVRAs
4 in Northern California, Prairie City and Carnegie. And
5 we go out there with our tent, and we voluntarily will
6 sound test. Guys who want to come through that, just
7 don't know. Or occasionally a park ranger will point
8 somebody -- kind of direct them over to our tent and
9 say maybe it might be a good idea if you get sound
10 tested.

11 You know what we do. We don't only sound test
12 the motorcycle. We'll repack their muffler for free.
13 I bring everything. I repack old CR 500s. They buy
14 the packing at the store. The store owner makes a
15 little bit of money. They don't get a ticket, and
16 everybody is happy. We do it for free. We do it
17 because we love the sport, and we want to be a partner.
18 So please just use us as a resource.

19 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Do you think you would
20 able to help kids learn how ride dirt bikes?

21 JERRY FOUTS: I'm an OHMVR coach.

22 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Beautiful.

23 DON AMADOR: Good morning, Commissioners. Don
24 Amador representing Quiet Warrior Racing Consulting and
25 Blue Ribbon Coalition. I wanted to first say that

1 after having attended Commission meetings over the last
2 20, 21 years, this is the most scenic background I've
3 ever seen. Greatly appreciate whoever found this
4 place, great job.

5 Real quickly, somebody has mentioned -- people
6 have mentioned it several times already about the
7 excellent job that the Commission has been doing being
8 engaged in land use planning, the Division being
9 supportive, General Jackson and the Governor's Office,
10 and I just wanted to thank all of those entities for
11 their continued support of the program.

12 Yesterday, I got to talk with Commissioners
13 Breene and Pérez about the Back Country Discovery Trail
14 which was started in the 1900s actually. In the mid
15 1995/'96, I was on the Commission then, spent a lot of
16 time trying to get that project going, a number of
17 field trips, helping designate some of those routes,
18 and would like to continue to encourage the Commission
19 and Division to pursue that EIR, EIS process, work with
20 our federal partners and get that Statewide Motorized
21 Trail designated. It would bring a lot of economic
22 benefit to rural communities. This actually could be a
23 staging area here in Upper Lake and Lakeport for back
24 country adventures all the way up to the Oregon border
25 basically on dirt roads, county roads; great

1 experience.

2 Mendocino National Forest Supervisor Sherry Tune
3 was on the tour yesterday. And as she was leaving, she
4 apologized she couldn't make it to the meeting today
5 and asked me to convey her thanks for your continued
6 support and partnership, Commission and Division, and
7 also the stakeholders and volunteers that help make
8 this program a huge success.

9 Lastly, I got to take Commissioners Breene and
10 Pérez on a short tour of the storm-proofing projects.
11 We saw some of it initially on the first part of the
12 tour. We got to see some of the 900 rolling dips and
13 soil erosion structures placed on Dear Valley Road and
14 some of the adjacent travel ways. And I would like
15 to -- actually intend to send a letter of accommodation
16 to the Forest for their excellent work up there and
17 would encourage any of you to take a look at that and
18 if you feel so inclined -- that includes stakeholder
19 groups here -- to send in a letter of support for that,
20 that's exactly the type of thing we need to see.

21 So, again, thanks for the support. Very good.

22 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Don, thank you for that
23 extended tour. It was excellent. I appreciate it.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: You wore her out, though.

25 DAVE PICKETT: Good morning, Commissioners.

1 David Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports
2 Committee.

3 I mirror the comments of many speakers this
4 morning. I can't tell you how refreshing it is that
5 each of you are getting out in the field and putting
6 boots on the ground on our behalf. It's just
7 phenomenal. Please keep it up. It does make a
8 difference.

9 Second, believe it or not, it's only 93 days
10 away from Hangtown 46. Each of you are invited. Drop
11 me a note, and we will get you taken care of if you
12 wish to come, now that all of you are veterans.
13 Breene, you missed it last year, buddy.

14 And a serious comment, fiscal year 2011/'12 the
15 Revenue and Taxation Code was changed under AB 95. And
16 as we move forward, we have a \$10 million take that
17 hits our funding source. And I believe we're coming
18 into the third or fourth year of this.

19 To give you an idea of the financial impact that
20 puts on this community and the funding, in the time
21 that we started this meeting to now, \$10,000 was taken
22 out of our funding out of that. It's \$833,000 a month,
23 \$10 million a year.

24 I would like to bring this forward and work in
25 partnership to see if we can do something to get this

1 stopped. The Governor, the administrator, the Senate
2 Pro Tem were all over the radio telling us that we've
3 got a balanced budget. We've got huge surpluses. And
4 if we can afford training over, then we can afford to
5 stop that take from us.

6 Thank you very much.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. That concludes public
8 comment.

9 DARRELL COLLINS: My name is Darryl Collins.

10 I'm with Siskiyou County Off-Road Riders, and
11 we're in Northern California. That's the last city
12 going north out of California, Yreka, and we developed
13 a trail. We've worked with the Forest Service, the
14 County sheriff, the County Board of Supervisors and the
15 City, a trail that goes from Yreka to the coast on
16 Forest Service roads, back country roads. It's about a
17 200-mile adventure. It's about five campgrounds. And
18 we're working on throughout the agencies to get this
19 approved. We cross the highway in short sections and
20 some county roads.

21 I just want to let the Commission know what
22 we're doing, and this is just the start of what we'd
23 like to do. We'd like to connect Yreka coast, Yreka
24 east to the Black Rock Desert, north to Oregon, which
25 isn't a stretch for us, and then as far south as we can

1 get. Redding, we know we can do that, but we'd like to
2 connect to some of the other groups to make these back
3 country adventures feasible options to all off-roaders.
4 I just wanted to keep you informed.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. How many miles is
6 that?

7 DARRELL COLLINS: We have not done it yet, but
8 we figure it's about 200. We're going to try and do it
9 this spring.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Can I go?

11 DARRELL COLLINS: Yes, it's now available to all
12 licensed vehicles. We're trying to make it legal for
13 all.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is this tied to the Back Country
15 Discovery Trail?

16 DARRELL COLLINS: No. I'm learning a lot at
17 this meeting.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: You just learned about that?

19 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Actually, I was able to
20 run into these gentlemen at breakfast this morning, and
21 I discussed a little bit of the Back Country Discovery
22 Trail or actually the Statewide Motorized Trail with
23 them. And, boy, you guys have done a lot, and this is
24 really incredible, and this is something that as that
25 project starts, we're looking kind of the feasibility

1 of it and the possibility of it happening.

2 I know Northern California pretty well. That
3 section up there, I don't know that well. To mix with
4 you guys would be a great information source, and I'm
5 looking forward to that. I'm going to be looking at
6 the Southern California segment this spring, late
7 spring. So I'm really excited to see this group of
8 people you've put together, this coalition, and maybe
9 can they have another minute or so speak about that?

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: Is there a website? Where
11 is this?

12 DARRELL COLLINS: What happened is our local
13 Yreka Police Chief had heard about a trail from Yreka
14 to the coast. It's a conflict of interest for him to
15 push it. So then I put the two maps together and
16 through our club, the Siskiyou County Off-Road Riders,
17 drew the line on the map.

18 The Forest Service, met with them, they took it
19 over and said, well, let's redesignate, let's readjust;
20 met with CHP, County Board of Supervisors through the
21 Forest Service is all on board. I'm amazed at the
22 response. For me, I personally want to ride my
23 motorcycle from my house in the city of Yreka to my
24 off-road riding area in the forest. And this is kind
25 of the vehicle to do it. It brings revenue to the City

1 of Yreka, to the County.

2 It's an ulterior motive for me, but I think it's
3 a great thing. Now that I'm kind of in charge of it, I
4 think, wow, this is going to be great.

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: What's the website?

6 DARRELL COLLINS: It's SCORR-USA.org. I just
7 have a link to the map in there. I haven't added the
8 website for this. It's a special page. I'm going to
9 do that when we get back.

10 SCORR-USA.org is our riders' website, and then
11 there is a link on there for information that has that
12 map.

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I really applaud you guys
14 for your initiative and as a community to come together
15 and be able to do this and also the agencies that have
16 stepped up and realized this is a possibility. And
17 this is the kind of actions that we're going to need to
18 be able to get that Statewide Motorized Trail. Because
19 the vision I see on that is something that's not just a
20 one trail that goes up, but it has spurs, and it has
21 designation points, and it has places that will be
22 visually stunning, and other places that will service
23 for fuel and some nice rest stops, and it will be an
24 economic driver for rural communities. So this is an
25 exact example of my vision.

1 COMMISSIONER KERR: This is a really hot topic.
2 You guys are right on.

3 DARRELL COLLINS: I would also like to invite
4 you guys to have your next meeting up in Northern
5 California. The state of Jefferson would like to have
6 you. We might go for a ride on that trail.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you very much.

8 Just a comment here, I hope our federal managers
9 that are here in the audience have heard these
10 impassioned pleas for volunteerism from the user
11 committees. And I would ask that anybody that has any
12 questions, the district ranger, you know, USF, BLM,
13 Kathy has some direct contacts obviously.

14 But Rick Lavello over there in San Bernardino
15 has a model program going. Just get a business card
16 from him. He's got all kinds of neat things going on
17 on the San Bernardino. They look down on, what is it,
18 21 million people or something like that. You talk
19 about an urban forest. They are an urban forest, and
20 they've had a lot of issues that they've had to deal
21 with, have solved those issues that in one way or
22 another you can take advantage of that.

23 Any other comments?

24 AGENDA ITEM V (B) - BUSINESS ITEMS - COMMISSION

25 COMMITTEES

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: So moving on to the Business
2 Items, Commission committees.

3 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Hello again,
4 Commissioners. Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning
5 Manager, presenting a report on a topic that's very
6 important to the way the Commission conducts business,
7 and that is this concept of committees. Reports have
8 been provided in your binders behind Tab No. 5. It's
9 also available to the public on the back table who are
10 interested in public body committees.

11 Oftentimes in the past the OHMVR Commission has
12 formed committees to address certain issues or topics,
13 oftentimes referred to them as subcommittees, but that
14 is something of a misnomer because you have to have a
15 primary committee to have a subcommittee. What the
16 Commission typically forms are committees, not
17 subcommittees. That's something I have to catch myself
18 quite often.

19 State law and public policy provides guidance to
20 state bodies like the Commission on how to conduct
21 meetings and how to form committees. The staff report
22 has a lot of great information on that topic. I'm
23 going to highlight just a couple of things from that
24 report that I think might be helpful as we go through
25 today's business and as the Commission goes forward

1 with their business.

2 Typically speaking, there's two types of
3 committees the Commission can form if they so desire.
4 The first is a special or an ad hoc committee, which is
5 formed to deal with a certain issue or a task, and then
6 once completed, it goes away. It ceases to exist.

7 And the other type of committee is a standing
8 committee, one that has an ongoing duty, and it goes on
9 along with the main body. A good example of that might
10 be many of you are probably familiar with the Senate
11 Budget Committee. So that is -- it's a committee of
12 the full Senate, but as a standing committee, it
13 conducts business on its own. It has meetings,
14 publicly-noticed meetings. It makes motions and there
15 are votes.

16 What that leads me to is that when the
17 Commission considers forming a committee on the topic,
18 first thing we need to think about, is this going to be
19 a standing committee, one that continues on into the
20 future, or a special or an ad hoc committee to deal
21 with a certain issue and then goes away, which is most
22 commonly what we deal with.

23 And then, secondly, the membership of these
24 committees is important. If the Commission wants to
25 form a standing committee, you're going to need to put

1 at least three Commissioners on that so that they can
2 make motions and vote on things and exercise authority.

3 If it's a special or an ad hoc committee, which
4 we're most used to, you can have less than three
5 members because they're not going to be exercising
6 authority on their own. They're not going to be having
7 votes. Basically they're going to be going out and
8 receiving information and then reporting it back to the
9 full Commission.

10 Now, attached to the report in your binders is a
11 list. This is attached to the reports for folks that
12 can't see the screen. These lists are the current OHV
13 Commission Committees. And this is agendized as a
14 Business Item to allow the Commission to consider that
15 list and to see are there any of those committees that
16 we can take off of there, we don't need anymore; are
17 there any of those committees that have vacant spots
18 that you would like to fill.

19 And then going forward, as you conduct business
20 today and in the future, you'll want to consider if you
21 move to form a committee, address these issues of is it
22 going to be a standing committee or an ad hoc
23 committee, and then the level of membership that's
24 required for that.

25 That was all I had on committees. The report

1 has a plethora of information on additional information
2 on how we conduct business, how a body like the
3 Commission meets, public meeting requirements, in
4 addition to the committee. So it's very informative.
5 I'll do my best to answer any questions.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you for that. And I guess
7 none of us knew that there were two kinds of
8 committees -- maybe somebody did. We only have ad hoc
9 committees right at this point?

10 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: I discussed that with
11 some of the folks in the Division who have been around
12 a lot longer, and there was an instance or two in the
13 past where the Commission did form a standing
14 committee, and that was when the Commission had direct
15 authority over the awarding of grants. And in a couple
16 of instances to conduct business, the Commission split
17 in two to have a northern meeting for grants and a
18 southern meeting for grants.

19 But that has been some time, and since then,
20 most of the committees that we've dealt with fall under
21 that special or ad hoc category, especially keeping in
22 mind that typically you usually have two Commission
23 members on a committee, so that automatically pushes it
24 into a special or an ad hoc category.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Any of questions? This is

1 good stuff. So as a Commission, do we want to tackle
2 this now or do we want to -- how do we want to deal
3 with this?

4 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: To keep the meeting
5 moving, maybe we review the list of ad hoc committees
6 and bring back suggestions of what should be either
7 kept or deleted.

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I think that would be
9 prudent under the situation; although, one thing I
10 would like to do is I would like to see if it would be
11 possible for me to be added to the Red Sticker due to
12 the work I've been doing with the ARB currently.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Should we quickly go through this
14 list and either cross it off or add people to it, or in
15 the case that Dan brought up, add a third member to the
16 standing committee because there might be a couple of
17 areas here that we want a standing committee? Does
18 that sound feasible?

19 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Are there topics that need
20 to be necessarily deleted? Can they be on there for
21 future discussion?

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sure.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I think if you take the
24 opportunity to study it -- today, you just proposed
25 basically another new ad hoc committee, which would be

1 urban parks, for the crafting of this letter. I think
2 probably at the end of the day, we're probably going to
3 determine that the Commission 2014 Report Ad Hoc
4 Committee is probably OB'd because we published that.
5 So I would suggest take this, review it, and then we
6 can decide if we want to make additions or deletions.

7 If you want to be on the Red Sticker Committee,
8 Ted, then I think that's probably an easy one we can do
9 right now if the Chair wants to do that.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Absolutely.

11 There are several here that are probably -- the
12 vacant list, they are here for a reason, I guess,
13 because there just hasn't been enough -- not that there
14 hasn't been any interest, but any business that that
15 committee could actually do, I would think.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Right.

17 And I'm hearing that this list is basically an
18 amalgamation of all of the committees that have
19 existed. So we did the research to kind of see what's
20 been out there. So there is no requirement to fill a
21 committee just because there is a name there. By the
22 same token, if you determine that we're not doing
23 enough work in a certain area and that committee no
24 longer needs to exist or we need to add a couple of
25 more, we can certainly do that.

1 But this is kind of a status report on what has
2 been there and what currently is there.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I have to thank staff. This
4 came up at the last Commission meeting.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Right.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any comments?

7 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: I don't know if any of us
8 want to just point out like Commissioner Cabral did
9 their interest because I would like to be on the ATV
10 Safety. And also I think the Commission 2014 Report is
11 done, so I don't think that one is going to continue,
12 right?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I would think not.

14 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: And that's the only one that
15 I'm considering right now.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I guess one of the things we
17 need to kind of wrestle with is whether to do a
18 standing committee for maybe the Urban Parks Initiative
19 because that's probably one of the more important
20 things on our list here at this point.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: True, but you can start
22 it out as an ad hoc and decide whether you want to turn
23 it into standing committee.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: And if it is a standing
25 committee, we have to act more like a regular

1 commission.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: It's noticed and
3 everything else, yes.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: And all of that.

5 So does anybody have any heartburn other than
6 keeping it a two-man -- two-person?

7 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: No.

8 Maybe one thing we can do on the Commission
9 Report is just remove the 2014 part of it, just make it
10 there and available for the future, like a menu if
11 people want to --

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Just ongoing Triennial Report.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: That's true. We will
14 be providing an executive summary. We talked about
15 that before. It might be useful to have this
16 subcommittee still look at that.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Feinstein bill, is that active?

18 We're going to end up at this point going
19 through this one thing by one. How can we move forward
20 as an official body with a -- I don't know if we're
21 going to have to have internal discussion on this or
22 just individually submit our own ideas.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I think take it, study
24 it, yes, and then you can combine it together. The
25 next time we have a Commission meeting, we can go

1 through and make sure that we're all set.

2 We've identified a couple of action items.
3 You've identified the urban parks, that that's an
4 action item we're forming an ad hoc committee for, and
5 the Red Sticker that we're looking at. So those are a
6 couple of actions you can take today.

7 But I think everybody can kind of red line the
8 thing, see what they think is valid or not, and discuss
9 it next time. Because this is the first time we've
10 shown it to you.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: So the action item would be
12 individual Commissioners would submit their
13 recommendations to staff.

14 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: In the meantime, add the
15 Commissioners who volunteered for their --

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Right. And we need to add the
17 Urban Parks Initiative.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Ideally, what this will
19 allow us to do is kind of polish things up, and we know
20 which ones to track and which ones not to track.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Right. And then urban park, that
22 would be combined with the Off-Road PAL program anyway,
23 I'm assuming.

24 Okay. Do we have any public comments on this
25 agenda item?

1 The Red Sticker, let's add Commissioner Ted
2 Cabral on the Red Sticker on the ad hoc committee, and
3 Diana Pérez on the ATV Safety Committee, and then
4 officially change the Commission 2014 Report to the
5 Commission Triennial Report.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Do I have anyone else who wants
8 to make comments on the Commission? Anyone else in the
9 audience?

10 BRUCE BRAZIL: Bruce Brazil representing CORVA.

11 I've got a question for Dan Canfield concerning
12 whether or not non-Commission members can be part of
13 these committees, either maybe in an advisory
14 perspective or something. There's probably members of
15 the public that have additional expertise in areas that
16 you may be studying, so you might be able to get some
17 help from Dan on that. Thank you.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank for that.

19 And, Kathryn, the urban park meeting that we had
20 at Hungry Valley kind of falls into that category,
21 right? We assembled a bunch of folks together under
22 one roof to talk about an issue.

23 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Now, I see that one as much
24 more of a public workshop kind of thing because it was
25 really an effort brought together by a lot of different

1 people. I'm not sure that was really an OHMVR
2 committee, if you will.

3 But basically I think -- and I'm trying to read
4 really fast here. I think that you could appoint
5 non-Commission members to a committee, but I'm pretty
6 sure that that puts you into a public meeting mode of
7 having to have those noticed. But I'm trying to read
8 that law here. So you may want to come back to me.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: I guess we could ask for advice.

10 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Yes, I would love to come back
11 with that. Thanks.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: You can ask for advice.
13 It's whether you appoint them to be part of the
14 committee, we would have to research it.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think that kind of covers it.

16 Bruce, if there was a specific instance that we
17 needed your expertise, we would ask you to come in at
18 that particular meeting, but you wouldn't be a standing
19 member of the committee. Does that make sense?

20 Done with Commission committees.

21 **AGENDA ITEM V (C) - BUSINESS ITEMS - 2014/15 PROPOSED**

22 **GOVERNOR'S BUDGET**

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Proposed budget, next item on the
24 agenda.

25 CHIEF MOWREY: Good morning, Commissioners.

1 Maria Mowrey. Good morning, public, federal partners.

2 I'm providing the budget update for the '14/'15
3 fiscal year. Governor Brown released his January 10
4 budget on January 9th. Since the economic downturn, it
5 has provided additional spending authority and is
6 providing additional spending authority so that we can
7 spend more money and support local assistance and
8 capital outlay. The dollars for support, 67 million;
9 local assistance, the appropriation would be
10 26 million; and capital outlay would be 31 million.

11 Next month in March, Parks will be having Senate
12 budget hearings, and then the Governor will submit or
13 release his May revised about May 15.

14 And that concludes my report.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: The speech that the Governor had
16 just recently to talk about the budget, that kind of
17 seemed to have some implications for us. Can you just
18 comment on that for a second?

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I'll comment.

20 So when the Governor rolled this out, he
21 discussed buying down the wall of debt. So we've done
22 some research and we looked at that, and we've also had
23 some discussion with the Governor's Office, and per
24 everybody's understanding, in the budget it
25 specifically discusses the wall of debt, outstanding

1 budget borrowing totalling 34.7 billion. The budget
2 reduces the debt by more than 11 billion this year,
3 fully eliminates it by 2017/'18.

4 And then if you go through the budget, you will
5 see that there is a line underneath it, and it is
6 spread out over the course of the 2013/'14, 2014/'15
7 budget, and then 2017/'18, and there is a line and it
8 says, "Loans from special funds," okay? And that's us.

9 So for everybody's understanding --

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: What page is that, Chris, on
11 here?

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: That's not here.
13 That's in the full budget.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: But we have a copy?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: You have a copy of the
16 Governor's budget. You have the excerpt for Parks in
17 your binder. What I'm reading from is the actual
18 budget. This is the full-blown multi-page, which we
19 can get to you, and I can highlight where those words
20 are. But it's in the Governor's budget that was put
21 out.

22 His proposed budget, the verbiage that he talks
23 in there is about repayment of the wall of debt. And
24 our loans are considered to be special loans from
25 special funds, and they are incorporated into this for

1 payoff by '17/'18. That's good news for us.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Real good news.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Now, in the aegis of
4 that are at what point are each of those being taken
5 down. And I will tell you we are also in
6 negotiations -- or in discussions with the Department
7 of Finance for some of those loans that are not covered
8 by that, the 1970s loans and the famous court case and
9 all of that. So we're in discussions on those as well,
10 okay? So that's good news for everybody.

11 Now, this is a proposed budget, right? So the
12 Legislature has got to pass it, and it comes back, and
13 as we said, you know, the Governor will do his final
14 chop on it, May time frame. It comes out in June, but
15 that is his plan right now.

16 So if you've been questioning whether the wall
17 of debt was us too, it's us too, okay.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you for that. And by the
19 next Commission meeting, we'll know more specifics?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Next Commission meeting
21 in May, maybe kind of, sort of.

22 I have dealt in top-secret and special programs
23 before. I am impressed by the level of security they
24 provide to the Governor's budget. So I don't know if
25 we'll know everything by May, but certainly will be

1 further down the pike and definitely by whatever
2 meeting we've got in the summer.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: This is obviously a very
4 hot-button topic to the user community. Is there a way
5 we can daylight this information?

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: It's in the public
7 record. If you go and you look -- I don't have the
8 specific pages, but if you go and you look in the
9 Governor's budget, it's on his website. And you
10 look -- and the discussion is on repayment of debts,
11 paying down debts and liabilities. And there's
12 language in there about the wall of debt. And then you
13 follow it right on down, there is a table, and the
14 table talks about special funds.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is it possible to have a link on
16 our website that maybe just goes directly to that
17 budget line?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: We can certainly link
19 in the budget, and then we can reference everybody to
20 that, yes.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Where to find that specific
22 language?

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: That's part of what
24 we're working on in the executive summary, if we can
25 incorporate that language.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Very good news.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yes, yes.

3 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I just wanted to point
4 out, Maria's report was really good. It provided a lot
5 of details, so I appreciate staff taking the time to go
6 through that.

7 I think that for -- from the get-go, we're at a
8 good point. I think we still have a lot of the
9 subcommittee meetings, meetings of the Assembly and the
10 Senate, for those of you in the audience. But for
11 those perhaps that are not in the audience, but we know
12 of other partners, we need to still communicate with
13 the subcommittees and advocate that these numbers
14 remain the same so that our capital projects and local
15 assistant budgets remain the same.

16 So that -- and if we're present at these
17 subcommittee meetings, I think it speaks volumes, then
18 it's easier to defend our position if we say we have X,
19 Y and Z projects in queue than if we're not present.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Mimi Walters is my state senator,
21 and she's on the Senate Subcommittee I believe of
22 Appropriations. She received the Triennial Report. I
23 think I need to go talk to her.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: Can I ask a budget question?

25 So I was just looking at some of the line items,

1 quite a bit of detail here. But I just wanted to
2 clarify that Hollister Hills is going to be fully --
3 the project there is going to be fully funded this
4 summer, all the work on the plumbing system, the septic
5 system, the various millions of dollars worth of
6 improvements that are in here, that's going to happen?

7 CHIEF MOWREY: Yes, there's a trails and roads
8 BCP, and it's mentioned in the Governor's budget, and
9 there is a waterline expansion at Hollister Hills also.
10 It's a minor capital outlay.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: We will finally get that
12 project? It will happen this summer?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: If the Governor's
14 budget gets passed, yes.

15 COMMISSIONER KERR: It might be worth mentioning
16 to your state senator, Paul, while you're there, if
17 you're going to have budget discussions, let's keep
18 Hollister Hills in the budget this year.

19 So we've got some important work down there
20 that's been put off now for a few months due to various
21 reasons, which I think were all quite reasonable, but
22 this is the year to do it. It's in the budget. I'd
23 like to see it stay in the budget.

24 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: All of our projects are
25 included on here.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yeah, we did very well
2 on capital outlay in this proposed budget. So now
3 we've just got to make sure it gets passed.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any further discussion on the
5 budget?

6 Tina needs 15 minutes before we break for lunch.
7 As a Commission, we're traveling to this restaurant; is
8 that it? So it's about 10, 15 minutes away. And Tina
9 needs time to get there and get them set up before we
10 get there. Is that the deal?

11 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: So that the would be
12 correct, whenever there is an appropriate time.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: So it's quarter to 12:00 now. We
14 have Clear Creek coming up. That's going to be
15 probably a pretty good discussion. Do you think we can
16 do that by quarter after 12:00, 12:30?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: You can wade into it,
18 and then if we need to cut it, we can cut it and come
19 back and readdress it.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: How about 12:30 for lunch? Is
21 that good for you? So we will leave here at 12:30 for
22 lunch, folks -- we will leave at 12:15. We will be
23 there at 12:30. We will have the lunch break at 12:15.

24 Thank you. Great staff out there working hard
25 making sure lunch is provided.

1 ///

2 AGENDA ITEM V (D) - BUSINESS ITEMS - CLEAR CREEK

3 MANAGEMENT AREA (CCMA) RECORD OF DECISION

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Clear Creek, next item on the
5 agenda.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. You have in your
7 binder, and it's at Tab 7, and this is the Record of
8 Decision for Clear Creek Management Area. They have
9 responded to your letter, and their response was they
10 took it under consideration but basically thank you for
11 your service. And that's appropriate. That was done
12 for several of them. I mean it's just -- everybody put
13 in their submissions.

14 Now, before you, we have a 30-day period, and we
15 can have BLM talk a little bit more in-depth about that
16 if you'd like. You have a 30-day period in which you
17 can go ahead and put in an appeal. And the appeal
18 ought to be something substantive that we disagree with
19 within the Record of Decision.

20 We also have -- Will Harris is here, and he can
21 talk a little bit about possibilities on what you can
22 look at in there as an appeal, but we just need to make
23 a decision as a body if we want to do something like
24 that, okay? Do you want to hear from Will?

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: We need to hear from Este, too.

1 COMMISSIONER KERR: What are the highlights of
2 the decision here we need to focus on, the limited days
3 of access or the none --

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Let's let Will get up
5 and talk about that. He can kind of focus you on what
6 the potentials are.

7 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: Will Harris from
8 California Geological Survey. Actually, Chris, if you
9 don't mind, I think it might be better if Este
10 explained the process for the appeal under the Record
11 of Decision in regards to the implementation portions
12 of the Record of Decision, and she'll be a lot more
13 clearer than me.

14 And then I can talk to you about some things
15 that we may want to focus on in any kind of appeal
16 letter. And also if you want an update on the
17 additional investigative work we're doing for risk
18 assessment, I think I can give you an update on that as
19 well.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Very good, thanks.

21 Este Stifel, BLM.

22 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Hello, Commissioners. I'm
23 Este Stifel, the Central California District Manager of
24 the Bureau of Land Management.

25 I think right now I'm just answering questions?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Right.

2 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: The question was what was
3 the appeals process.

4 So the ROD was signed on the 12th of February.
5 There is a 30-day appeal process, and that's open to
6 any and all individuals that have participated in the
7 rest of the process. So during the appeals period,
8 anyone who wants to can submit an appeal to the
9 Interior Board of Land Appeals, and that appeal would
10 be of any of the implementation decisions.

11 So if you go to Section 2-B of the ROD and look,
12 you will see a list of decisions. So there's a list of
13 decisions. They're either labeled as a land use
14 decision or an implementation decision. And so if you
15 focus on implementation decisions in Section 2-B of the
16 ROD, then you will see which decision you're dealing
17 with.

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do we have this document?

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: We don't have this document,
20 right?

21 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: There is a copy of it on
22 the back table.

23 So that deadline is March 13th. You have until
24 March 13th. And the Commission could appeal. The
25 Division could appeal. Individuals can appeal. Groups

1 can appeal. And I would encourage any appeals you
2 submit needs to be writing, not electronic.

3 I would recommend that there is a place -- you
4 go to 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart E, and that explains the
5 appeal process. And in that you actually -- this is
6 all in the letter that is in the ROD, so it's out
7 there. It's easy to find.

8 And Will and I talked. He knows all about where
9 we're headed with this one. But in that, it tells you
10 where to send your appeal, but I would also recommend
11 you send a copy of it to the Hollister Field Office so
12 they have a copy so we get it in more than one place
13 and make sure it goes forward properly.

14 That's pretty much it in a nutshell, unless
15 anybody has any questions. Thank you for that
16 opportunity.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Thank you, Este.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: So we had some time with BLM
20 staff in the car on Wednesday, Ted and myself, and we
21 talked about this extensively.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Do you want to hear
23 from Will?

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: We want to hear from Will. This
25 is an 800-pound gorilla.

1 COMMISSIONER KERR: Is there an elevator pitch
2 of this document that we only have one copy of? I'm
3 assuming it's the position that the BLM has taken in
4 the past where it's get out and stay out it.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Not necessarily that
6 severe. But they're going to use an adaptive
7 management process. We have input to that adaptive
8 management process, but we can also -- in the
9 implementation, if we want to appeal their initial
10 implementation, we can do that.

11 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: I will say that BLM has
12 acknowledged the OHV Division's assistance in
13 clarifying some of the controversy over chrysotile
14 asbestos at Clear Creek. And the adaptive management
15 criteria that's presented in the revised Resource
16 Management Plan is a testament to that and provides a
17 foot in the door for allowing potentially OHMVR
18 operation at Clear Creek should additional studies
19 demonstrate that there would be an acceptable risk for
20 that activity.

21 But to go to the appeals process for the Record
22 of Decision and the implementation portion that Este
23 mentioned, under 2-B, Section 2-B of the Record of
24 Decision, there are a number of short line items that
25 are written out. And as Este said, they're either land

1 use plan decisions or implementation decisions. And so
2 it would be an appeals process -- per what was
3 communicated to me, the appeal would be for
4 implementation decisions.

5 So, for example, one thing that may behoove the
6 Commission or the Division to write as an appeal would
7 be the Recreation Use E-2 implementation decision:

8 "Authorize motorized access in
9 the serpentine ACE by permits only
10 and limit visitor use to five days
11 per year for motorized activities,
12 limit use for non-motorized
13 activities to 12 days per year."

14 Now, for instance, an appeal could be made in
15 any number of ways, but in the Resource Management
16 Plan, there's not a lot of nuance, if I might say, in
17 how things are managed -- excuse me, how the exposure
18 to asbestos is managed per the various activities that
19 are allowed.

20 For instance, there is no -- you can go 12 days
21 a year if you wanted to in August or September when
22 it's the hottest and driest and therefore the dustiest.
23 I believe there is motorized access allowing
24 street-legal vehicle use through the ACEC along the
25 county road, but it will be five days per year. But,

1 again, there's not a lot of nuance in that. It could
2 be five days in September. It could be five days in
3 August.

4 There are proposals that you could make that
5 would spotlight when the place is popular in the winter
6 months for recreation. You can make proposal for
7 limiting exposure as well, such as capping the roads.
8 That is something that is included in the Resource
9 Management Plan in general terms. But I don't think it
10 would hurt to spotlight that sort of thing in a letter
11 coming from the Commission or the Division.

12 And so it would behoove you to go through the
13 Record of Decision documents to look at some of those
14 implementation items. And I've already checked some of
15 those in a copy that I have, and I was anticipating --
16 Chris directed me, actually, to get with Kathryn Tobias
17 and go through some of those items to see whether or
18 not an appeal letter should be written that would be
19 bulleting different concerns.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: So you have a
21 subcommittee that has been set up to do this. Since
22 this just came out, we can have the research done. We
23 can bounce it back and forth and assist in the creation
24 of an appeal letter, if you want to do that, that we
25 can send on up.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sure.

2 The question I would have is since I signed that
3 initial letter, would that letter be signed by the two
4 people in the subcommittee, the ad hoc committee?

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I'm hearing you can do
6 it whichever way you want.

7 COUNSEL TOBIAS: I think you can do it either
8 way. You could have the ad hoc committee do it, or
9 they could give it to you to do it. So I think you
10 should just specify what you would like to have done
11 with that in the minutes.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Is there an issue with
13 standing? Is it better if Paul signs it?

14 COUNSEL TOBIAS: I think if the Commission votes
15 today to say that they are supporting the writing of
16 that letter, then to a certain extent if the Chair is
17 not signing it, it's delegating that to the ad hoc
18 committee to do that. I don't think the signature name
19 would be that important.

20 I think it's more important to say that the
21 Commission has voted to take a position and send that
22 letter. But if you want to have the ad hoc committee
23 send it to the Chair, that's fine, too.

24 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I would say keep the names
25 the same just to keep it consistent. Wouldn't want any

1 kind of a hang-up to happen because there was a
2 clerical difference of one document to another.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: So would we entertain a motion
4 then that the ad hoc committee would work with staff
5 and Will to create a letter that would be signed by the
6 Chair of the Commission?

7 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I so move.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Within that March 13th time
9 frame.

10 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Second.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor, aye.

12 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Motion passes.

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: Can I ask a clarifying
15 question? Then we can move on.

16 So the summary, it's unclear to me whether that
17 county road stays open 365 days a year or whether
18 that's also closed. But when I've been there in the
19 past, it's been asserted that the County has a right to
20 keep that road open.

21 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: That's a very good
22 question. I know that the San Benito County Board of
23 Supervisors has that on their agenda for March 4th to
24 talk about the Record of Decision and I assume the
25 right of way for the county road.

1 Under the Record of Decision, you are allowed
2 motorized access to the -- street vehicles are allowed
3 through the ACEC through Clear Creek via the county
4 road, so I presume it would be something like a permit
5 you would get and perhaps there's a gate on the road,
6 you get a key or combo, or it's just -- I'm not sure
7 what that process is going to be.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: So just to be clear,
9 previously the BLM had talked about and has limited
10 off-road excursions into the previous riding areas.
11 And does this Record of Decision now suggest that the
12 entire place would be locked up, including the
13 entrances and exits of the county road?

14 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: How they're going to
15 allow access for street-legal vehicles, I don't know
16 what that process is going to be. There will also be
17 access areas north where people can hike in. They can
18 take an ATV to the limit --

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: I think what you're saying
20 is the road would now be closed essentially?

21 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: Again, I'm not sure if
22 they're going to physically barrier -- put a barricade
23 on it.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: But that's their intent, to
25 limit motorized travel on this road.

1 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: Their intent would be to
2 limit the exposure to five days per year. How they
3 would quote/unquote enforce that --

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: I would like to ask that the
5 Commission specifically recommend to the subcommittee
6 that that particular point be mentioned in whatever
7 letter that goes out, that this is a further expansion
8 of the closure that has been in effect for the last
9 several years.

10 That road is open right now, right?

11 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: It is open currently.
12 There's not a gate at this point.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: So they have the nerve not
14 only to continue the closure but now to further limit
15 travel through the area along the county road.

16 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: Again, in terms of how
17 they provide or don't provide a barricade, I'm not
18 certain.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: I would like to recommend to
20 the subcommittee they specifically address that issue
21 in their comments.

22 GEOLOGIST WILL HARRIS: And under a letter in
23 one of these implementation plans that could be
24 mentioned in an appeal. It could be referenced.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Este, can you address those

1 questions? Are there answers to those questions? If
2 not, we would move on because we have a lot of public
3 comment on this. It's important.

4 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I can answer a little bit,
5 and then I will try to find an answer, and when BLM
6 talks later, I'll expand on it if that works for you
7 all.

8 Part of the answer is that there will be a
9 permit system. So when vehicles have -- an individual
10 will have a permit for five days for vehicular access.
11 So I will try to determine whether the road you're
12 referencing is specifically tied to the five days of
13 vehicular access or not.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: And that's a county road, does
15 RS 2477 play into that?

16 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I believe that there is a
17 discussion about RS 2477, and there's a debate as to
18 whether or not it's a county road. But I'll try to get
19 a little more information.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: We've been talking about this for
21 a long time. We don't know if it's a county road or
22 not?

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: At the last minute after
24 five years and this is still unclear?

25 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I don't have -- I don't

1 want to give you all misinformation. I just need to
2 make a phone call.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: What does the Record of
4 Decision say? Does it say it's going to close the road
5 or not?

6 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: It's limited access.

7 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: It's limited to five days a
8 year to street-legal vehicles.

9 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Also, the street-legal
10 vehicles, I thought there was some verbiage that
11 defined what type of street-legal vehicles you were
12 going to allow.

13 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Street-legal.

14 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Like a street-legal
15 motorcycle?

16 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Street-legal.

17 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Este, can you clarify which
18 five days out of the year?

19 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: It's five days per person.
20 So the limit isn't really on the vehicles. The limit
21 is for the person. So each individual can go for five
22 days, and they can pick which five days they want to go
23 up.

24 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Any time of the year?

25 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Absolutely.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: The dustiest time of year?

2 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: If they want to the pick
3 that, yes.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: And just for -- I mean
6 at the same time this is going on, too, we're doing the
7 study out there. So there is another study being done,
8 and that's again to help them in the adaptive
9 management program.

10 So to your point, Breene, I know it's
11 frustrating, but they're also -- they've got this
12 decision back now. Now, they're starting to work their
13 adaptive management plan to determine how this thing is
14 going to work in execution. And we're working with
15 them to try and do our input as well.

16 But for the purposes of the Commission meeting
17 right now, since this just came out and we have this
18 30-day window, what we want to do is focus on the
19 specific things we want to challenge in an appeal. We
20 can get that for you. We will continue to work with
21 Rick Cooper and all of the people down there to come up
22 with specifics we can challenge.

23 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: That's good. I like the
24 fact that you guys are still working with this problem
25 and doing what we can. I'm sure Diana will work

1 diligently along -- I will, too -- to put this
2 together.

3 But this has been in limbo for a long time, and
4 what we're looking at here, though, is I just want -- I
5 understand the frustration that really everyone in this
6 whole situation is involved with.

7 Really what's happened is you have the EPA has
8 made a decision, and the BLM is carrying out this
9 decision, and it's affected a lot of people. So the
10 BLM people are working their hardest to try to make
11 this -- to resolve it, but they have a little bit of --
12 I wouldn't say one arm tied behind their back, they
13 probably have both of them and maybe one leg.

14 So with that, I do want to say, though, that
15 this is -- having the Record of Decision come out is
16 kind of a reset because at this point now things can
17 start moving forward, instead of just being in limbo
18 land, how they have been.

19 So as we move forward and as we make public
20 comments and stuff, I think if we can somehow as an OHV
21 community focus on the positives, focus on the
22 communities, focus on the families, focus on the things
23 that are positive, the financials that we brought into
24 that community. And we have science being performed
25 right now measuring what's going on. And I think that

1 they're going to find that the numbers are going to be
2 a lot lower than anticipated. So with that we're going
3 to be looking at things on the science and possibly
4 coming out in our favor.

5 So as a community, if we could really do a
6 unified positive message and try to work with the
7 agency that has to implement this, I think would be a
8 better tack than throwing darts. I just wanted to
9 point that out before -- on everything because my
10 experience the other day when we were driving in the
11 car is, like Paul said was, that there's a willingness
12 to do the right thing here, and there's not a
13 disagreement completely that the right thing is to not
14 let people recreate there, that's been made clear.
15 It's just how to manage it is the question.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Let me heartily endorse
17 of what Ted just said. By evidence that BLM is
18 participating with Forest Service and all of our
19 federal partners, there are lots of opportunities to
20 work with this together. You're right. This is one
21 federal agency telling another federal agency what they
22 need to do, and that federal agency having to do what
23 they feel they have to do.

24 The Record of Decision, we may not like it, but
25 it had to come out. And now that it's out, now we can

1 work with it. It does provide some provisions for
2 adaptive management, and we do have a recourse of
3 appeal that we can express, and we're going to do that.

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: Maybe what they're saying
5 is -- I mean some good things are being said here, that
6 someone could go there for a weekend with their family
7 and get a permit to do so.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: At least they can get
9 in.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: And maybe that's -- maybe
11 that's not so bad as long as the process of obtaining
12 that permit is not particularly onerous.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Right.

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: So we do get some access.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: That's right.

16 And if this study -- if the results of this
17 study that we're doing right now in a drought, by the
18 way, it only just recently started raining, if it shows
19 that there are other things we can do scientifically
20 for the protection of people and there's a lower risk,
21 BLM has said they will work with us as best they can
22 and EPA. So we're trying to get this done. What we
23 don't want to do is create walls between us, though,
24 because we are getting a lot of process done.

25 And it goes back to something I think we've said

1 several times here recently, and that is the
2 understanding that as good partners as our federal
3 partners are, the federal government owns that land not
4 us. And that's just a reality. So sometimes that's
5 why as we go forward and we're looking at acquisitions
6 of state land, you know, like in the Onyx Ranch thing,
7 keep that in mind. That's the rationale for that. If
8 we own it as a state, then in perpetuity we make the
9 calls on it. Federal land is a federal asset, and they
10 are going to do with it what makes the most sense for
11 the federal government. We'll take a little more about
12 that when we get to DRECP later too and the
13 implications of that, okay?

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

15 I have about seven or eight individuals here
16 that want to talk about Clear Creek, and we're pushing
17 up against this 12:15. I guess what I would like to
18 ask, is there anybody that's going to leave after lunch
19 that wants to talk about Clear Creek? You can come up
20 now. We have a few minutes to do that; otherwise, I
21 would like to hold that off until we get back from
22 lunch.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Well, how many do you
24 have?

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Seven.

1 COMMISSIONER KERR: Let's just go through.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Do you want to power through?

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Let's see -- I would
4 run through them and power through them, and let's see
5 if we can get them done.

6 ERIC LUEDER: I promise I'll be quick. Because
7 we've beat this horse to death for a long time.

8 When I was on the Commission, of course, we had
9 a big hearing in Hollister, took all day long, heard
10 from EPA, heard from our OHV contracted scientists,
11 which are world-renowned scientists, well-respected.

12 I'm happy to hear that the Commission and
13 Division is not wavering at this point on reopening
14 Clear Creek to OHV recreation. It's well known that
15 there's many questions, issues, flaws with the way the
16 EPA did their scientific study and came up with their
17 issues of risk. So I think there's an opportunity to
18 identify all of those again through the data that's
19 being collected.

20 I basically would like to say that my
21 interaction with BLM staff, as a former member of the
22 Northwest California Resource Advisory Council, has
23 been positive, and I believe that they will do the
24 right thing within their parameters. So I would just
25 basically encourage everybody to continue to work with

1 them diligently. Thank you.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Amy?

3 AMY GRANAT: I defer my comment time to Bruce
4 Brazil.

5 NICK HARIS: Nick Haris, American Motorcyclists
6 Association. One thing I want to clarify, the BLM
7 release says that the deadline for comment is the 14th.
8 I was kind of surprised when I heard the 13th
9 announced. I got it on my phone right now. So it
10 would be nice to know, you know, what the date is, but
11 I'm pretty sure it's the 14th.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Midnight on the 14th.

13 NICK HARIS: The letter says the 14th, so I
14 heard the 13th earlier. I want to clear that up.

15 I'm really happy to hear the state study is
16 moving forward. I'm also glad to see the BLM
17 recognizing within this document that there is a chance
18 for future modifications to the entry limits, let's
19 say, based on the state study.

20 I share Commissioner Kerr's concerns, and I'm
21 going to miss you because I really appreciate your
22 passion for this particular issue, and, frankly, some
23 of your comments are right on cue.

24 We need to get an answer, and the county road
25 issue to me is mind boggling at this point. How do we

1 not know what the status of the county road is after
2 this many years?

3 More than that, I have been talking to many of
4 our members who are passionate about this area, and I
5 have told a lot of them this is kind of in my mind the
6 first offer, the reset, like Commissioner Cabral
7 mentioned, and I would like to see everybody's comment
8 on what they would like to see, OHV access obviously
9 being the key component that is currently missing.

10 And I really encourage all of you to get this
11 letter in, and I think you have super standing, shall
12 we say. So I thank you for your interest in this area.

13 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36. This
14 particular riding area is right dead center in the
15 middle of District 36 and affects thousands and
16 thousands and thousands of families.

17 I've been combing through the Record of
18 Decision, which a lot of people have been doing, and
19 it's pretty comprehensive. But the way I look at it
20 for my membership, there are three Records of Decision,
21 the error of BLM, the lack of a record of death, and a
22 lack of a record of disease.

23 It seems to be that EPA has dug their heels in.
24 They're trying to save my life and thousands of other
25 people that have been recreating there go back to

1 documented 1920s recreational use. The big bang came
2 in 1946 with the returning World War II vets. This was
3 discussed at many roundtables that took place, and that
4 was the agreed upon date.

5 So the historical significance of the disease
6 over time seems to be lacking and not clearly pointed
7 out in this. Because when you go to the '20's -- if
8 you go back to '46, still three plus decades, the
9 argument continues to remain weak as far as District 36
10 is concerned. The five-day thing won't work for
11 permitted events. We've had two clubs that have held
12 events there for decades. It just won't work.

13 But I'm with Mr. Haris on this county road
14 issue.

15 COMMISSIONER KERR: How much time do they need?
16 So are you saying workers would need to be in the area
17 for potentially longer than five days in order to do an
18 event?

19 DAVE PICKETT: We have the youth event on a
20 Saturday and an adult event on Sunday, and there are
21 two clubs that each have an event. So if there's five
22 days, how is the club going to go in and set up the
23 course, plus go through the process of -- the HR 29 --

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: That's the kind of specific
25 comment that we need to make based on what I'm hearing

1 here. If there were particular procedural issues with
2 the proposed implementation plan, we need to identify
3 them and explain why we need to have exceptions in
4 these specific areas for course workers or other people
5 like that. I think that's important to the
6 subcommittee.

7 DAVE PICKETT: Thank you for that comment.

8 Anyway, I want to button up here. I know we
9 want to get out to lunch. You have less than 15 days
10 to accomplish this task. So I would ask the power of
11 this Commission, this Division and State Parks to put
12 in a request to extend the comment period. They had
13 six years. We have 30 days. Thank you very much.

14 BRUCE BRAZIL: Good afternoon, Bruce Brazil
15 representing CORVA. And I'm one of maybe two handfuls
16 of people that still have standing, so we can submit an
17 appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

18 A little bit earlier in the process I kind of
19 realized that through the regular appeals process, we
20 weren't going to get anything near what we wanted, and
21 that would be motorized off-highway vehicle recreation
22 back into the ACEC, the area of environmental concern.

23 And so I heard about the IBLA, and that's the
24 last step in the appeals process, and heard, well, this
25 is an organization independent of the management stream

1 of the BLM, so I figured, well, maybe we're going to
2 get some fair, unbiased rulings on here, maybe someone
3 with some reason. And that all went away as far as my
4 idea of what they would do when during the last couple
5 of weeks I read through, well, maybe a dozen of their
6 rulings on -- from last year on other subjects. And of
7 the dozen I got through, they never ruled in favor of
8 the appellant. They go strictly by the rule of law,
9 not by the intent.

10 And so even though I'm still going to send in an
11 appeal, I have about as much hope of any of us getting
12 a positive ruling on their appeals as -- I figured that
13 possibility is just about that much, just a little bit
14 bigger than the possibility of having any health
15 concerns from recreational exposure to chrysotile while
16 recreating in Clear Creek.

17 And they had on the county roads, if any of the
18 Commissioners could possibly meet or get to the meeting
19 next Thursday morning -- or Tuesday morning down in
20 Hollister with the San Benito County Board of
21 Supervisors, I think that would be beneficial because I
22 believe the county roads thing will be a topic down
23 there.

24 And then last but not least, Sam Farr's House
25 Resolution 1776, if perchance that should get all the

1 way through the steps, it could make a major change in
2 all of the Record of Decisions, et cetera, et cetera.

3 But even as such, his bill would require or
4 should require some significant changes in it, and if
5 anyone has any changes that they want to see, from what
6 I understand, Sam Farr's office would be the ones to
7 contact on that. Thank you.

8 JERRY FOUTS: I defer my time to Don Amador.

9 DON AMADOR: Just real quick, I won't rehash,
10 plow old ground on the subject but would simply like to
11 ask the Commission, as Commissioner Murphy stated,
12 HR 1776 is on its way from the Ranking Member's office
13 over to the Chairman's House Committee on Natural
14 Resources. All of the national OHV groups, any of the
15 MICs and others have endorsed HR 1776, as well as a lot
16 of number of businesses and local users groups.

17 I would urge the Commission to send a letter of
18 support to HR 1776 because, like it was stated, there's
19 two parallel tracks, the administrative process, which
20 Blue Ribbon, our legal department, has continued to
21 pursue.

22 We have concerns about the county road issue.
23 We will be at the San Benito County Board of
24 Supervisors meeting on March 4. But then that parallel
25 track of legislation, as you know, it's a citizen's

1 right when they disagree with an agency -- and I told
2 BLM, we're sort of like a family. We don't always
3 agree on everything, but we agree to disagree I think
4 on the Record of Decision.

5 So it's our right as citizens and stakeholder
6 groups to petition Congress, which we have done, so I
7 would urge the Commission when you come back to
8 consider a letter of support for HR 1776.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would like to close with asking
10 if anybody would want to put forward a motion to write
11 that letter as suggested by Mr. Amador?

12 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I'll make that motion.

13 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Second.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor, aye.

15 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: And who's going to write that
17 letter?

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: Wouldn't that be part of the
19 duties of this subcommittee?

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: You guys will have the
21 information.

22 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: One clarifying comment, my
23 apologies, my date was incorrect. It is the 14th of
24 March to submit comments.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Motion passes to write the

1 letter.

2 (Returned at 2:21 from lunch starting at 12:22 p.m.)

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: We would like to reconvene the
4 OHMVR Commission meeting. Sorry for the delay, we got
5 stuck at lunch. Most of you were probably there.

6 **AGENDA ITEM VI (B) - BLM REPORT**

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: And we're going to make a slight
8 change in the agenda. We're going to take the BLM and
9 Forest Service reports right now for some good reasons,
10 and then we will continue on with the Director's
11 report.

12 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: Good afternoon, Commissioners,
13 Division and the general public. Thank you for
14 inviting us to come to your meeting.

15 Many of the topics that we're discussing today I
16 was planning on covering in my report but ended up
17 being on the regular business agenda, so I won't get
18 too much into detail in my report. And then turn it
19 over to the Este Stifel, our Central California
20 District Manager, to cover California Central
21 California District.

22 First off, I just wanted to say within the last
23 year or so our partnership with the OHV Division has
24 significantly improved. And a lot has to do -- you
25 know, I really appreciate -- Brian has been

1 coordinating with our law enforcement, and they've been
2 supplementing and assisting us at some of the larger
3 events or when we have a very busy weekend like on the
4 holiday weekends down in the desert. So not only with
5 the law enforcement officers but the whole contingency
6 of external -- what we call external affairs, but
7 outreach folks have been going down there, and they've
8 been setting up booths and those kinds of things and
9 really assisting us in outreaching and educating the
10 public. And, Chris, I really appreciate that and BLM
11 appreciates that for that assistance.

12 And I want to -- in my report I kind of talk a
13 little bit about a new initiative we just started
14 partnering up with is in the realm of social media.
15 BLM has been aggressively pursuing social media for the
16 past couple of years, and in the last year we recently
17 filled a position in our external affairs group, a
18 social media person, and I believe you guys are doing
19 something similar.

20 And so they partnered up, and they're developing
21 a plan right now how we could outreach to our public --
22 just not with State Parks and general state parks but
23 also concentrating on OHV and OHV concerns. And in the
24 social media, the one thing both the agencies have to
25 learn, that's social and that sometimes we may not like

1 some of the comments that are said under social forums.
2 But I realized being in my fire arena, I've been doing
3 social media for a while, that, you know, it corrects
4 itself if it's incorrect information. I've kind of
5 figured that one out, and I believe our agencies are
6 slowly figuring that out, too.

7 So I'm excited about this new push, new
8 initiative and new partnership, but we've got to join
9 together and share our resources and get the word out
10 to the public, and that's what we're really pushing.

11 I believe, Chris, you guys are going to talk a
12 little more about Johnson Valley?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: We're going to present
14 a little bit. If you want to give any of your thoughts
15 and feelings on it, that would be okay.

16 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: I saw your presentation, so I
17 think you'll cover what needs to be covered related to
18 Johnson Valley.

19 Our Barstow Field Office is working with the
20 Navy and working really hard in trying to make sure
21 again to get the information out to our public of this
22 is where we're going, and this is our process, and this
23 is our planning process, so engaging.

24 One new thing -- not new -- new old thing, we
25 are now going to start a -- a group is going to be

1 started up called Friends of Johnson Valley, and
2 that's -- it's an old group that's restarting up again,
3 which I'm excited about, and we're going to do a
4 partnership with them again, an Adopt-a-Trail kind of
5 program. We've already discussed that with them. And
6 so I'll really excited that -- you know, one good thing
7 is there's new interests into Johnson Valley other than
8 King of the Hammers. So as far as the open OHV areas,
9 we have new interests in the public, and they realize
10 how important that area is to conserve that area for
11 OHV use.

12 And with that any questions for me statewide?
13 Because Este is going to be covering Central
14 California, which includes Clear Creek.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Jane, I would like you to make
16 sure that we understand the designation of Johnson
17 Valley and how it's protected by legislation at this
18 point.

19 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: Okay. So the designation of
20 Johnson Valley is kind of like here at Cow Mountain.
21 It's a designation as a recreation area for OHV --
22 primarily for OHV use, but there's other uses.

23 One of the things that will no longer be part of
24 Johnson Valley, that area, is grazing. So grazing will
25 no longer be -- it's not being managed as a multiple

1 use. So we already talked to -- we only have one
2 permittee. We had conversations with that permittee
3 about moving that person to another area. So it's not
4 going to be as multiple use as it was. There's still
5 some opportunities for multiple use, especially when
6 we're looking at conservation and those kinds of
7 things.

8 Under DRECP, which I'll be discussing that later
9 with Connie, it is a SRMA. So that SRMA, Special
10 Recreation Management Area, in our resource management
11 plans it will be protected as a SRMA under BLM, so.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: So they can't put geothermal in
13 the area?

14 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: How geothermal works is
15 under DRECP -- which we will be discussing. How
16 geothermal works, as long as it doesn't have surface
17 occupancy, so they can't put all of the pipes and the
18 buildings and everything else, but they can drill
19 underneath. So they'll have mineral rights to
20 underneath, but they will not be able to have
21 geothermal surface occupancy.

22 Any other questions?

23 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: The financial situation
24 with the BLM has been difficult with the federal
25 government. Is there any change in that or is that

1 going -- is it in the same situation?

2 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: Of course, the bill hasn't
3 been passed yet, and there's also talk of a two-year
4 budget, which will be nice, because it will be nice to
5 have an out year plan, if that actually happens.

6 So what I understand is that our budgets are
7 going to pretty much stay fairly stagnant, not much of
8 a cut, unless we have sequestration, and we don't know
9 that until Congress passes the budget. So that's the
10 rumors that we have. So I don't know. Maybe Este has
11 heard a little more than I have, but that's what I've
12 heard so far.

13 I would like to introduce Este Stifel, Central
14 California District Manager. She'll be talking about
15 Clear Creek and also introducing a little more about
16 her district. Thank you.

17 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I'll just speak very
18 briefly about Clear Creek and then hand it off to the
19 Ukiah Field Office to give you a thorough review of all
20 of the more fun things that are happening in Central
21 California.

22 So as we discussed earlier, the Record of
23 Discussion was signed on February 12th, and the appeal
24 period will end on March 14th. So that was pretty much
25 hashed.

1 What I would like to talk about now is what
2 "implementation" means. I do have an answer for you.
3 I'll put that at the end of the presentation. I'll
4 keep things brief, but please ask questions if you have
5 any.

6 So barring any litigation or injunctions, BLM
7 will open the Clear Creek Management Area, serpentine
8 area ACEC to the public on March 15th. And the
9 serpentine ACEC will be limited to highway-licensed
10 vehicles with a permit, and approximately 32 miles of
11 roads that will be open for use under the permit.

12 The people who want to go onto there, they will
13 need an individual access permit, and that permit will
14 be required for everyone in the vehicle or any
15 pedestrians. And the total allowable days that they
16 can drive in the ACEC is five per year, and then the
17 12 days per year for people on foot for any pedestrian
18 access.

19 We're also improving access to the non-ACEC
20 zones of Clear Creek Management Area, and we're trying
21 to improve access as well for non-motorized recreation.
22 We're going to be developing a travel management plan
23 for some of the other areas inside the management area.

24 The ACEC is a significant portion of the entire
25 management area but not the entire management area. So

1 we'll be developing a travel management plan for
2 Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito river zones.
3 And those, again, will be highway-licensed vehicles and
4 ATVs and UTVs, and they will be on designated open
5 routes.

6 And then vehicle use in the Condon zone is
7 limited to highway-licensed vehicles and ATV, UTV use
8 on approximately 25 miles of designated open routes
9 that are signed for use. So BLM had a fee program
10 prior to the closure, so that fee program is still in
11 place so that -- that fee program will essentially be
12 reactivated because the management area is open again.
13 So the fee program will be five dollars per licensed
14 vehicle per week at the management area and then
15 ten dollars for stickered ATVs and UTVs in the area
16 where ATVs and UTVs are allowed, which is outside of
17 the serpentine ACEC.

18 And then as was said earlier, we will continue
19 to work with California State Parks, EPA, and the
20 California Department of Toxic Substances and Control
21 to identify opportunities for activity-based studies on
22 asbestos exposure on recreational users so we can
23 continue to adaptively manage the property as we learn
24 more about the health risks associated with the
25 asbestos. That's in a nutshell what the implementation

1 looks like.

2 And then a specific answer to the question asked
3 earlier, the road through the Clear Creek Management
4 Area, that main road through is gated and will continue
5 to be gated under implementation. People who obtain
6 permits for individual access will get a combination,
7 and they'll be able to go through as part of their
8 experience inside the ACEC.

9 RS 2477 is the option of the County to pursue.
10 So if the County would like to pursue that, they are
11 certainly open to do so. And BLM has no objection to
12 that, the pursuit of an RS 2477 by the County, but it's
13 up to the County to choose to go forward with that
14 quiet title action.

15 That's the end of the report on Clear Creek. If
16 anyone has any questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: I have a couple of questions. It
18 might be worthwhile to tell us what RS 2477 is for some
19 of the Commissioners that may not know that.

20 And then the other thing is can you give us
21 information directing us to where the decision came to
22 delete two-wheel motorcycles out of this whole mix of
23 vehicles they allow --

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: Street-legal.

25 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: If they're street-legal,

1 they're allowed.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm talking about the other side
3 where you're talking about permitted ATVs and UTVs. So
4 you specifically eliminated the two-wheel vehicles. Is
5 there a paper trail that can show us why that decision
6 was made?

7 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I don't know. I can look
8 into that for you.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: That would be interesting.

10 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I will do that.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: So I have two questions.

12 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Fair enough.

13 And on the RS 2477, that's -- Rich, can you
14 speak to that? I will pass it on to Rich. He's going
15 to do the Central California OHV report anyway, and so
16 I'll put him in the hot seat for RS 2477. Thank you.

17 BLM MANAGER BURNS: Good afternoon to the
18 Commission and public at large. I'm Rich Burns, Field
19 Manager for BLM here out of Ukiah.

20 Before I mention RS 2477, one of the things I do
21 want to say is this is so cool. I mean the Commission
22 is great. I like the makeup of them. The last time I
23 was here, as a number of people know, it wasn't
24 anything like this. So this is just wonderful.

25 I guess the other part too, I also want to thank

1 Commissioner Slavik and Cabral, both of you guys were
2 on the tour on Wednesday.

3 So RS 2477, what I'm aware of with it is that it
4 was a way that different roads and routes of travel
5 that are being used by the country were able to be
6 acquired by states and counties to use and keep open as
7 public for public access. And that was wherever those
8 things were designated and wherever those routes were
9 drawn and crossed.

10 So, for example, in our area a prime example of
11 one of those is if you were on Highway 16 and you went
12 over to the Knoxville Berryessa Road, there is an
13 RS 2477 road that goes over that hill that the County
14 of Yolo claims. It shows up on their transportation
15 plan. They do maintenance on it. They get federal
16 fees from the government because it's a number of miles
17 the County gets to maintain. So they get those things,
18 and those are an RS 2477 road.

19 For example, a route -- if somebody decides to
20 do a trespass route to get to someplace, well, if it
21 had never been claimed or on any documentation before,
22 then that is not an RS 2477 road. It's just a trespass
23 road is what it is. So that's what I'm aware of them
24 always being.

25 DON AMADOR: I just wanted to add one thing.

1 One of the issues with -- Don Amador with Blue Ribbon
2 Coalition. Our organization used to have national
3 RS 2477 conferences, so we do know a little bit about
4 the subject.

5 But in Lance under the Ninth Circuit Court of
6 Appeals, there was a National Parks Service case some
7 years back that while counties and individuals can
8 pursue RS 2477 assertions, at the end of the day, it's
9 the land manager that can decide what uses are allowed
10 on those routes.

11 So technically the County could do an RS 2477
12 assertion on those routes, but at the end of the day,
13 the County would make that decision that, yes, they are
14 open, but they would have the decision on what uses
15 were allowed there. So it's a good tool, but there is
16 no magic bullet there, so we need to keep pursuing some
17 of these other things.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Don, I'm not hearing neither one
19 of you saying about 100 years before the agency took
20 over, that road had to be in existence.

21 DON AMADOR: It's a 1872 mining law, but the
22 Ninth Circuit Court decision -- I forget where it was,
23 but it was a National Parks Service case, where the
24 Ninth Circuit said that the land manager has the
25 ultimate discretion on what uses. The route is open,

1 but the land manager makes the decision.

2 So I was happy to hear that the BLM is not going
3 to oppose that assertion, but they will at the end of
4 the day have the right to decide what uses occur on
5 those routes.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Does that answer anybody's
7 questions about that technicality?

8 BLM MANAGER BURNS: Rich Burns, again, Field
9 Manager for BLM out of Ukiah.

10 We have a quick presentation here that we're
11 going to do. I'm going to cover basically Bakersfield
12 and the Bishop Offices as far as for what they have
13 going on.

14 I'll start off with the Bishop Field Office to
15 begin with. Basically they have approximately -- as
16 things currently stand, they have 124 miles of trail, a
17 lot of it single track. They have ATV and ROV
18 opportunities throughout. Their field office itself is
19 about 550,000 acres, about twice the size of what Ukiah
20 is. And basically they're designated much like we are
21 to areas that are open. You have open limited, which
22 means existing roads and trails are closed. They're
23 much like us where the area is limited to existing
24 roads and trails.

25 And they have -- a thing that I think is really

1 neat, and this is the Eastern Sierra motoring
2 opportunity -- if you can go to the next slide,
3 Trent -- historical photo taken back, golly, sometime
4 around when that thing was made, and you can see that
5 snow on the side. Anyway, they turned this into a
6 really cool touring area that you can do over in
7 Bishop. And they've been having a lot of people take
8 advantage of it and all sorts of things. I wish I
9 could remember exactly the name of it, but the
10 brochures and things that they have done is really
11 truly amazing.

12 So as far as recent projects go, they've had a
13 CCC crew from Meyer, California come out and spend
14 about a week performing different trail maintenance
15 projects and doing bridge crossings. That will be the
16 next thing. This is the group working over there at
17 the Tungsten Hills. That's actually a bridge and you
18 can see they've got kind of an apron coming in on both
19 sides. So the CCC kids have been doing those sorts of
20 things. So it's just a good example of an interface
21 between what the office has in youth and those kinds of
22 programs that we're really trying to pursue. And,
23 again, dealing with the CCC kids, they're actually
24 working on the White Mountains over here doing trail
25 clearing and brushing for OHV use.

1 The next thing that we have is what they're
2 going to apply for this year, and that's a law
3 enforcement grant, a ground operations grant. And
4 they're going to use it to develop a loop system in the
5 Poleta OHV open area, and then they've got other
6 re-routes that they're going to do, much like Ukiah
7 where you've got different private areas and you've got
8 some trails coming in here. And then apparently
9 they've got a restoration project going on;
10 unfortunately, I don't know what that is.

11 Moving on to the Bakersfield Office, they have
12 pretty much just a couple of areas that are pretty much
13 the main focus, Keysville being the main one. It's
14 7,000 acres, much like it says, and they actually do
15 that in cooperation with the Forest Service and then
16 the Park Service, if I remember right -- maybe it's
17 just the national forest.

18 Anyway, a couple of things that they have going
19 on is they're working on a travel management plan for
20 the Tumblers. That's actually going on right now, and
21 that's with an existing OHV grant they have in place.
22 And they're also doing a Resource Management Plan
23 that's going to also further evaluate their route
24 designation and transportation plan.

25 Another thing that they have going on is they're

1 going to be asking for \$32,000 in law enforcement
2 grants for law enforcement coverage, which is basically
3 area wide.

4 So with that, that's the end of my presentation.
5 And I'm going to turn it over to Trent Milam, who is my
6 park ranger/OHV planner for a lot of things going on.

7 BLM RANGER MILAM: Good afternoon, Commission.
8 My name is Trent Milam. I'm Park Ranger and Recreation
9 Planner for the Ukiah Field Office.

10 The Ukiah Field Office, our OHV recreational
11 opportunities have approximately 125 miles of trails
12 consisting of single-track and double-track trails for
13 all OHV opportunities, and that's not including our
14 actual road system which would add another 50 miles of
15 driving opportunities. And these are located both in
16 the Knoxville Recreation Area near Lower Lake and just
17 behind you, the South Cow OHV Management Area.

18 We also have a dispersed and undeveloped OHV
19 area along Walker Ridge near the Indian Valley
20 Reservoir in the back country there along the roads as
21 well.

22 Also South Cow Mountain is a destination of the
23 California Back Country Discovery Trail; took both Paul
24 and Ted out there this week. And some of the things
25 that we do out there with the public, we have two

1 permitted OHV events, the Sawmill Enduro and the
2 Mendocino Rally.

3 The Sawmill and Crosscut Enduro, it's our
4 largest event. It gets bigger every year. However,
5 this year, we've learned from the North Bay Motorcycle
6 Club, they're just going to cut out the Crosscut, which
7 was the family event, which happened on the first day
8 of the weekend. It became a little bit cumbersome for
9 them.

10 They wanted to make more fun out with your
11 family, so they're going to do a poker run which
12 basically they'll drive from point to point across the
13 mountain, collect a card, and whoever has the best hand
14 at the end wins the door price.

15 Our newest event is the Mendocino Rally, it's
16 been going on for three years. First, it started off
17 just racing on South Cow Mountain for the first two
18 years. Last year they expanded to the Walker Ridge
19 area. These are examples of the vehicles that go out
20 there. They're amazing.

21 On the Walker Ridge side, you can actually drive
22 up to the staging event and look at the vehicles.
23 Unfortunately, with the South Cow event, it's sort of a
24 closed loop, and you just see them pass by at one
25 point. If you can go out and see it this year, it's

1 amazing.

2 I just want to point out the vehicle on the left
3 it's a Ford Fiesta. It is the only vehicle that's
4 driven by a woman driver. Her husband is the copilot,
5 and she has a Hello Kitty helmet, and she places really
6 high in ranks every year. She's an amazing driver. As
7 you see there, she's only got one wheel on the ground.

8 Our current projects, our ongoing ground
9 operations in both Knoxville and South Cow, restroom
10 contracts, and we also have a seasonal park ranger
11 that's funded by the OHV grants.

12 We also partnered with California State Parks
13 out of the Mendocino unit. Right now we're working on
14 a restoration project installing a perimeter along a
15 sensitive area on the trail along South Cow Mountain.
16 There is a calcium formation that's been impacted
17 heavily by motorcycle use where they're actually
18 driving up this above-ground mineral formation. They
19 call it Chalk Hill, and it's taken thousands of years
20 for this to form, and in just a few years, they've
21 damaged certain sections. And neither the established
22 OHV community nor the botanical community want this to
23 be impacted any further. So we are going to put a
24 300-yard fence along Trail 4 where people can still
25 park, walk up the side of the hill. It's got a great

1 view of Lake County.

2 We also have continued partnerships with
3 Mendocino County and Lake County Sheriffs Departments
4 through the OHV grants where they patrol both Knoxville
5 and South Cow on the days that we can't get up there.

6 Our proposed main project, aside from ground
7 operations and law enforcement this year, is a planning
8 project that we're going to do some reroutes and some
9 development on along Trail 21 on Cow Mountain and
10 Trail 24, and a series of other trails to establish a
11 10-mile access route where four-by-fours could
12 basically patrol the entire -- explore the entire
13 eastern side of the mountain.

14 There's the processed route that you saw, the
15 access route. And up in the north, it starts at the
16 end of what we call Eight Mile Valley Road at the end
17 of also the Back Country Discovery Trail, and it goes
18 all the way down around some established four-by-four
19 routes that ends up at what we call the Benmore Loop
20 where we would like to also development a wilderness
21 campground.

22 Here is the highlight of the critical area of
23 what we'd like to plan out for this project. If you
24 see in the upper left-hand corner, that is a private
25 property where we had, you know, a word-of-mouth

1 agreement with the owners that, yeah, it was okay to do
2 some development out there. And then when it all came
3 down a couple of years ago, some people jumped the gun
4 and developed a trail, and we can't put it on the maps
5 currently.

6 So what we'd like to do is fix the error, add
7 some more mileage onto Trail 21 and along Trail 24 as
8 well, and then see about expanding this route for
9 four-by-four use where people could do four-by-four
10 exploration, and we can put law enforcement out in the
11 area that we can't do right now, and also get trail
12 maintenance access to the areas that we can't do right
13 now either with brushing crews.

14 We are also partnering with UC Davis McLaughlin
15 Reserve at Knoxville for their Knoxville Recreation
16 Area Restoration research project. I'll let Paul
17 Aigner here go into further detail about it, but
18 essentially we're going to partner with them to achieve
19 some of our management goals out there. And they have
20 a specialty to do it. Paul.

21 PAUL AIGNER: Okay. My name is Paul Aigner, and
22 I'm the director of the UC Davis McLaughlin Reserve.
23 We are part of the Natural Reserve System, which
24 statewide the University of California has 39 sites,
25 and they are natural areas that primarily are used for

1 research, teaching and public outreach and
2 environmental sciences.

3 So I'm going to give you -- it's not the
4 greatest map -- just a little overview of the region.
5 So here we have the Knoxville Recreation Area that's
6 about 24,000 acres, 30-some-odd miles of trail, and the
7 McLaughlin Reserve are the two blue parcels here. We
8 have about 7,000 acres. The other significant public
9 land in the region is the Department of Fish and
10 Wildlife, Knoxville Wildlife Area.

11 So we have been working closely with land
12 management agencies in the region, including BLM and
13 Rich, for the last 10 years or so, and I just -- all
14 sorts of issues have come up, conflicts have come up.
15 Primarily we have students and academic researchers
16 using the reserves. A lot of environmental groups have
17 an interest in the area, hunters, of course, the
18 off-highway vehicle community.

19 And I just have to say that in the ten years
20 that I've been there managing the reserve, I've just
21 seen -- I really have to give some thanks to the Ukiah
22 office because I've really seen management of Knoxville
23 improve. And a lot of it just has to do with the
24 partnerships we've maintained between all of the
25 agencies in the areas and the communication that we've

1 kept up and sort of our ability to like solve problems
2 without having to get into nasty situations.

3 So just to give you a little bit more background
4 on Knoxville, I can't really talk about Knoxville
5 without talking about geology. And you apparently are
6 all really familiar with serpentine ecosystems, and
7 Knoxville is one of those serpentine-dominated
8 landscapes in Northern California. Happily there is no
9 evidence that we have any kind of chrysotile asbestos
10 issue there. There has been some testing, and it seems
11 like a pretty benign environment.

12 But like other serpentine areas in California,
13 it is an area that is of very high botanical interests,
14 lots of unique plants that are only found in the area,
15 unique plant communities. And just to illustrate a
16 few, most of Knoxville is what we would call a
17 serpentine chaparral, dense shrub vegetation, and
18 that's probably on 90 -- 90 percent of the recreational
19 area is that sort of vegetation. And that's where most
20 of the OHV trails are. It's a very -- it's a very
21 tough, woody vegetation type, and it's pretty resistant
22 to any kind of unauthorized incursions off of
23 designated trails. So the OHV traffic is fairly
24 well-managed largely because the vegetation sort of
25 constrains things.

1 But there are other vegetation types that are a
2 lot more sensitive. We have grasslands especially and
3 riparian areas, and they are relatively limited in
4 extent but much softer vegetation. Vehicles, obviously
5 when they get into those areas, there is some potential
6 for damage.

7 So just to give you just some examples of the
8 damage that we've observed, so in grasslands it's the
9 typical -- here we've got a wet meadow. This has now
10 been closed off successfully for probably five years or
11 so. This is an older picture. But when vehicles were
12 getting in there, it was just sort of spinning around
13 in the wet meadow.

14 And then there are stretches of -- fairly
15 significant stretches of creek. There is Hunting
16 Creek, which is the main creek that goes through the
17 area that has unauthorized vehicle access, so you can
18 see that they cause rutting and erosion on the banks,
19 and then here is a willow thicket with a path going
20 through it so the vehicles will remove the native
21 vegetation and also create disturbs that allow weeds,
22 nonnative species to come in and spread.

23 And then like I said, the chaparral is fairly
24 resistant to damage. The main kind of issues we have
25 are routes that have been closed off primarily because

1 of trespass issues. The chaparral is very slow on the
2 serpentine to grow back in. So those roads remain
3 passable for some time, and so there's sort of an
4 incentive for folks to try to bypass those barriers
5 when they can.

6 Anyway, we've been contemplating doing some
7 restoration work at Knoxville, and really what's kind
8 of been the main impetus to move forward on that is for
9 the last four or five years McLaughlin Reserve has been
10 working on a watershed-scale restoration in the
11 adjacent watershed. So this is actually on Department
12 of Fish and Wildlife land where we've been restoring
13 areas that have been impacted by historical mercury
14 mining. There is one of those areas where we're doing
15 riparian corridor restoration.

16 And so we now have put together a proposal with
17 the Ukiah office to transfer all of this -- as this
18 program comes to a close, here at the reserve we are
19 ramped up, basically, to continue these kinds of
20 projects. And since Knoxville is in our backyard, we
21 would like to take our expertise and our equipment and
22 bring this work to where it needs to be done to
23 ameliorate some of the OHV damage in Knoxville.

24 The last thing I wanted to say about it is
25 working for an academic research facility, we do a lot

1 of public outreach. Most of it is sort of science and
2 natural history based. We lead hikes. We have
3 lectures. We have a pretty good following in the local
4 community.

5 And one place where we've really fallen down is
6 in reaching out to the off-highway vehicle enthusiasts
7 who are basically recreating in our backyard, are
8 clearly interested in the same open space, the same
9 landscape where we're working and enjoying it and
10 appreciating it.

11 And so what I'm really looking forward to is the
12 opportunity to sort of forge a connection between these
13 groups that oftentimes maybe don't interact. So it
14 would be sort of the environmental types who tend to
15 come to our programs and the OHV users. So this, for
16 example, is a group of volunteers that's doing the
17 restoration work on our existing restoration project.
18 And I'm really eager to see if I can get that same kind
19 of volunteerism from OHV users and also our existing
20 base of volunteers and get them together out in the
21 field doing some good work.

22 Anyway, that's all I have for you. Thank you.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: So in your management area, do
24 you have trails?

25 PAUL AIGNER: That map, I'm sorry, the map is --

1 that was not a map that was really designed for this
2 presentation.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: Where is this?

4 PAUL AIGNER: It doesn't show the trails.
5 There's 34 miles I believe is the figure of designated
6 OHV trail at Knoxville.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: But within your management,
8 within the area of your responsibility, how many miles
9 of trails?

10 PAUL AIGNER: Within the -- well, the McLaughlin
11 Reserve itself is actually closed to the public
12 entirely. There is no public access.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: That was my question.

14 So how would you encourage the off-highway
15 vehicle community to come into an area that's closed?

16 PAUL AIGNER: All of the work is happening at
17 Knoxville. All of the work is happening on the public
18 lands. We have the facilities on the reserve to
19 basically run the project. We have greenhouses and
20 nursery facilities to raise plants for planting into
21 the field. We have the equipment. So we would bring
22 the volunteers, and we provide our facilities. We have
23 overnight accommodations volunteers can use, then we go
24 out onto the public lands and do our work on the public
25 lands.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: I understand where you're coming
2 from. There's got to be a quid pro quo. They have
3 plenty of work to do on the trails that they have on
4 their own areas where they're recreating. And to get
5 them to come into an area that's closed to them -- what
6 I'm suggesting maybe you can do some tradeoffs in
7 helping them restore some of projects they may be
8 interested in, and they do a tradeoff with you. That's
9 just an idea.

10 PAUL AIGNER: Okay. So maybe I'm not quite
11 understanding your question.

12 COMMISSIONER KERR: I think they are working on
13 the public part.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: I asked a question about is there
15 a trail within this McLaughlin area.

16 PAUL AIGNER: Okay. We're applying for the
17 grant as the University of California to work in
18 conjunction with BLM at the Knoxville Recreation Area.
19 Most of the work is going to be focused near the
20 Hunting Creek Campground along Hunting Creek, which is
21 where most of the damage has occurred. There is a spot
22 just below the campground where vehicles --

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: There is illegal OHV access?

24 PAUL AIGNER: Correct, correct. The entire
25 project is focused on areas that are on public lands

1 that are even closed and barricaded and maybe have some
2 resource damage that's never been dealt with.

3 So we're going to deal with already closed areas
4 or areas that -- like the creek bed itself, that is not
5 a designated route. It's not meant to support traffic,
6 so some additional barriers will need to be created.
7 But we will be just ameliorating very limited damage in
8 the sensitive habitats throughout the recreation area.

9 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: This will be an
10 opportunity then for you to reach out to the OHV
11 community, and some are here, to perhaps partner with
12 you on either getting volunteers out or even giving you
13 suggestions of what they've done in other parts -- and
14 maybe you're already familiar with them -- but in other
15 parts of BLM land or U.S. Forest land.

16 PAUL AIGNER: Absolutely. Like I said, this is
17 what I'm really looking forward to is that opportunity
18 to make that connection and get that input.

19 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I think yesterday we
20 heard -- I'm not sure if you were part of our tour or
21 not, but yesterday we had some good examples of what
22 the U.S. Forest Service has done. So I think some of
23 those type of suggestions could be possibly
24 incorporated in your work.

25 PAUL AIGNER: That's good to know. Definitely

1 like to get as much input as we can.

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'm kind of familiar a
3 little bit with the area. So I don't know if you or
4 Trent can answer this question.

5 I was just wondering as far as the dominant use
6 out there. I've only been out to the property twice,
7 but I go up and down Berryessa Road and Knoxville Road
8 quite often on a street motorcycle, I notice that there
9 is a real large hunting contingent that shows up
10 hunting season that kind of almost overruns the county
11 road that goes through there. They're camped and
12 parked everywhere alongside there.

13 So is this the type of access, the hunters, are
14 they the ones that are coming in and going up the creek
15 bed and stuff, or is this like wildcat ATV activity and
16 stuff from people that are doing it year round based on
17 locals that -- or people that are going up into that
18 area when everything else closes?

19 PAUL AIGNER: My impression, there is definitely
20 a huge influx of people during deer hunting season, and
21 they tend to focus the hunting actually on the
22 Knoxville Wildlife Area. I don't think the serpentine
23 landscape is a great -- it doesn't really support a lot
24 of deer population. But the hunters do come onto the
25 Knoxville Recreation Area, and they use it for camping.

1 I feel like the damage that's happening within
2 the Knoxville Recreation Area along Hunting Creek is
3 primarily from year round OHV use. I mean I was out
4 there -- the photo I showed you was just from a couple
5 of weeks ago I took it, so it was just very recent
6 activity.

7 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Well, I'm familiar with
8 some of the work that you guys do because prior to --
9 I'm sure when you were there -- our motorcycle club
10 that I belong to has a SuperFund mercury mine on it,
11 and the native seeds and stuff were collected from the
12 plants from the area. And then they were brought over
13 and incubated and everything happened over there, and
14 then the plants were brought back from UC Davis and
15 replanted.

16 So I think the services you provide and stuff
17 could be real beneficial to our community. I'm glad to
18 see that you're applying for a grant and that you're
19 trying to reach out to the OHV community. And
20 hopefully it will be an opportunity for our community
21 and your community to develop some relationships and to
22 be able to build some partnerships so we can kind of
23 get away from the confrontational styles that we get
24 into and then get into lawsuits and such. Because
25 really what it comes down to, we're all kind of on the

1 same page, we love being in the outdoors and doing what
2 we do.

3 PAUL AIGNER: Absolutely, we'd all rather see
4 open space than the big housing tracts.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes. Like anything, you
6 get a group of people, and if you put a whole bunch of
7 people together, there is going to be a certain
8 percentage of them that's not going to be too ethical.
9 We have that in the OHV community.

10 I think Amy brought this up earlier this
11 morning, that the majority -- the vast majority of OHV
12 people want to follow the rules, stay on the trails, do
13 the right thing, take their garage out with them. All
14 it takes is one or two jerks to screw it up for
15 everybody else.

16 I think you might see that you will get some
17 clubs -- like there's the Santa Rosa Four-Wheel Drive
18 Club that came up to the meeting that you guys had in
19 Ukiah Wednesday evening, and they were very willing
20 volunteers. And I know that there was talk of possibly
21 expanding the experience out in Knoxville in the OHV
22 area to have more of a four-by-four type component and
23 get nice obstacles with rocks and things. That might
24 be a real good group to look at in the four-wheel drive
25 world because they might be -- that might be an area

1 that's going to be a real good application for them
2 down the road. So that might be good groups to look
3 at.

4 PAUL AIGNER: Thank you for that.

5 BLM MANAGER BURNS: Rich Burns, again, Field
6 Manager out of Ukiah. Anything else with regard to the
7 Central California area?

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: How much more do we have with
9 BLM? Diana had a question for Este.

10 BLM MANAGER BURNS: We're finished with our
11 presentation. I'll be glad to turn it back over to
12 Este.

13 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Thank you for letting us
14 present on Central California. Glad you're here.

15 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Just for my clarity and
16 understanding, just a couple of questions.

17 You mentioned for Clear Creek the combination
18 lock. Just so I can understand it, because I've been
19 there once, so someone who has a permit will go in,
20 unlock the combination, and are you saying that that
21 area will not be staffed?

22 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: It will not be staffed.

23 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: And then my other question.
24 How is the five-day limit going to be enforced?

25 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: So we're going to start

1 with having people apply for permits at the Hollister
2 Field Office. So we'll just keep a list, a running
3 list, of everyone who applies. But in the long run
4 we're going to transition to recreation.gov, which is a
5 web-based reservation system for the U.S. Government
6 and people will apply on that. So recreation.gov will
7 actually do the tracking, and every individual will be
8 able to get up to five days a year. And then they
9 won't be able to get that sixth permit. That's the
10 theory.

11 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: The study that's being done,
12 when it is presented to you, do you have any planning
13 on how you're going to process that new information?
14 Has there been any thought about how the new study
15 might impact what's occurring now?

16 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: So now that we're in
17 implementation, how we move forward, those are called
18 implementation decisions.

19 So what we do is we would -- when that new
20 information comes in, if it helps to guide us towards a
21 new management theory or new management approach, then
22 we would essentially reopen -- not to the degree we've
23 already had to, but at a travel management level -- our
24 decisions and go in and redo that.

25 If it ends up being significant enough

1 information, we could end up back in the land use
2 amendment process to actually change the way we manage.
3 So it kicks us back into NEPA, and it kicks us back
4 into going through the public process and moving
5 through this. But it depends on how significant the
6 data is and where it drives us as to where in the
7 process we end up going. But it would allow us an
8 opportunity to go back in open up the planning process
9 and redo that.

10 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Thank you.

11 And, Deputy Director Conlin, when is the study
12 projected to be completed?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Well, do we have Will
14 Harris still here?

15 I know they're in the process of getting the
16 data right now. So it's going to take processing and
17 everything else. So I don't think I have a firm date.
18 We can get that to you.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Prior to the deadline?

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Not prior to the
21 deadline, no.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: So how does our study influence
23 their decisions if there is a deadline?

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: You have to go through the
25 whole thing all over again with the public hearing.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Right. And the study
2 was not designed for the appeal. The study, we were
3 weather dependent on that, so it's getting collected
4 right now.

5 When the study is done, what that does is it
6 influences the adaptive management plan based on the
7 current ROD. Your appeal is independent of that.

8 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I have a couple more
9 questions.

10 When people go to apply for the permits, other
11 than the number of days, what is going to be the
12 criteria or is there any further criteria whether that
13 permit is approved or disapproved, and who is making
14 that decision?

15 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: It's strictly the number of
16 days.

17 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: And who is making the
18 decision?

19 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Well, there is no decision
20 to make other than have you already had five days in
21 the --

22 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: It just goes through the
23 Hollister Field Office, and that's how it's processed?

24 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Until we get up onto
25 recreation.gov, and then it will be automated on

1 recreation.gov. When you apply to recreation.gov,
2 you'll give information, name, that kind of thing, so
3 there will just be an automatic tracking in
4 recreation.gov that will limit everybody to five
5 permits.

6 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I kind of want to address
7 a little bit of what Paul brought up earlier as far as
8 the designated ATV use outside the ACEC. We've kind of
9 looked at that in that special meeting we had down
10 there with Congressman Farr and General Jackson that
11 Diana put together. And I had my concerns and voiced
12 them at that point.

13 And obviously I'm a motorcycle guy, and I just
14 don't think it's fair to limit those trails where they
15 are -- they're OHV trails, the access on them with the
16 motorcycle versus an ATV or side-by-side, the amount of
17 damage, how much dust could be picked up, everything
18 that goes with it, even outside the area, I don't see
19 why a motorcycle could be banned through there.

20 I know the place. There's a lot of rock
21 hounders that like to go out there. If I was going to
22 go out rock hounding, I would want to be on a
23 motorcycle myself with a backpack. That's my personal
24 thing. I know there's other people who want to do it
25 in a different manner.

1 I just feel that it's just discriminatory is how
2 I look at it. I don't think there is much science
3 behind it, at least that's how it was answered to me
4 down there at that meeting. And it was just more of an
5 assumption that hunters would want to use other types
6 of vehicles is kind of how it was explained to me at
7 that point.

8 And I just think that anyone that wants to go
9 out and experience that area should have a choice of
10 whatever vehicle that is legal to ride on that type of
11 terrain and trail. I know that you might be looking at
12 not allowing the motorcycles in so they can kind of get
13 off and do other things, that might be the motivation,
14 but that wasn't what was communicated to me down there.

15 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Just for clarification, if
16 you have a street-legal motorcycle, you can use it.

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: No, I'm talking about the
18 ATV trails outside the ACEC. So the street motorcycle
19 can go through and do the designated route inside. I
20 realize that.

21 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: But it can also do those
22 others.

23 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, but why can't a Green
24 Sticker use it?

25 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: That's the answer I was

1 trying to get you all, and I will get it to the
2 Division.

3 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes. That's a hard one
4 for me as a Commissioner to explain to the OHV
5 community and say, "You can go ride your ATV. You can
6 do your side-by-side, but you can't ride a motorcycle."

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: You can ride a street-legal.

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes. That's the one where
9 you raise up a flag. That's the kind of stuff that
10 brings distrust toward the BLM office. So if you can
11 eliminate that, that will make things easier for you
12 and for us.

13 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I appreciate that.

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: That's sort of my question.
15 Is that sort of etched in stone on the Record of
16 Decision or is it an implementation option?

17 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: This is definitely an
18 implementation decision. I would have to go through
19 the book to be sure. It should be an implementation
20 decision that you can include it in your appeal.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: It's been so long since we
22 could legally ride in there. I'm trying to think back,
23 but my recollection -- I certainly wouldn't take my GMC
24 four-wheel drive pickup truck through those areas that
25 I'm remembering. And I don't get it. Either we're --

1 I think I understand now what you've got in
2 mind, limit the exposure, only come five days a year.
3 That sort of has a nexus in science. Whether it be bad
4 science and or good science, we can argue about.

5 But what's the deal with not letting a Green
6 Stickered motorcycle in there? That feels like a -- is
7 that something that could be part of the implementation
8 of the Record of Decision, or is that actually in the
9 Record of Decision?

10 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: So just for clarification,
11 the area that Ted was talking about is outside of the
12 ACEC.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: Let's get back to the former
14 area we used to ride. So what happens there?

15 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: So inside the ACEC, ATVs
16 and UTVs are not allowed.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: At all?

18 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Right. Inside the ACEC,
19 that's strictly street-legal vehicles.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: That includes street-legal
21 motorcycles?

22 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Correct.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: What's the difference
24 between a dual sport that happens to have a plate on it
25 and a Green Sticker 400 cc motorcycle?

1 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: When you're looking at how
2 to constrain the type of use, we had to look at a way
3 to make it something that we could enforce, and
4 street-legal vehicles, that's --

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: So if I have a KTM 555 with
6 a plate on it, I can go up and over the rocks?

7 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: You can go on the whole
8 32 miles of side roads. You can't go off trail.

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: When you say off trails, are
10 there any designated routes beside the county road?

11 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Well, there's 32 miles, 32
12 miles of road. They're not single-track trails.
13 There's 32 miles --

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: So all of the single-track
15 trails that we used to ride on, those are all out?

16 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: They're all out.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: What's the point?

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's the point, you only get to
19 stay on the two-track road.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: You mean the road that we
21 rode on when we were down there, that's it?

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: That we took the Suburbans.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: That currently the County
24 claims should be open anyway?

25 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: And that's another road

1 that loops around.

2 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: So outside the ACEC but
3 inside the CCMA is the question that Ted had, and
4 that's the one I need to get the answer to.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Like I said earlier, and I
6 know we had this discussion a little bit, I realize
7 this has been -- we've been in kind of a weird limbo.
8 Now we will be able to move forward.

9 So with that, I know there are some things we're
10 going to have to work through, and I know there's been
11 some hiccups in the past. But I really believe that
12 working together with this new science and stuff, that
13 we can start looking at the possibilities of bringing
14 what OHV can bring to the Clear Creek area, and that is
15 a group of enthusiasts who enjoy the area with
16 financial backing behind them and with the desire to
17 use the area responsibly.

18 And I think if we can do that, that benefits the
19 community, and I think it benefits the users, and also
20 I think it also benefits the BLM, the agency, your
21 field office and everything, because we're able to
22 assist you with that management stuff.

23 So I think in the future we will be able to
24 develop some close relationships and hopefully work
25 things out.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: I just had another thought.

2 When we had a field trip there, and it's been a
3 couple of years ago now I guess, and all of the
4 vehicles were going through that area, we went right by
5 the capital improvements that the Green Sticker program
6 paid for, and they were literally dismantled and laying
7 on the side of the road. That was a pretty contentious
8 situation for us to view. And I'm sure the Dave
9 Picketts and stuff of the world, I'm surprised that
10 hasn't been brought up yet. But that's another piece
11 of this pie here.

12 What happened to all of that money that we put
13 into that program -- or into that riding area, if you
14 will, and it just disappeared? What do we get back out
15 of that?

16 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I'm not sure which
17 improvements you're describing --

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: Pretty much all of it.

19 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: -- that's been dismantled.
20 A number of improvements put in place with the money
21 that came from the OHV Division were, in fact -- and
22 the maintenance, a fair amount of the money that went
23 in each year was actually used that year to benefit the
24 riders who were riding that year.

25 But there were some capital improvements that

1 are there, the decon unit and things like that, they
2 are in place. They are functioning.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Help me out, somebody from staff
4 here. There were significant structures that were
5 dismantled that were paid for by Green Sticker funds.

6 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: Restrooms. Those are for
7 the campgrounds that had been closed.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Maybe some ramadas, something
9 like. I'm trying to remember.

10 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: I can find out the answer
11 to that, too.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: So the real question again is --
13 this is coming from the community. They're saying, "We
14 paid for it." It was in the tens of thousands of
15 dollars worth of improvements that literally were just
16 finished and then this whole thing shut down and they
17 were dismantled. That's a question that taxpayers
18 would like to have answered.

19 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I believe there is a Sweco
20 tractor there in question as well.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: Who paid for the decon? Was
22 that stimulus bill or was that our money?

23 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: That was OHV.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: And you're now using this to
25 wash your trucks in an area that we can't use. So this

1 is the question. I think that the public deserves to
2 have a complete list of all of the grants that have
3 been awarded in this area over the last 20 years and
4 what were the condition of those grants, and what is
5 our recourse towards these improvements being abandoned
6 and unavailable.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: We can furnish a list
8 and take a look at that. Understand that the current
9 grant agreements discuss 25 years of use with an
10 agreement that if it's not used for 25 years, there
11 will be some repayment.

12 COMMISSIONER KERR: Wash stations were only
13 built a few years ago.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Before that was put
15 into the grants agreement.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: I believe this situation is what
17 prompted that regulation.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: That's exactly right.
19 That's exactly why that language is in there today.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sorry to put you on the hot seat.

21 BLM MANAGER STIFEL: That's quite all right.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're trying to get this on the
23 table.

24 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: Jane Arteaga.

25 To address your previous question, Este

1 mentioned a travel management plan needs to be
2 developed. So that's one of the implementation
3 actions, is developing a travel management plan. That
4 travel management plan will identify routes and
5 potential routes, and that will go through its own
6 little NEPA process only.

7 So each implementation action that we do has to
8 go through some type of NEPA. It depends on how much
9 NEPA, but it has to go through each type -- some type
10 of NEPA, and that decision is made at the field office,
11 but also would have input from the public because it
12 goes through NEPA, which is good.

13 So, again, those routes haven't been designated
14 out yet because we have to do the travel management
15 plan, and that's one -- you know, I have it as proposed
16 to try to get national dollars to do that travel
17 management plan for the next couple of years, so I'm
18 hoping to get federal dollars from Federal Highways, if
19 it all works out, to actually get that travel
20 management plan done.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other questions? Thank you.

23 **AGENDA ITEM VI (C) - USFS REPORT**

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Forest Service. Kathy.

25 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: I think we have to let

1 Kathy go by 4:00.

2 USFS MS. MICK: We'll make it. Thank you very
3 much, Chris, for letting us go. Hello. I promise you
4 I will talk slowly, I'll try. My name is Kathy Mick.
5 I work for the Forest Service.

6 Welcome to the Mendocino National Forest, a
7 special place to me. I started my career here in
8 June of 1987. And I was telling Jane earlier that I
9 actually had to sleep here my first night of work
10 because I got locked out of the barracks and nobody
11 would answer the door and let me in. So I had to rent
12 one of the rooms here at Blue Lakes and show up to work
13 in the morning.

14 Lakeport, which isn't far away, is a special
15 place because my daughter was born. And if you turn
16 around and see that white swim platform out there, when
17 she was two, that was the first place she ever jumped
18 into a lake with her swim vest on. So for me this area
19 holds special meaning. I also managed a program here
20 for many years prior to moving to the regional office.

21 Today, we have a couple of things. I have some
22 remarks, but first before I get into those, I want to
23 start with the Upper Lake staff, who have a little bit
24 more of a presentation for you because of some of their
25 things that you couldn't see yesterday. And then also

1 the creek was up, and so some of the trip had to be --
2 the trip prior to yesterday's rain had to be shortened.

3 So I want to give them an opportunity to address
4 you a little bit, and then allow them to go ahead and
5 leave because it's been a lot of preparation for them,
6 and Michelle is here on her day off with her kids at
7 home.

8 Followed by the Mendocino staff presentation, I
9 have Roger Poff here from R.J. Poff and Associates.
10 Roger is a retired soil scientist. He's very
11 well-known in the OHV community. He's done a lot of
12 work with Cam Lockwood and Trails Unlimited. He's done
13 a lot of work throughout the region on many of the
14 national forests, and he's currently working with me
15 right now on a wet weather strategy project to try and
16 address a better way to approach wet weather
17 management. So Roger is going to talk to you guys a
18 little bit about that, and then I'll have some other
19 updates and things to give you. So with that, I'll go
20 ahead and turn it over to Upper Lake staff.

21 USFS MR. PHILLIPS: Bob Phillips, Forest
22 Service, Upper Lake.

23 Well, the reason why we wanted to put this on
24 was yesterday the weather was horrible. You didn't get
25 a chance to see a lot of the projects that we talked

1 about. So I'm not going to take a lot of time. We're
2 going to go through some slides so that you can walk
3 away with a visual image of what it was we were talking
4 about.

5 As you can see here, this was all brought up.
6 This is where the East Fork and the Middle Fork Middle
7 Creek projects where we had -- this stretch of -- I'll
8 show you on a map next. We had a stretch of Trail 2
9 and 3 here that actually had six exit and entry points,
10 and it's not that long of a trail. And so you can see
11 the sediment deposits coming down out of one of those
12 entrances. So this was a concern to the Central Valley
13 Regional Water and Quality Board, and this has to do
14 with a species of fish in Clear Lake, which is called
15 the Clear Lake hitch.

16 And those of you who aren't familiar with Clear
17 Lake and are up here for the first time, the lake is
18 probably the oldest natural body of water in Northern
19 California -- or North America, I'm sorry, not just
20 California, North America. And when you think about
21 age, what they're talking about is 2.5 million years.
22 So these species have been around a long time.

23 The hitch is actually, the closest relative is
24 the Clear Lake split tail, which actually became
25 extinct in the '70s, so there's a big concern for this

1 fish and not to lose it in that water.

2 So the Middle Creek is probably the main water
3 source for that lake other than the springs that feed
4 it from underneath, so it's very important. It's an
5 extremely important watershed. So the Central Valley
6 Region came to us with some concerns that we had
7 because it's a unique riding area. How many areas do
8 you actually get to ride in a creek?

9 So we have four trails that come and go from
10 that area, and 2 and 3 were the main concern, and that
11 was because they were very short and had a lot of entry
12 and exit points. So we got together with them in a
13 partnership. We secured some funds, which is
14 interesting about this project is it was not paid for
15 out of grant money. We actually got what is called RAC
16 money, and that is regional money from Lake County.
17 And that's what paid for the project that I'm going to
18 show you.

19 This was the first -- my boss and team put this
20 into two phases. This was the first phase. We
21 acquired -- this all started back in 2009. This
22 particular project was Phase 1, and it was completed in
23 2011. This is the main river channel down below. It's
24 not color-coded. What you're looking at right here are
25 three entrances and exit points right next to each

1 other.

2 So that was an obvious problem, and if you
3 actually -- if you were able to go in there, there's
4 like a huge sandbar of sediment here. Every two to
5 three years, we would rework these entrance and exit
6 points, just pushing the dirt back up, and two years
7 later it was all back down in the creek again.

8 So what we did was -- and the entrance to the 2
9 is less than 100 yards this way. So there are four
10 entrance/exit points within a 100 yards of one another.
11 So what we did was we developed a plan to decommission
12 these three entrance/exit points, do a new route
13 connecting these two here, and the trail actually goes
14 off this way, and it ties in later with Trail 3. And
15 we will talk about that one later.

16 This is what it looked like. These are the
17 three exit/entrance points right here, this one
18 probably the biggest. And this is all of the sediment
19 deposit at the bottom of it, and the main channel of
20 the creek isn't that far away from it. So it was a big
21 contributor. Like I said, they were almost impossible
22 to maintain. Here is one right here. Here is another
23 one right here.

24 Almost impossible to keep that from coming down.
25 And we've tried a lot of things in a lot of areas over

1 the years, dog bones and shredded tires. There is just
2 no way to hold this soil back. It's going to come
3 down. There's nothing you can do to stop it.

4 So right here is the new work that we did. This
5 is this section that we -- it's 200-feet long that we
6 tied into of those entrance/exit points to keep Trail 2
7 continuing where we installed culverts. And you're
8 going to see this as a reoccurring theme in a lot of
9 our trail work nowadays to help with the sediment
10 problem, because most of these areas have very steep
11 entrance and exit trail sections, and there is just no
12 way to stop that from coming down, going into these
13 channels and then going back into the main stream. We
14 find that the culverts are probably the best way to
15 battle this, and we don't have to go back and rework
16 them every year.

17 And this is the hitch right here. And this fish
18 was our species of fish that was very important to the
19 indigenous tribes here. It has a long history. It's a
20 very important species. It spawns. It has a lot of
21 characteristics like the salmon going up all the
22 tributaries around the lake and spawning, and there is
23 historical records of millions of these things going
24 up, and now there are very few in number. So it's an
25 important species to us. As you can see, the RAC funds

1 that we acquired to do the studies and the
2 implementation.

3 What we're looking at here is Phase 2. This was
4 a little more involved. The main channel once again,
5 and what we had was another entrance point. The map
6 doesn't really do it justice because actually the
7 beginning of this entrance/exit to Trail 3 goes right
8 up this creek. So all of the disturbance in this area
9 was causing a lot of sediment displacement going back
10 into the main channel and then being washed out down
11 into Clear Lake.

12 The first phase was this new section, about a
13 little over 1300-feet long that ties 2 and 3 together.
14 It also creates a really nice loop. And the long-term
15 Phase 2 of this part will be to decommissioning the
16 section that goes down. And this trail actually
17 continues on and comes back to the creek here.

18 What you're going to end up with, you can jump
19 on it at the beginning of 2, it will tie into 3, and
20 then back into the creek, go across the creek, you can
21 hit Sled Ridge or 4, go up to the top. So it really
22 ties it all together, makes a nice loop. For novice
23 and beginners, it's a great trail for them down there.

24 I think, again, this was a win/win for all of
25 us. We are helping the environment. It was a great

1 partnership with the Water Board. They like what we're
2 doing. It helps us keep the riding area going without
3 any controversy, so it's been a really good
4 partnership, and it's been a really good project.

5 Right now we will leave this little U-section
6 like this. We're going to let it cure for a year.
7 It's already been that year. We're going to be opening
8 this up in the spring of this year, 2014. And then
9 we'll decommission the lower end of it where it went
10 down through the creek and back into the main channel.

11 And this is what it looks like. You can see
12 where the trail actually starts. The main body is --
13 the main channel is down here. It goes right up the
14 creek. There is no way that this would work, and it
15 was a constant battle for us to keep it maintained.
16 And this is what it looked like before.

17 Now, this is the new section here and again, as
18 I mentioned before, the culverts. This particular
19 culvert, the reason why there's so much going on right
20 there -- it looks like a little bit of overkill, but
21 this is actually that channel that the entrance/exit
22 used to come up. So here we're spending all of this
23 time and money to fix that problem down at the bottom.
24 If we did do something like this at the top, then we
25 would just move the problem from the bottom to the top,

1 and we wouldn't have solved anything.

2 So this is going to be one of the ways that we
3 challenge and clean up some of these areas by using
4 these culverts. When we can, we will use natural
5 material. But in this case, this particular one, if
6 you walk it, there's a large body -- it carries a lot
7 of water in the wintertime, especially when we get
8 those two to four inches of rain in 24 hours. So it
9 was the right way to handle this one. That's it right
10 there as well.

11 And we talked about this one. I'm not going to
12 talk about this one, but I'm going to ask Frank to come
13 back up here.

14 Are there any questions about the first one?

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

16 USFS MR. PHILLIPS: This is one is the roads
17 that some of you went out on and took a look.

18 RANGER AEBY: Frank Aeby.

19 I won't spend too much time on this. A lot of
20 you heard me talk about it yesterday, but this was just
21 a great project partnership between our West Lake
22 Resource Conservation District and Water Board and U.S.
23 Forest Service. It was a \$750,000 grant through the
24 EPA. We storm trooped about 42 miles of road,
25 estimated sediment load reduction between 300 and 400

1 tons per year. That's about -- just to give you a
2 perspective, that's somewhere around a 60 to 70 percent
3 load reduction in sediment down into Middle Creek. So
4 quite significant from the pre-project estimates.

5 The actual contract was 625,000, so really very
6 little overhead on the project. Most of the Forest
7 Service time went towards the grant match. Most of
8 pre-project/post-project monitoring that we're doing is
9 federal funds that's matched toward the grant. So most
10 of the money hit the ground, which is always nice to
11 see.

12 NEPA was a match, and it was a simple
13 road-maintenance NEPA, so that was no problem. It was
14 just a really great project to get on the ground, a
15 horrible project to quantify in EPA's little form that
16 they need. We actually have to use a form that's meant
17 for channel stabilization to show the load reduction.
18 And we're trying to plug in roadwork, and it's just
19 kind of been a challenge, but we're getting through it.
20 And we're going to probably apply for another one
21 because now we've figured out how to put a round peg
22 into a square hole basically. That's all I want to say
23 about that road.

24 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: So let me understand that,
25 you've estimated the reduction of material going down

1 the river road to Clear Lake reduced by 300 to 400 tons
2 per year? Is that what you've been able to measure?

3 RANGER AEBY: That's an estimate. We have not
4 done our post-project monitoring and measurements yet.
5 We'll be doing that after a winter so that we get a
6 winter of use and precipitation so that we will have a
7 more representative -- you know, not just after the
8 implementation, but what it's going to look like in a
9 year or two maybe.

10 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Probably five, six, seven
11 years down the road, it will probably give you a much
12 clearer picture with that longevity behind it. So I
13 would be interested to see what that looks like.

14 RANGER AEBY: Yes, we will be doing our
15 monitoring this spring. We have a deadline to actually
16 have the modeling down by next February 2015 I think,
17 and so we'll be able to fly that, if you will.

18 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Thank you.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Frank, I have a question.
20 Regarding the staging area, the picnic area where we
21 had lunch yesterday, and you had that tot area, the
22 youth area that you had that was fenced off, if you
23 will, with metal fencing. It looked kind of scary,
24 really. I really think that -- I would hope that you
25 would consider a tot track or maybe even a couple of

1 tot tracks in that area.

2 Right now in that open area where people can
3 just ride around helter-skelter in any direction, I
4 think you've got an accident ready to happen, and I've
5 seen it over and over again. I believe that you could
6 talk to some of the staff on OHMVR. They have lots of
7 experience of putting one of those things together and
8 relatively inexpensively.

9 Basically what you're doing is keeping little
10 kids confined to an area where they can have fun, their
11 parents can watch them at the same time, and they're
12 not going to get -- they're not going to be
13 interspersed with bigger vehicles and things like that.

14 RANGER AEBY: Right. Just to clarify that, the
15 kiddy area actually is enclosed all around.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: I understand.

17 RANGER AEBY: But I notice the track is
18 basically a traffic control type of thing, I guess, so
19 you're not crisscrossing, people have gone all over the
20 place.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's virtually a miniature
22 Motocross course, if you will, that's designed for
23 little kids. They don't get much air or anything like
24 that, and the speeds are relatively slow, but they have
25 fun because they're going back and forth and they have

1 to be confined.

2 But I would strongly suggest that your planners
3 take a look at that because I think down the road it
4 would be a great improvement to that area.

5 RANGER AEBY: Right. I think we've talked about
6 it before. It is a great idea. We will give it some
7 serious consideration.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other questions?

9 USFS MR. PHILLIPS: Bob Phillips again for the
10 Forest Service.

11 And last but not least, I just wanted to talk a
12 little bit about Young's Corral. This is the project
13 that was brought forth because of the Crabtree
14 situation. And so this again also is a project that
15 was not funded with grant money. This was also funded
16 by local money, which is a win/win for the County and
17 us.

18 This is the reroute right here. So with this,
19 this continues that OHV corridor that we've created
20 that goes between our district, Upper Lake, all the way
21 over to Stoneyford. And it also adds -- which has
22 always been a challenge for us with the enduros that we
23 put on is getting enough mileage, and this actually
24 enhances that. It gives them more time, more mileage.
25 So this is a really good win for the enduro situation.

1 And we've had the Cow Bell I think 65 years.
2 Last year they ran 65 years, longest-running Enduro.
3 And we're happy to have them. We love having them. I
4 love that weekend. It's great.

5 And this was actually done by our road crew, the
6 work here. It was not done by our OHV crew. This is a
7 little bigger than what we could handle, and we had
8 enough going on with the other projects that we were
9 doing. So they did a great job on this. It's a
10 wonderful piece. And Don has been out there. He's
11 ridden it. It's not officially open, but we know
12 people are riding it, and we're not doing anything
13 about it.

14 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Was it a reroute?

15 USFS MR. PHILLIPS: It is a reroute. It looks
16 kind of funny because there is actually a road that
17 goes up through here, but we don't have access on a
18 little portion of this road. You can't see this
19 private property right here, and so we had to do a
20 reroute to connect the two. But there was some old --
21 whether it was a skid trail or existing old forest
22 road, I'm not really sure, but we were able to use
23 that, and that was a big win for us, too, as far as
24 getting it done in a timely manner. And getting the
25 NEPAs done right away helped; otherwise, it could have

1 drug on forever.

2 So that's pretty much it, and I appreciate it.
3 We really wanted you to go away with a visual of what
4 we were talking about and how much work we've done on
5 the ground out there, and the fact that we are looking
6 for other alternative funding sources. We don't rely
7 on you 100 percent, and I think that should be a good
8 message to other people as well. So thank you very
9 much.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I just wanted to comment
11 on your reroute on the corridor. I always look at when
12 there's an opportunity that exists to separate the
13 motorcycles from the larger vehicles where you have the
14 possibility of speed, so when people start going over
15 the 25-mile-an-hour limit and such out there.

16 And I know that on the Young's Corral reroute
17 that at the Crabtree Hot Springs when you go right and
18 go towards Bartlett Springs, that you guys went out
19 further towards the Bartlett Springs before you cut
20 off, and you guys used more of a -- I guess you would
21 call it a Class III road. And there's that cutoff that
22 goes up that most of the motorcycle riders have been
23 taking for God knows how long, that's probably about
24 three-quarter's of a mile, maybe a mile from that
25 intersection at Crabtree Hot Springs down there.

1 And that would be a great trail to maybe improve
2 because it's used often and it's in dire need of
3 maintenance. It's got about a three-foot rut in it and
4 such. It would be something that I know the local
5 riding community would appreciate having a separation
6 of the motorcycles from the street-legal vehicles that
7 could be on the other road. So if that's possible to
8 look out down the road, that would be great.

9 RANGER AEBY: Thank you.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Thank you very much.
11 And, again, I can't tell you how much we appreciated
12 the tour we got. Thanks a lot. I know we've got a
13 great invite that came to us from Ramiro Villalavazo
14 and Kathy and tremendous, tremendous opportunity to see
15 everything out here.

16 USFS MS. MICK: Now, we're going to move on to
17 Roger Poff, and he's just going to talk a little bit
18 about wet weather management and soils.

19 ROGER POFF: Thank you, Kathy. Commission, good
20 afternoon. I'm Roger Poff, a soil and watershed
21 management consultant.

22 One of the challenges that OHV managers always
23 have is when to open and when to close trails under wet
24 conditions. And in California the Forest Service,
25 after travel management planning, most of the forests

1 have seasonal closures and a few of them have
2 policies -- closure policies based on precipitation,
3 and both of these have some limitations.

4 So everyone's looking for a better way to get at
5 this. And the study that I'm working on for Kathy is
6 developing an evidence-based criteria that can be used
7 to determine ahead of time when to open or when to
8 close a trail to protect that trail tread from damage
9 and to protect damage to off-site resources.

10 The focus really is more on when it's okay to
11 open the trails without getting some damage, although
12 it works for both of them. Basically what it is a
13 predictive model that's based on measurements of soil
14 strength and soil moisture in the trail tread itself.
15 And this really gets a lot more to the issue we're
16 dealing with, which is again the tread itself as well
17 as the off-site impacts that we might have.

18 Precipitation is not a very reliable indicator
19 for a whole lot of reasons. Some of the water runs
20 off. You have all kinds of issues, antecedent moisture
21 and how much it's rained and how long it's dried off
22 and so forth. So this is really an evidence-based
23 model that gets to the heart of the issue.

24 So what we do is we take a look at trails. We
25 simulate the typical type and amount of traffic that we

1 would get on a trail under conditions that are wet
2 enough so that we actually get some damage. We get
3 areas that we don't have damage. Then we go through
4 and measure soil strength using a penetrometer and soil
5 moisture using a moisture meter and then develop a
6 calibration curve or model that will allow us to
7 predict when we're right at that point where it's okay
8 to utilize the trail without getting damage.

9 The models are empirical, that is, they're based
10 on local conditions. So we have to calibrate them for
11 each area that we're looking at because there are
12 differences in soil types and vegetation and amounts
13 and types of use and a number of other variables.

14 We've used this method successfully out on the
15 Sam Houston National Forest in Texas. We've partially
16 implemented on the Ouachita National Forest in
17 Arkansas, both of those projects were with Trails
18 Unlimited.

19 But what we have learned in those two processes
20 is that in the process of developing these calibration
21 curves, we also learn a lot about how the trails handle
22 traffic under wet conditions. So because of that, in
23 pursuing this study, what we've done is we've selected
24 four pilot areas across California to go out and
25 actually do these measurements again to help us develop

1 a bigger toolbox, if you will, on how to manage trails
2 under wet conditions.

3 And the four areas that we're working on is the
4 Palazzo Area on the Santa Lucia District on the Los
5 Padres National Forest, the Sugar Pine area near
6 Foresthill on the Tahoe National Forest, the Stonyford
7 area here on the Mendocino, and also the Upper Lake
8 area which you looked at, I guess, yesterday on the
9 Mendocino.

10 So the objective is again to build a bigger
11 toolbox so that the managers have more options, more
12 tools to work with. Where the method is appropriate,
13 it works very well, but it's not the silver bullet
14 that's going to solve all of our problems. There still
15 may be areas where seasonal closures work fine for
16 various reasons.

17 Where this method works the best is where we
18 have cohesive soils, that is, soils that are fairly
19 fine-textured, and where we have a lot of
20 on-again/off-again moisture patterns because that's
21 where we're faced with these decisions.

22 We're going to complete the study by next
23 September, and that will include a series of reports as
24 well as some training sessions on how to element the
25 methods.

1 So that's where we're at. Any questions?

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I have a number of
3 questions. I happen to be involved in -- long time
4 involved with a motorcycle club that has a situation
5 that is the 1990s version of what you're trying to do.
6 It has been going on since 1990s.

7 Prunuske Chatham down in the Santa Rosa area
8 came up with a program with us. We had a seasonal
9 closure. Then we were able to get our use permit
10 changed to have the closures based upon the soil
11 moisture content. It took us a number of years of soil
12 samples back then. There's -- and we also did -- so
13 the soil samples, they were analyzed. From that, the
14 weather patterns were taken into effect -- you know,
15 into account on different parts of the ranch. It's
16 only a thousand acres, so it's not on the same scope
17 you're looking at, and it's only about 25 miles of
18 trail.

19 So with that, we had, with their assistance,
20 came up with a ride-ability matrix that has basically
21 how much rain has fallen, how much is the acclimation,
22 and then add up how many days it can go before you can
23 open again. Obviously on our scale, we can have it
24 where we can close specific trails where there is
25 different soil types and stuff, so we can really manage

1 this well.

2 We've actually put in a remote weather station,
3 so we can do a lot of this stuff automated. At our
4 club, we're actually looking into doing -- we have a
5 Davis Industries weather station, and they have some
6 rather inexpensive soil moisture sensors with a remote.
7 So that's something that's kind of the next step.
8 We're trying to throw some technology at this.

9 Now, this discussion came up yesterday when we
10 were up on the hill, and I know there's the science
11 side of it. I'd like to be involved with it a bit
12 because I can give you the layman's side of it of
13 riding this place, and I know that there are certain
14 trails at certain times that you don't want to ride
15 because they're too wet. And I know which ones you can
16 ride because it's the old rule of thumb, southern
17 facing, you know, something that has some wind
18 available to it and sun available to it, and also the
19 type of soil when you get into the rockier stuff.

20 So basically going out in -- from where we went
21 out, going out the paved road, going out Lower Dill
22 Valley Road towards East Fork, going around that
23 direction, around that stuff, can open up much earlier
24 than the stuff on the other side towards Horse
25 Mountain. So it's hard when you have such a large area

1 to be able to control it, but there is some technology.

2 I know that one thing was brought up is using
3 solar-powered things out in the forest. I hadn't
4 thought about the vandalism and how that is a factor.
5 It just didn't occur to me that someone would go out
6 with their shotgun and go, hey, and shoot the thing.

7 So maybe there's ways to look at innovative ways
8 to protect those things where that won't happen. But
9 whether there's using the technology to have automated
10 gates or anything like that would be really interesting
11 to see if there's ways to look like in the future.

12 But I guess my question for you is that: Is it
13 possible -- I asked staff earlier, they said yes. But
14 I would love to be involved in this. I would like to
15 be able to go out and watch it happen and take samples
16 and just be -- because to me I'm also a manager of a
17 watershed on a public committee down in Petaluma River
18 Water Basin, and I just -- it's a deep area of interest
19 for me, so I'd like to be involved if I can as you're
20 doing this test up out here in the Upper Lake and go
21 out, participate and be a volunteer.

22 ROGER POFF: Certainly welcome. In fact, what
23 we found in the project on the Sam Houston in Texas is
24 that was a key to making a successful program is having
25 the users and the volunteers directly involved in

1 making the measurements.

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I would love to be
3 involved, so hopefully we can exchange information and
4 then go from there.

5 ROGER POFF: Okay. Thank you.

6 Any other questions?

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: I was going to say those
8 trails by two o'clock, 2:30 yesterday had dried out,
9 interestingly. So I know there's a lot of concern
10 about the road that just there's just been a million
11 dollars spent on it, but that ground, particularly on
12 the south-facing ones, like you're talking about,
13 really pretty much everywhere that we went late
14 afternoon was already dry enough to ride on, so when
15 you look at your data...

16 ROGER POFF: I'm just giving you a very quick
17 overview. There is a lot of depth and complexity
18 involved also, which will go into in the final reports.

19 Anything else?

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

21 USFS MS. MICK: So I appreciate Roger coming all
22 the way over from Nevada City to give the presentation.
23 Roger and I have worked together for a long, long time.
24 And the project that he is working on is a project that
25 was funded through the regional office through the OHV

1 Division, and we've also put a considerable amount of
2 match beyond what we're required to to the project to
3 make it successful because the forests are -- you know,
4 with climate change and travel management, a lot of the
5 forests have their closure dates set.

6 And so even though the sun may come out and the
7 trails maybe have the ability to ride, because of the
8 closure dates, folks aren't able to ride. So we are
9 really trying to look at other ways to manage this in
10 the future.

11 And, yes, Commissioner Cabral, one of the things
12 that Roger still has to do as part of this pre-work
13 we've been doing is trying to get with you, to go over
14 and actually visit the park over in Marin County and
15 look at what you guys are doing, and we have that on
16 the list.

17 But one of the other things that Roger didn't
18 mention is that he's been working with Bruce Switcher
19 down on the Santa Lucia Palazzo area of the Los Padres,
20 and pretty much the user community has really embraced,
21 as well as the district ranger who just retired, this
22 process, and they're really into helping to take the
23 measurements and do all of that. So that's what we --

24 I heard people talk about volunteers and
25 volunteers wanting to come to the table, and that's one

1 of the places that we will really need to utilize the
2 volunteers is for them to get behind this study and to
3 help take the measurements and kind of hold the
4 scientific integrity and all that so that we can
5 actually find a way to benefit the ridership and the
6 number of days that trails are open. So we're pretty
7 excited about the study, and we hope that we can grow
8 that excitement amongst OHV community as well.

9 So I just have a few more brief comments before
10 Cheryl's fingers fall off and I need to go home. Just
11 to give you a few updates, nationally, probably before
12 June, our revised rule, which is Subpart C of the
13 Travel Management Rule -- and you've heard me speak of
14 this before.

15 We have to revise the Travel Management Rule but
16 only Subpart C. Subpart C is the piece that deals with
17 over-snow vehicles and the designation of over-snow
18 vehicle trails and areas. So the revised rule, look
19 for that to hit the Federal Register, I would say,
20 before June. I'm hoping way before June, but right now
21 I'm having a hard time getting any more of a timeline
22 out of the Washington office than summer. But I will
23 let Chris' staff know -- Chris and Phil's staff know so
24 that that can be something that the OHV community,
25 particularly the winter community, pays attention to.

1 Another thing that we'll probably need to
2 coordinate with the OHV Division a little more on is
3 that our law enforcement funds nationwide are down
4 considerably. We're also down considerably in this
5 region a number of officers. We're down, I think it
6 is, four patrol captains for our patrol districts as
7 well as about 22 officers. With that said, I'm hearing
8 rumors -- although I'm trying to get confirmation on
9 them -- that the patrol districts are being shifted a
10 little bit differently.

11 So we're going to need the OHV Division's help
12 to try and monitor and manage this through the grant
13 program. Because it's very crucial that the grants
14 staff understand that there has to be a good mix of law
15 enforcement, of the gun toters and the FPOs, which do
16 most of our law enforcement on Forest Service lands and
17 making sure that that is understood.

18 Particularly on the Mendocino, Mike and Bob and
19 that part of the staff, Laura, they're all FPOs. They
20 do all of the law enforcement for the most part. And
21 if all of a sudden the funds were shifted just to the
22 gun toters and that funding were to disappear, then we
23 have a potential to lose people on the ground. So it
24 is a big concern, and I'm trying to get more
25 information. We need to talk with the grant staff

1 somehow and Phil about that.

2 Also wanted to bring up that we had a lawsuit
3 two years ago. The Forest Service settled that
4 lawsuit. The intent of the lawsuit was over our
5 over-snow vehicle groom program. The Division also had
6 a lawsuit as well, and they're working through the
7 appeal process on the judge's decision on that.

8 But we settled our lawsuit, and so it will be
9 very soon that the over-snow vehicle community will see
10 that we will trigger a NEPA process for five forests,
11 and that would be the Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Eldorado
12 and Stanislaus. And that NEPA will be geared in some
13 form or fashion around the groomed trails and the
14 groomed trail system as well as the ancillary
15 activities that go with that program, cleaning
16 bathrooms, plowing roads, plowing parking lots, that
17 type of thing. So that's one that probably I would
18 imagine Dan Canfield will want to pay close attention
19 to.

20 The other piece in this -- seems to be a snow
21 theme with the rain -- that the Lake Tahoe Basin
22 Management Unit has just begun a winter collaborative.
23 Snowlands Network, which is a human-powered
24 cross-country ski group in California, as well as
25 California/Nevada Snowmobile Association and Fred

1 Wiley, are part of that collaborative.

2 And they're working together to come up with a
3 business plan that will be delivered to the Tahoe Basin
4 on or about March 1st. And that's really going to be a
5 business plan that outlines how the collaborative will
6 move forward to look at new designations and potential
7 restrictions and prohibitions on the Lake Tahoe Basin
8 in regard to over-snow vehicle use.

9 Dan, that's probably one -- I know no one from
10 the Division was able to make the first collaborative
11 meeting, but I would encourage someone from the
12 Division staff to at least attend those collaborative
13 meetings.

14 From the regional perspective, we didn't
15 necessarily participate in the discussion, but we were
16 there to just add value if there were questions and
17 kind of let the two user communities do their things.
18 We were just more about providing support. So, Chris,
19 I would encourage, and I'll let you guys know, to have
20 staff at those future meetings. I think it would be
21 tremendously helpful.

22 And then a couple of things geared toward the
23 Division and anything that the Commission can do. One
24 is that I would encourage the OHV Division to work with
25 the Society of American Automotive Engineers. They're

1 the one that develop the standing test for sound for
2 dirt bikes. And those tests, along with some
3 contractors, were instrumental in getting the sound
4 regulations in California for dirt bikes.

5 For snowmobiles, there is not a standing test at
6 this time. It's a running test. It's very hard to
7 perform in the field. It's something that we will have
8 to deal with here in California. We're going to have
9 to deal with it as we look at winter planning and
10 designations for over-snow stuff.

11 So I would encourage the OHV Division to perhaps
12 help us to pursue something that is easier to test in
13 the field, and that also will help us address sound
14 versus quiet recreation in California.

15 Along those same lines, I know that CARB is
16 working on the Red Sticker stuff for OHVs, but again
17 there isn't anything for emissions for OSV. So I would
18 encourage the OHV Commission to take the lead on
19 working with CARB to try in the next couple of years
20 take on OSV emissions, particularly as it pertains to
21 its snow use and concerns for water quality as well as
22 water content.

23 In this drought, water quality is going to be
24 even more of a pressing issue. Probably doesn't sound
25 like a big deal right now, but if the drought

1 continues, it's not just about the amount of money we
2 have in California but the quality for drinking.

3 Amy Granat and I sat at a meeting yesterday for
4 the Sierra Cascade Dialogue that was all about water,
5 so the importance of water can't be understated in this
6 state. And so it would be very valuable to understand
7 the interplay between OSV emissions falling onto the
8 snow and water quality and how we can protect that
9 recreation and still provide for drinking water.

10 And then I just wanted to address that we heard
11 a lot today about volunteers and Adopt-A-Trails, and we
12 are still -- and I don't know that that was mentioned,
13 Commissioner Cabral. But Ted and I have been working
14 on an idea for creating a book by the Forest Service
15 that basically when a club or an individual comes to
16 the Forest Service and asks, "How can I volunteer? How
17 can I Adopt-a-Trail," that we hand them the book, and
18 it pretty much contains everything that they need to
19 know. And then we work with them to get the
20 appropriate training to do what it is they want to do,
21 whether it's brush trails, do condition surveys or
22 perhaps run a Sweco tractor, that we start to move in
23 that direction.

24 So I have some staff that's working on that as
25 we speak and hope to see something at least in a rough

1 draft in the next coming months. And that would serve
2 as part of the toolbox for the whole entire region, and
3 I would imagine it would also have interplay at BLM as
4 well since we have similar regulations.

5 Just a few -- two, three more notes, the Tahoe
6 litigation, they had a hearing. I don't know whether
7 folks are well aware of that or not, but the Forest
8 Service Travel Management document was upheld. So the
9 Tahoe is moving forward on implementing their travel
10 management decisions.

11 The Six Rivers National Forest, Smith River NRA,
12 which is the Gasquet Ranger District, very soon,
13 probably before May, will be coming out with a draft
14 environmental impact statement. So that's of
15 particular interest to Don Amador, but for those that
16 recreate up on the Six Rivers in the far, far north,
17 that travel management document after several years of
18 back and forth and up and down will be at least in
19 draft form. The EIS will be coming out soon.

20 And then last but not least, in terms of forest
21 planning -- and again I encourage the OHV Division to
22 have staff interact with the three forests, the Inyo,
23 Sierra and the Sequoia, on Forest Plan revisions, and I
24 believe it's on or about April -- somewhere before the
25 end of April, there will be a notice of intent in the

1 Federal Register that contains the proposed action for
2 the Forest Plan revisions for all three of those
3 forests.

4 And so again, Dan, I think that probably falls
5 on you, and it sounds like you're getting busy, but
6 that is something that the OHV Division will want to
7 interact with in terms of high-scale recreation, quiet
8 versus non-quiet recreation for snow, and then just
9 land allocation, recreation opportunity spectrum stuff
10 at the Forest Plan scale.

11 With that, I'll take questions or not. You're
12 probably worn out by now. That's all I've got.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: We are wearing out.

14 USFS MS. MICK: Thank you.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Thank you.

16 Short break?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Real short break because we're
18 really running out of time right now.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yes, we have people
20 that have to catch flights. So in deference to them, I
21 would recommend we do a five-minute break; is that
22 okay? We can make that work? Five-minute break, and
23 please be back in five minutes.

24 (Returned at 4:15 from a break starting at 4:08 p.m.)

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: I've canvassed the folks that had

1 green slips, the ones who wanted to talk about Forest
2 Service and BLM. From my understanding, everybody is
3 okay with not commenting, okay? Unless they had some
4 burning issues, Kathy is gone anyway.

5 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - GENERAL**
6 **PROGRAM UPDATE**

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: All right. Director's
8 report, I'll keep it brief. I already said my thank
9 you, and I appreciate everybody's support. And thank
10 you for coming on out here and all of the folks who
11 braved the cold and wet yesterday. Thanks for doing
12 that, put me in mind of my old days back in the Marine
13 Corps. So tough group, thank you very much.

14 We're going to start with Eastern Kern County,
15 Dan.

16 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**
17 **EASTERN KERN COUNTY**

18 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Thank you, Deputy
19 Director. Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division planning
20 manager providing a report on the Eastern Kern County
21 acquisition, also commonly referred to as the Onyx
22 Ranch acquisition by some folks.

23 As I reported to the Commission prior, the
24 Division is working to acquire approximately 25,000
25 acres of privately-owned land in Kern County near the

1 Jawbone OHV area. In support of the acquisition, the
2 Division produced an environmental impact report. And
3 the Notice of Determination for that environmental
4 impact report was filed on October 4th. And I'm sorry,
5 Diana, behind Tab 8 if you're looking -- you have the
6 report behind Tab 8.

7 The first attachment to that report is that
8 Notice of Determination for the EIR, which is a
9 considerable milestone in the project. And I think the
10 other attachment is the actual parcel map if you want
11 to see where the land sits in relation to Jawbone,
12 which is in the southeastern corner in the Sequoia
13 National Forest to the west, Red Rock Canyon to the
14 east. That's a state park.

15 The project is currently in the negotiations
16 phase. And during this phase, the State is working
17 with the landowner to determine a value of the
18 property. While we're in this phase, there is not a
19 whole lot of information the State shares in a public
20 forum to protect their negotiating ability. So I don't
21 have a whole lot of information to provide beyond the
22 fact that the project is moving, it's in negotiations
23 and that we have active communications between the
24 State and the landowner on this value issue.

25 And that was the end of my report.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: My only question would be, is
2 there anything the Commission could do to further this
3 project, a letter, something?

4 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Not that I'm aware of
5 prior to the acquisition.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Not right now. As soon
7 as there is an opportunity, we will let you know. But
8 at this point it really is just negotiations with the
9 seller.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Next.

11 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - SVRA**

12 **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. Next up on the
14 dais, I think we've got the SVRA General Plan Update,
15 which is Dan Canfield again.

16 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Thank you, Deputy
17 Director. This is a report that's near and dear to my
18 heart, and it's an update on the general plans for the
19 SVRAs. I'm going to guess it's behind Tab No. 9.

20 SVRA general plans are very important to the
21 program because they are necessary to allow the
22 development of capital facilities at SVRAs and for the
23 expansion of public outdoor recreation onto acquired
24 properties, which many of our SVRAs have acquired
25 lands.

1 Several of the SVRAs are in the process of
2 updating their general plans. An attachment to your
3 report is a table showing you the status, a brief
4 status of those projects. We do have three active SVRA
5 general plans projects, so we're keeping very busy.

6 Prairie City SVRA, Carnegie SVRA and Ocotillo
7 Wells SVRA are all currently in the process. Hungry
8 Valley SVRA is kind of waiting in the wings. Lucky for
9 me, because if we had a fourth project going, it would
10 be really, really interesting, and thank you.

11 The report gives you a brief update on the three
12 active projects. I'm going to focus my topics on the
13 Ocotillo Wells SVRA since back in November, the
14 Commission met in Borrego Springs, toured Ocotillo
15 Wells.

16 And since that meeting in November, there's been
17 a couple of exciting developments for Ocotillo Wells'
18 General Plan. The planning team conducted two
19 workshops. The first was December 28th out at Ocotillo
20 Wells at the Discovery Center. You guys might remember
21 that from the tour. And then on January 9th, there was
22 a public workshop held in Carlsbad, which is north
23 San Diego County.

24 Between the two workshops, we had 200
25 participants. Workshop participants were able to learn

1 about the general plan process, hear from the planning
2 team on the preliminary planning concepts that have
3 been developed and to give feedback back to the
4 planning team.

5 But don't worry if you weren't able to make
6 those workshops, it doesn't mean that you're not able
7 to provide input. The same material that was presented
8 at the workshops can be found at the project website:
9 PlanOcotilloWells.org. Folks can visit that website,
10 review the materials, review the planning concepts, and
11 provide input just as if they had gone to one of the
12 workshops. They don't get to see our shining faces,
13 but they are still able to participate.

14 Also, if they visit the project web page, they
15 can see an informative video, which we have a short
16 clip of.

17 (Viewed video.)

18 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: That was just a short
19 clip in keeping with our time constraints.

20 The most important message I want to get across
21 to the Commission and to the public and anyone else
22 interested, is that we would like folks to go onto the
23 project web page and provide their input by March 10th.
24 That input will then be taken in by the planning team
25 and used to refine to the preferred concept, which will

1 go back to the public in another workshop in the near
2 future.

3 That ends my report. The report in your binders
4 has information on the other two active projects. I
5 would be happy to answer any questions.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Moving on.

7 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**

8 **GRANTS PROGRAM**

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Next is going to be
10 grants, and we have George here.

11 OHMVR STAFF MacDOUGALL: Hello, Commissioners.
12 George MacDougall, OHMVR Division Northern California
13 grant administrator.

14 I wanted to give you an update on the Grants
15 Cooperative Agreement Program today. A sheet
16 explaining this program is behind Tab 10 in your
17 binders with a little bit more detail than I'm going to
18 talk about.

19 As the Administrative Chief said earlier in her
20 budget update, the Governor proposed a \$26 million
21 budget for this year. It's subject to appropriations
22 by the Legislature, and we're hopeful that that
23 \$26 million will remain intact.

24 Additionally, this year we'll be adding another
25 \$4.9 million of unspent restoration funds from last

1 year to augment the restoration part of the program to
2 complement the efforts of marketing restoration we've
3 been doing this year.

4 We had two grant workshops in January that we
5 completed, and we were excited to see that we had about
6 36 new attendees of new agencies that came to our
7 workshops, and that's resulted so far in 40 new
8 agencies that are registered within our Online Grant
9 Application System as potential restoration
10 applications, the majority of them are.

11 This coming Monday at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline
12 to submit the preliminary applications, coming up
13 really quick on us. Division staff, the Grants team
14 has been working diligently to ensure that these are
15 complete and competitive applications that are being
16 submitted, providing a lot of technical assistance,
17 fielding calls and e-mails throughout this entire week
18 especially.

19 After that begins a 30-day public review process
20 where it's a very transparent process. Everything is
21 posted on our website. Public can access the
22 applications, provide public comments to both
23 applicants and to the Division staff of which we also
24 post on our website. The public has the opportunity to
25 review this until through April 7th. After April 7th,

1 that starts the final application period of which are
2 due on May 5th on Monday.

3 The intent to award will be posted on the
4 Division website on June 2nd, that's starts another
5 30-day appeal process. And our final intent to award
6 should be posted July 3rd.

7 I'm open for questions.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Just real quick on
10 them, I get compliments all the time on the Grants
11 Program, maybe because they have money, but I like to
12 think it's also because they have great integrity and
13 transparency and they're hard working.

14 We gave them the mission this year of having a
15 "Blue Light" special on these restoration grants,
16 really getting the word out. They have done it in
17 spades. And I will tell you what, I would also like to
18 thank the community because a lot of you guys got the
19 word out. And as a result, we have applications coming
20 from groups that haven't talked to us in years.

21 It's really nice to see everybody coming out.
22 You saw an example of that here with the gentleman who
23 was talking about the work on the trails here from the
24 preservation area. Really great to see that. So thank
25 you very much for everybody.

1 AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

2 CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD OHV UPDATE

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. Next we're going
4 to talk about CARB, Mike Lair.

5 OHMVR STAFF LAIR: Mike Lair, OHMVR Law
6 Enforcement Section.

7 I'm going to talk about the CARB Red Sticker
8 ruling. Commissioner Cabral did a pretty good job of
9 kind of explaining what has taken place. So in the
10 effort of time, I'll just kind of keep it short and
11 cover a few points that are important.

12 December 2015 is the date they're going to make
13 the ruling to regulate the Red Sticker vehicles. They
14 have -- the period that they'll be working on this is
15 going to be from basically December 2013 up until
16 September 2014 when they'll have the bikes tested.
17 They'll compile the data, generate a report, and then
18 in November report back to the board on the results of
19 the findings of the testing procedure, along with the
20 public survey that they're working with Sacramento
21 State University that can put out, and Commissioner
22 Cabral worked on that with them as well as Division.

23 So the Air Resources Board has been pretty
24 forthcoming working with all of the stakeholders, OHV
25 Division, everybody involved. That's the idea of

1 having these stakeholder meetings, to get people
2 involved and really work with some kind of solution
3 with everybody, not just them driving this regulation.

4 In fact, today they're having their open house
5 for the testing procedure, and they'll talk about the
6 public survey down in El Monte. Tom Bernardo from
7 Division is attending that. And because of this
8 Commission meeting, Commissioner Cabral was able to get
9 another date for an open house for them to talk about
10 again the testing procedure for the motorcycles, the
11 Red Sticker vehicles, and then also have it be an open
12 house to look at the facility, how they do the
13 evaporative testing as well as exhaust emission
14 testing. So that's good to note.

15 Testing the motorcycles is going to be late this
16 summer. They're actually trying to put the money
17 together to get the motorcycles. I spoke to the
18 program manager who said they're going to have four or
19 five contracts of \$4,000 to purchase these Red Sticker
20 motorcycles.

21 The process will be to break the motorcycles in
22 as the manufacturer recommends over the runtime or how
23 many hours that might be, to run the fuels that they
24 recommend in these vehicles. So it's going to be a
25 pretty fair testing of the vehicle itself to find the

1 true emissions from both evaporative when it's being
2 stored and then, of course, the operations of the
3 motorcycles.

4 I think that's it. So once again, they'll
5 report to the board in November of 2014. And then
6 December of 2015, the board will make a ruling on how
7 to regulate those, and that could be do nothing, get
8 the emission to be up at the Green Sticker standard or
9 raise the standard on the Red Sticker.

10 So that's all I have unless you have some
11 questions.

12 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: The date on the second
13 one, the second meeting, I believe is March 6th at
14 Sacramento at their office. And the time I think -- we
15 moved the time because -- it's noon now.

16 OHMVR STAFF LAIR: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: So there's over a year that
18 lapses from the report to the board and when they issue
19 regulations?

20 OHMVR STAFF LAIR: Yes, they have December 2015.
21 I was looking at that thinking they might have made a
22 mistake, but part of it is once they make the ruling,
23 is then they have to go through the legal process, the
24 Office of Administrative Law. So I think there is some
25 legal hoops they have to jump through before they can

1 probably implement. So that's probably implementation
2 because they're going to know in November kind of what
3 the proposal is.

4 The Air Resources Board is going to provide some
5 guidance on how to do that, on what would be a way of
6 regulating the Red Sticker vehicles. Keeping in mind
7 the job is to reduce air pollution, so I think they're
8 doing a real good job with everybody involved to keep
9 everybody up front on what's taking place, so.

10 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Because we're on a time
11 constraint here, I'll make this quick.

12 Maybe you can e-mail me some information or
13 additional background information since I'm not as
14 familiar with this program.

15 OHMVR STAFF LAIR: Right, okay.

16 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Me, too. I would like to
17 be copied on that as well.

18 OHMVR STAFF LAIR: I'll give you kind of how it
19 all got started and where we're at today.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Public comment on this. Jerry,
21 really briefly, we need to -- how many people want to
22 do public comment? Why don't you get in line, get
23 behind the podium, speak your name for the record.

24 JERRY FOUTS: My name is Jerry Fouts from
25 District 36.

1 With all due respect to the fine folks at CARB,
2 given their track record on the Red Sticker -- and if
3 you don't know, call me and I'll tell you how it
4 happened -- I would heartily suggest that this body,
5 the Commission, suggest that there's a third party,
6 independent contractor, oversee all of the testing, a
7 scientist, a third-party scientist.

8 Talk about transparency, if you want to have
9 transparency, it's good credibility for everyone. If
10 you don't do it that way, there's always going to be
11 he-said/she-said stuff, and we can eliminate that right
12 now if we do that. So thank you.

13 NICK HARIS: Nick Haris, AMA, real quick.

14 The meeting was yesterday, and I've actually
15 gotten a couple of e-mail reports from folks that
16 attended. The main concern would be that they have not
17 committed to using new vehicles. They've actually
18 indicated they may try to find a rental vehicle or a
19 used vehicle because it's cheaper.

20 And the fleet size they're talking about, which
21 I remember from the last time we talked to them, is
22 three vehicles. And I guess we find that a little bit
23 troubling when you talk about the literally millions of
24 vehicles that are out there. We're concerned about
25 that.

1 And I'm really glad to hear there's a meeting
2 next week. I know that was just added recently. There
3 has been some real push from the industry as well as
4 from -- one my co-workers was there as well -- to get
5 the independent third party not only to verify the
6 testing but also to verify the vehicle is even running
7 correctly and that they're using the proper mix and all
8 of those things. Thank you.

9 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36,
10 Motorcycle Sports.

11 I, too, received some information yesterday, a
12 27-page thing that came yesterday. I printed it out
13 before I left. I'll send you one when I get home if
14 you're interested. But there's serious concern about
15 backpedalling promises made at the very first meeting.

16 As Jerry mentioned and Nick mentioned, there's a
17 problem with the fast-track program that's going on and
18 wanting to use used motorcycles. That's totally
19 unacceptable. These need to be new.

20 I made a couple of calls to a few dealer
21 friends. They can do something like a CHP guaranteed
22 buyback. They buy them. You get 80 percent of the
23 money back. You use it for the testing, and they get
24 resold as demonstrators. There are solutions.

25 That is a huge issue. All it takes is a halfway

1 dirty air filter, it can throw the numbers off.
2 Looking in here, they have identified standards for
3 using manufacturers' printed premixed ratios with
4 specified current modern synthetic two-stroke oils.
5 But if there's not somebody there that knows how to
6 operate a motorcycle, know the correct temperature
7 that's it's going to be run at, et cetera, it's going
8 to skew the numbers. And as Mr. Fouts identified, the
9 questions will always be there unless there is a third
10 or fourth party involved actually on site watching this
11 going on.

12 So there are solutions to this. We've got to do
13 it right. We got a second chance. I'm concerned about
14 using a 2009 motorcycle for something that won't go
15 into effect until 2018. We've all seen the leaps in
16 technology. That needs to be brought into play.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: So are we the third party?

19 DAVE PICKETT: Hopefully.

20 BRUCE BRAZIL: Would this be the proper time to
21 speak on the grants?

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes.

23 BRUCE BRAZIL: Bruce Brazil speaking as an
24 individual this time.

25 Within the grants process, we've got the public

1 review of the preliminary grants. But in the last few
2 years, the Division has always done a review on the
3 preliminary grants and pointing out the deficiencies in
4 the grants. That step is not in any of the
5 regulations. And even in George's slide showing the
6 dates, the critical dates, nothing in there about that.

7 If the Division wants to continue that practice,
8 I would suggest that they get the regulations changed
9 to add that in there and some description of what they
10 can comment on. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I just wanted to quickly
12 address the issue of the Red Sticker, stuff that -- I
13 agree with most everything that you guys just said.
14 I've been having severe concerns with the type of
15 motorcycles as far as the condition they are in and
16 also the -- how they have been maintained and the type
17 of fluids and the type of fuel and everything that goes
18 along that can affect the emissions. I personally will
19 be making sure that that stuff is going to be done
20 right, and having a third party is something I'm going
21 to push, definitely.

22 The one thing I want to remind everyone, I
23 mentioned earlier, is the reason they're not getting
24 new vehicles is because the manufacturers won't work
25 with them. So they're having to go through the dealers

1 and the California Motorcycle Dealers Association.

2 So one thing we can do is we can contact through
3 the manufacturers' websites, send them an e-mail and
4 tell them how disappointed you are as a resident of
5 California that they're not playing ball with the ARB
6 on these regulations and they should be providing
7 motorcycles. A quick little e-mail goes a long ways
8 when it starts coming in on their retail website, just
9 so you know.

10 DAVE PICKETT: I misspoke on one item, Chair.
11 Can I correct it? Thank you.

12 I said 2009 on one of the test bikes. It's a
13 2003 Honda Green Sticker, which will be 15 years old in
14 implementation time dates. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: That's ridiculous.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do we have standing with
17 CARB as an agency, Deputy Director, to provide some
18 third-party supervision? I mean we've got a lot of
19 knowledgeable people on staff.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Well, I mean we
21 absolutely are working with them on this. I mean we've
22 got people assigned and going to the meetings who are
23 participating with them. If that's something we want
24 to suggest, that we have a third party over-watch, I
25 think the earlier suggestions was maybe get a

1 contractor in that would be an independent third-party
2 observer. That's probably the better way to go as
3 opposed to us assigning individual people to doing
4 this.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Just to address this
6 quickly, is that my big concern is -- I've run a Dino
7 many, many times, and a Dino is only as good as the
8 person running it -- what kind of data you're going to
9 get from it. So that's why I think we should have some
10 kind of an expert there that's monitoring this. You
11 can skew the numbers easily.

12 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**
13 **OCEANO DUNES DISTRICT GROVER BEACH LODGE PROJECT**

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. Next, Oceano
15 Dunes District. We have Dena Bellman. Thank you very
16 much. She traveled a long way to come and talk to us.

17 DENA BELLMAN: Good afternoon, Commission. Dena
18 Bellman, Oceano Dunes District, Park and Recreation
19 Specialist, here to talk to you today about the Grover
20 Beach Lodge and Conference Center. Your report should
21 be behind Tab No. 12, and we have a few visuals of the
22 project for you as well.

23 The Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center
24 project proposes a 150-room hotel and a 11,000 square
25 foot conference center in Pismo State Beach adjacent to

1 Grand Avenue, which is the northernmost entrance to the
2 Oceano Dunes SVRA. Currently, the project site
3 consists of day-use parking lots and approximately an
4 eight-acre dirt lot that you can see there. This is
5 frequently utilized for overflow and equestrian
6 parking. When completed, this will be the only LEED
7 Silver hotel development on the California coastline.
8 It will also include a master plan area including
9 day-use facilities to better serve our park visitors.

10 The vision for this lodge began over 30 years
11 ago in 1982 when the park's General Plan was amended
12 designating this site as a location for a 150-room
13 lodge and conference center project. Because this
14 project is a concession, the State Parks needed to
15 create an opportunity for a business to be successful
16 at this venture. So in 1994, the California State
17 Legislature adopted a Public Resources Code section
18 allowing for a 50-year concession. Traditionally
19 concession contracts, the lengthiest, are about 20
20 years. So this was a significant move toward this
21 project.

22 The Oceano Dunes District became part of this
23 project in 2004 when we began managing Pismo State
24 Beach. In 2006, the State Parks at Oceano Dunes
25 entered into a Joint Powers Authority agreement with

1 the City of Grover Beach creating the Joint Authority
2 that would manage this project.

3 In 2009 the JA entered into a concession
4 contract with Pacifica Companies to develop and
5 maintain the lodge and conference center. One
6 important aspect of this concession contract is that it
7 requires all current visitor-serving amenities be
8 replaced first before anything hotel- or
9 conference-related is created. So this would include
10 day-use and equestrian parking as well as the RV dump
11 station.

12 The coastal development permit will be heard
13 this Monday, March 3rd, at the Grover Beach City
14 Council meeting. We expect it to pass unanimously.

15 This project is truly unique in many ways. It
16 has received overwhelming community support, and we
17 will continue working diligently on it to bring this
18 enhanced park visitor opportunity to Oceano Dunes
19 District.

20 I'm happy to answer any questions.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's a wonderful project. I
22 hope to see its completion before we all go away.

23 DENA BELLMAN: Me, too.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: They need the Coastal
25 Commission to sign off?

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's already been done.

2 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: So this center will cater
3 to OHV vehicles on the beach?

4 DENA BELLMAN: It will be an opportunity for an
5 additional place to stay locally, 150 rooms
6 additionally. Our economic impact report that was
7 released in 2011 showed that approximately 24 percent
8 of folks that stay overnight in the area that come to
9 the park stay in hotels.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: One of the most popular
11 parks in the entire system is Oceano Dunes, Pismo
12 Beach, two million visitors a year. And their
13 campsites are almost always filled.

14 So this is the city who has been a great partner
15 with us. They're contributing their part by creating
16 this visitor center, because as Dena said, what we
17 found is it's so popular, that when people don't get
18 campsites, they stay in rooms. And they're trying to
19 pick up on that. But the nice thing about Oceano Dunes
20 is not only is it very, very popular for the folks that
21 are doing off-road recreation, there's a whole -- I
22 mean there are surfers that are out there, you name it,
23 constantly filming films out there, extremely popular
24 place. This will enhance it.

25 DENA BELLMAN: It will also be the largest

1 conference facility in San Luis Obispo County. So
2 we're really hoping that it will bring a new dynamic to
3 that particular beach area.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'll say there is a lot of
5 information in the tabs here that we should read
6 because it's really an exciting project, and I'm hoping
7 that there is an off-highway vehicle theme in the lobby
8 of this place.

9 DENA BELLMAN: Well, I don't know about inside
10 the lobby, but definitely there is a plan. Because the
11 day-use parking, as you can see here, will be to the
12 east of the hotel. It's unusual, but what it does
13 is -- one of the reasons why it's quite unique is that
14 it brings folks through the actual hotel project. So
15 there are pathways with information kiosk and a lot of
16 information and a lot of history can be shared as they
17 make their way to the beach. So that was one
18 opportunity we wanted to make sure we took.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: Are we going to get the
20 State's rates there?

21 DENA BELLMAN: They do guarantee we get a State
22 rate to stay there.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm hoping that people will know
24 this facility was created out of the vision of OHMVR.

25 DENA BELLMAN: We definitely made sure that

1 that's known. Pismo State Beach, all of the facilities
2 and things, projects that are done there, we definitely
3 let folks know it's through the Off-Highway Vehicle
4 Trust Fund.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Awesome.

6 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - 2014**

7 **TRIENNIAL OHMVR PROGRAM REPORT DISTRIBUTION**

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Dan is jumping up
9 again, Triennial Report.

10 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Thank you, Deputy
11 Director. Dan Canfield, OHMVR Planning Manager
12 presenting a report on the OHV program's Triennial
13 Report, also known as the 2014 Report. Reports are in
14 your binders behind Tab 13, also available on the back
15 table for the public.

16 The Commission worked very hard in 2013 along
17 with staff on the development of the 2014 Report. At
18 several Commission meetings in 2013, the contents were
19 discussed. And most recently in November at the
20 Borrego Springs Commission meeting, the 2014 Report was
21 approved by the Commission with some changes. And
22 after that meeting, the Division went back, worked on
23 those changes, coordinated with the Chair and finalized
24 the report.

25 And then on -- the report, which I failed to

1 mention earlier, it was required -- it was due by
2 January 1 to be finalized. So we worked, and we
3 finished in collaboration with the Chair. And on
4 December 30th and 31st, the printed 2014 Report was
5 delivered to the required recipients. That's the
6 Governor's Office and various members of the
7 legislative depending on their committee affiliation.
8 A list of all the representatives that received the
9 2014 Report is attached to the report. Those are all
10 the required folks to get it.

11 I believe the Commissioners also received a
12 copy. A copy was posted up onto our Division website
13 by Deb Burgeson -- thank you very much. So anyone
14 could take it up and open it and take a look at it. I
15 have a copy available on the back table. I should say
16 I had a copy available on the back table, but I don't
17 see it at the moment. So whoever has that, make sure
18 you return it to the table.

19 I guess that's all I want to say about the 2014
20 Report. Any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I was looking at the list,
22 and I noticed one didn't go to Mark Leno's office.

23 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Well, the list is
24 dependent upon what committees they're members of. So
25 if Senator Leno was a member of a committee, he should

1 have received one.

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: No, I want to educate
3 Senator Leno a little more on the OHV program. I would
4 hand deliver it myself.

5 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: I'll get a copy for
6 you. Thank you for doing that.

7 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Dan, that was my question, if
8 there are any extra copies available?

9 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: I just have one.

10 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Is there only one?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: If you need additional
12 copies, just let us know, and we can print them off for
13 you.

14 In addition, we would tell you that you don't
15 have to, but to save paper, we've also got a CD of it
16 that's a little bit less expensive to the Division to
17 pay to run off. And actually a lot of people like it
18 better so they can throw it on a computer and they can
19 zoom around on it.

20 We have not forgotten our promise to make an
21 executive summary, and we are working on that. This is
22 on me, though, based on that announcement I had earlier
23 about the budget. We are back in some work with the
24 Governor's Office so that we can put that message in
25 here in the right way because that's something we

1 really want to play up is about the loans and the
2 payback and all of that. So this got delayed a little
3 bit until I can work that out again with the right
4 people.

5 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I was just going to make
6 a comment. You mentioned Senator Leno, and I think the
7 messenger to Senator Leno is going to be key, just
8 because he's the Chair of the Budget. And since our
9 Governor's budget seems to favor us, our messaging to
10 him is one that should be still favorable, you know,
11 still needing education but one that is on a positive
12 side so that when decisions are made -- it's a
13 balancing act because he is Chair of the Budget, and we
14 want the amounts that we've received from the
15 Governor's budget to remain the same, if not augmented.
16 So I just wanted to say that because it's a balancing
17 act with the member.

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Well, I'm a constituent
19 and on top of that I've already had contact with his
20 office.

21 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: We have, too.

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: But I was specifically
23 told that I couldn't talk about financial situations or
24 budget. So what my intentions are is to educate him
25 about the OHV program and give them a report. So

1 that's just going to be a very polite meeting, but I
2 think the report speaks for itself.

3 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: We've had contact with
4 the budget consultant, and I'm just letting you know
5 that for background information. But it's good just
6 to -- more information that they receive, the better,
7 and from multiple sources.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think we all congratulate staff
9 for the production of the report. It's an awesome
10 document.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Appreciate all of the
12 help of the Commission. You really did good, thank
13 you.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: You even incorporated all of the
15 suggestions that we made, great job. Thanks to Debbie
16 for the graphics, et cetera, especially the timeline.
17 I think that was something that we haven't seen before.
18 And if any of you in the audience haven't seen this
19 report yet, get ahold of it.

20 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: It's up on the Division
21 website: OHV.parks.ca.gov.

22 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(2) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**
23 **LEGISLATION UPDATE, JOHNSON VALLEY OHV AREA**

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. Legislative
25 report from Tina.

1 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: Hello, Tina Williams,
2 California State Parks, OHMVR Division.

3 My report is located behind Tab No. 14, and I
4 want to acknowledge and thank the Commissioners who
5 have already provided comment on the Johnson Valley
6 update and some of our presenters and some members of
7 the audience. So I will keep this very short.

8 I just wanted to bring up the map and highlight
9 just a few points before I turn it over to the Deputy
10 Director. This area down here is the shared-use area.
11 Basically we're talking about three areas. This is the
12 exclusive use for the military. This is the shared
13 area, and this is the unique Johnson Valley OHV area.

14 What is very unique is that along with BLM, the
15 U.S. Marines are in the recreation business. So that
16 is a very important point, and I think that that was
17 highlighted earlier by a member of BLM.

18 Just to give you some updates, on Friday, last
19 Friday -- going from federal legislation to state
20 legislation -- Senator Fuller proposed a bill. It's
21 SB 1289, I believe this is. It's not in your tabs;
22 that's how new it is. It is a bill that would allow
23 for any lands that are owned by the State and basically
24 the State Lands Commission could transfer any state
25 lands adjacent to the Johnson Valley area. The parcel

1 numbers have not been given yet. I think there's a
2 team of people that are working on it. And as soon as
3 we get more information, we'll be able to pass that on.

4 Unless there is any --

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: Where is that property
6 that's in discussion?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Are you talking the
8 state lands?

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: We don't know yet,
11 quite honestly. All they're saying is in the Johnson
12 Valley area. So there are several parcels of state
13 lands scattered throughout that area. Some of them are
14 in that west study area. Some of them are in the
15 shared-use area. So we really don't know yet.

16 And the thing about that is, although the bill
17 language currently talks about transfer, talking to our
18 land management people, it's really a sale. You know,
19 we would pay for something like that. So that has to
20 be determined as well.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: Who would pay? Who is we?

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: As in OHV. They would
23 offer them to us, and we pay.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: It would still be State
25 property?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: It would become our
2 property instead of State Lands'. State Lands, they
3 own their land. That's part of the Teachers' Pension
4 Fund.

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: It's not going to the
6 federal, because we've had that discussion earlier.
7 When the feds own it, they get to decide what to do
8 with it.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: That's a different
10 deal. That's a true transfer. BLM can transfer a
11 certain number of parcels a year over to us. This is
12 different. At least that's our understanding of it
13 right now.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: The next meeting, if we
16 could just get a list of legislation that the
17 department is following, that would be helpful.

18 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: Yes.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: And as you know, last
20 Friday they came out with the new stuff, so we're still
21 analyzing that, which ones have an effect.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: We typically do that for the
23 Commission. Thank you.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Right.

25 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(3) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - LAW**

1 **ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

2 OHMVR RANGER HOWARD: Good afternoon,
3 Commission. Mike Howard, Supervising Ranger from the
4 OHV Division. I have a report on the two law
5 enforcement deployments we did since the last
6 Commission meeting.

7 The first was to Jawbone and Dove Springs the
8 two days that followed Thanksgiving last year. That
9 was a targeted patrol at the request of the local
10 community interests there.

11 Our focus there was on closed-area incursion,
12 and our focus was to apprehend riders and issue
13 citations when it was appropriate. To do this, we had
14 four officers in street vehicles and four officers on
15 dirt bikes in separate teams. We were able to
16 apprehend two riders in a closed area. We contacted
17 quite a few people who were just parked along the trail
18 and spoke with quite a few people to educate them about
19 incursion.

20 The second deployment we did was the King of the
21 Hammers, February 4th through 7th, a couple of weeks
22 ago. This was an effort to support the BLM, the Marine
23 Corps, San Bernardino County Sheriff and CHP. Great
24 opportunity to contact a large numbers of people.
25 Prior to that class, we provided a law enforcement

1 class to -- off-highway vehicle law enforcement class
2 in Barstow, and we had about 20 attendees. Several of
3 the people that were in that class are in this picture.
4 We're working side by side with them.

5 We basically had two patrol beats for that. We
6 had four officers on motorcycles patrolling the marine
7 base boundary during the day shift primarily, and then
8 the night shift we had about five two-officer units
9 just patrolling the Means Dry Lake area and the event
10 area itself. That was a meeting that we had with the
11 Marine Corps out on -- it's actually just adjacent to
12 the live fire range.

13 So that concludes my report, unless anybody has
14 any questions.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions? Thank you.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Big deployment, that
17 one that went down there, over 26 of our folks went
18 out. Most of them came from other SVRAs. They all
19 combined together, but it was very important because
20 what it did -- as I said, the Department of Defense is
21 now going to become recreation managers.

22 So it was a chance to show them how they can do
23 business. It helped them tremendously, and it helped
24 BLM because this has now become the largest off-highway
25 vehicle event in the world. So it helps to get this

1 thing done the right way, a tremendous opportunity for
2 our folks, a very professional staff, to show what
3 we've got, so.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Absolutely.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay. Next on the hit
6 parade, outreach, Greg Schumaker.

7 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(4) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**

8 **OUTREACH - OHPAL UPDATE**

9 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: Hi, Commission, my name
10 is Greg Schumaker. I am the OHMVR Division Training
11 Coordinator.

12 And I'll be working with the OHPALs Program
13 along with other youth programs. In that I'll be
14 coordinating with youth organizations, land managers,
15 the SVI, Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, and
16 the OHV community to grow the program.

17 You guys all know the positive effects of the
18 youth program, talked about it earlier today. I see it
19 all the time as an ASI instructor and dirt bike coach.
20 The youth come in pretty quiet, timid when they first
21 start out. They get pretty excited to put the gear on.
22 Then they get pretty nervous again when they first
23 start riding. By the end there's a lot of smiles
24 shared. They're pretty proud of their accomplishment
25 of learning to ride the vehicle. You see a lot of

1 self-esteem and self-confidence increase with their new
2 skills.

3 And then the message, "Safe and Responsible
4 Recreation" is an important one. And we want to share
5 that message with all of the youth of California. And
6 if they can't come to the SVRAs to get the program, we
7 will find a way to bring the program out to them. So
8 thank you for your time, and I look forward to working
9 with you on this program.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: We look forward to working with
11 Greg as well on our team. There's a working group in
12 Los Angeles. He's going to meet us down there.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: Are these posted on the
14 website where and when these occur?

15 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: The training programs?

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes, for kids.

17 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: They're kind of put on
18 as needed. So if a group wanted to come out next week,
19 we could put one on.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do you also teach
21 individuals or?

22 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: We do. Part of my job
23 is -- it gets kind of complex. I could teach public
24 classes because the State of California will pay for
25 anyone under 18 to take the ATV safety classes. So I

1 can teach those to youth.

2 We will have special groups come out, like the
3 Boy Scouts and 4-H Club. They'll come out, and we also
4 have agencies come out. I spent last week training the
5 Yolo County Sheriff's Department and the Solano County
6 Sheriff's Department on how to become ATV instructors.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: You're a teaching
8 instructor?

9 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: I just want to understand.
10 So the Safety Vehicle Institute of America, is that
11 different from the ASI?

12 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: If I said "safety," I
13 misspoke. It's the Specialty Vehicle Institute of
14 America. It's the umbrella organization. And then
15 MSF, their bike school is under that and ASI, the ATV
16 Safety Institute is under that.

17 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: Are they separate
18 organizations?

19 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: It's all other the same
20 organization. The Speciality Vehicle Institute of
21 America is the umbrella. That's the big organization.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: Sorry to delay this.

23 I understand you're teaching current
24 instructors. I understand you're teaching groups.

25 But do you have like -- occasionally have

1 regularly-scheduled classes that people could find out
2 about?

3 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: We do. At Prairie City,
4 we have a drop-in class every Sunday. And I teach a
5 public class at one o'clock on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays
6 of the month. And the other SVRAs have their own
7 scheduled classes. I could get you a list of those.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yeah, I would appreciate it.

9 VICE-CHAIR PÉREZ: I would like a copy of that
10 as well.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: It's a great program.
12 It's been around for a while, but the SVRAs have
13 brought it back.

14 And what we've done is at the Environmental
15 Training Center that's now at Prairie City, that's been
16 made the center of excellence for all of our training
17 like this. And Greg is our lead guy for that. So he's
18 making sure it's standardized, making sure people are
19 doing it, and he's making sure it spreads. He's also
20 doing the PAL program as well. So the idea is to
21 synchronize all of this, make it better and allow it to
22 feed into each other.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do they have it at Hollister
24 Hills?

25 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Actually, yes, at

1 Hollister Hills they're doing it, and I believe it's
2 through the Friends.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: Send me an e-mail, spread
4 the word, lots of kids that could benefit from this.

5 OHMVR STAFF SCHUMAKER: Sure. And the current
6 program is mainly focused on the ATVs for youth. We're
7 working on changing that to add the dirt bike
8 component, too.

9 **AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(4) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**
10 **OUTREACH**

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Part two of outreach.

12 OHMVR STAFF McGUIRE: Good afternoon,
13 Commissioners. Donna McGuire, OHMVR Division and State
14 Parks Interpreter. I'm here to give the Outreach and
15 Interpretation Report behind Tab 16.

16 During the past year, the Outreach Program had
17 incredible growth with new programs, new events and new
18 partners. All this provided more opportunities to
19 educate more people.

20 Let's take a quick look back to 2013, and you've
21 heard about our education programs before and seen them
22 in our booth, I think. The ATV Safety Simulator went
23 statewide from Clay Pit in the El Dorado County Fair
24 all the way to Heber Dunes in the Imperial County
25 Fairgrounds.

1 We launched the Remote-Control Jeep program last
2 summer along with a Ride Safe computer game. And along
3 with our ROV tic-tac-toe game and our Gear Up Safety
4 game where they stamp the correct gear to match the
5 rental, we have a creative blend of high-tech and
6 low-tech forms of audience engagement.

7 Two years ago, our Outreach Program fit in a
8 10-by-10 foot booth. Now we fit best in a 40-foot by
9 40-foot booth. But it's not all about size that
10 measures success. What about the quality of the
11 program? Let me give you this comparison. If you've
12 been ever in a science discovery center with kids,
13 that's what it's like when family groups are in our
14 booth. The kids are touching, observing, exploring and
15 discovering.

16 We've created a mobile OHV discovery center.
17 And it's not just the kids who are learning. The
18 parents are right there beside them. The kids learn
19 about safety gear by trying on helmets, goggles and
20 gloves. We talk about helmets: "The most important
21 piece of safety gear. It's your OHV best buddy. Don't
22 go on a ride without one." The parents are right there
23 listening.

24 On the ATV Safety Simulator, the kids feel the
25 pull of gravity and learn about being an active rider

1 by shifting their body weight. The parents are there
2 encouraging and coaching.

3 They learn about trail etiquette. The Tread
4 Lightly principles as they navigate the jeeps on the
5 remote control course, again, the parents are right
6 there encouraging their kids every step of the way. In
7 fact, it's interesting because the parents actually
8 join us with these teachable moments and say, "Hey, you
9 remember when," and they reinforce our messages.

10 This active participation results in very
11 memorable and meaningful learning. For example, after
12 an event at Clay Pit, a boy about eight years old came
13 running up to me and said, "Hey, did you see me out
14 there? I had a spill. I had a stone in my hand. You
15 were right. I should have worn my gloves." And the
16 grandfather said, "I'm buying you some." So we know
17 the kids and the parents are taking away our messages.

18 We've become an educational attraction. With
19 incoming requests for us to attend events, conferences
20 and workshops, our calendar year for 2014 is filling
21 up. Just during the last two months, we participated
22 in two major events, the International Sportsmen's Expo
23 in Sacramento and the King of the Hammers.

24 At the International Sportsmen's Expo, we hosted
25 two booths. The first time we've ever had two booths

1 to manage, an informational booth inside the exhibit
2 hall and we partnered with Boating and Waterways
3 Division as first-time exhibitors at the youth fair
4 building to bring motorized fun to the traditional
5 fishing and hunting activities. Radio Disney played
6 PSAs two weeks prior to the event.

7 (Played recording.)

8 OHMVR STAFF MCGUIRE: Wouldn't you want to take
9 your kids and grandchildren to come and see us?

10 Participating at the International Sportsmen's
11 Expo was a great opportunity.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm going to ask you -- we have
13 people that have to catch a plane, and Teresa is
14 getting real nervous right now. I know you've got a
15 lot of really great things to say. Can we summarize?

16 OHMVR STAFF MCGUIRE: Okay. Something I just
17 want to share with you is that we're becoming noticed
18 and people say, "Hey, we saw you at the Sand Sports
19 Super Show." So we are looking enthusiastically
20 forward to working with our partners and educating
21 people not only that we are finding in our OHV
22 community but beyond the OHV community and beyond the
23 borders of California. And it feels like this program
24 is just at the beginning of its potential. Thank you.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's awesome. Thank you.

1 AGENDA ITEM VI (A)(5) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

2 DRECP

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Connie Latham is next
4 with the DRECP.

5 While she's walking up, that's the really cool
6 thing about the interpretive program. It used to just
7 be at our parks, at places like that. It's everywhere
8 now. They're going all over the place.

9 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: Good afternoon,
10 Commissioners. My name is Connie Latham, and I am the
11 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Coordinator
12 for State Parks. Happy to be here again in front of
13 you all. It's been a couple of years since I've spoken
14 in front of the Commission. The only face I recognize
15 is Commissioner Slavik's.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Nice ride in the car.

17 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: Yes, thank you.

18 Also with me to present this overview for you is
19 Jane Arteaga, who I think you all know very well. I
20 will say, I had to look up her actual formal title, OHV
21 Travel and Transportation Management Program Lead.

22 I wanted to mention that I coordinate this
23 program for Parks, but Deputy Director Chris Conlin is
24 the actual executive lead for all of State Parks for
25 this program, and it's not a coincidence that the

1 recreation Deputy Director is in that position. I want
2 to make sure you guys understand that.

3 It was Deputy Director Conlin who asked that we
4 give you an overview here and give you an idea of what
5 State Parks is doing, our role and participation in
6 this plan. But having Jane here with us with BLM,
7 she's the subject matter expert when we talk about BLM
8 and their land use plan.

9 We will try and rush through this.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes, and if we have to table this
11 for the next meeting or something, because this is
12 important stuff.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Do you want to do that?

14 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: It's going to take at least
15 20-plus minutes.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's not going to work.

17 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: It's up to you.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: We may have to table this.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: Give us the elevator version
20 and then you can come back.

21 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: Well, we probably just need to
22 review really quick this is what it is. And the
23 comment period is coming up on the project, so we need
24 to discuss that. And that's like the end of our
25 presentation. So we will say this is what it is and

1 then the comment stuff.

2 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: Real briefly, I'm going to
3 call it the DRECP. It's a long acronym to say
4 otherwise. It's a multi-agency planning effort that
5 conserves the unique landscape in the desert, intrinsic
6 values, as well as streamline renewable energy
7 permitting.

8 It's really important to understand that the
9 goal of the DRECP is to balance recreation -- not
10 recreation -- conservation and renewable energy. And
11 it's also important to understand that when we talk
12 about conservation, that we don't just mean the species
13 and habitat. We're talking about conserving all of the
14 uses in the desert, the cultural heritage in the desert
15 and all of the historic uses in the desert as well.
16 I'm coining a phrase, basically a statement that's been
17 said by Director Jim Kenna many times, so he speaks
18 very passionately about that.

19 There's a few different regulatory policy
20 drivers that are pushing the DRECP federal side and
21 state side. For the interest of time, I won't go
22 through these individually.

23 The DRECP has three main components to it. It
24 has the BLM land use plan amendments, which Jane can
25 speak on, and then the two key wildlife permitting

1 agencies. The federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
2 their component is the general conservation plan.
3 Because this is a programmatic document and not a
4 site-specific project, it's considered a general
5 conservation plan and not a habitat conservation plan.

6 And then on the state side with the Department
7 of Fish and Wildlife, it is a natural communities
8 conservation plan. So with the state, they are
9 adhering basically to the State Endangered Species
10 process. And on the federal side, they are adhering to
11 the Federal Endangered Species Act.

12 This is important, the plan area includes seven
13 different counties. Over 20-plus different agencies
14 are involved in this planning process. It's
15 22-and-a-half plus million acres in size, and what I
16 really want to point out here is almost half of that is
17 BLM lands. They're really carrying a big load here
18 with the DRECP.

19 As far as the participation overview, there's
20 four key agencies that are involved and actually
21 developing this plan, obviously BLM, Fish and Wildlife,
22 which we've talked about, State Fish and Wildlife, as
23 well as the Energy Commission. There's numerous
24 cooperating agencies, which State Parks is one of
25 those, National Park Service, State Lands Commission,

1 Department of Defense, and there's more. This is just
2 a short list, lots of folks involved in this.

3 It will provide utility scale, which is 20
4 megawatts and above, renewable energy associated with
5 solar, wind, geothermal and transmission. Conservation
6 strategy is very important with the DRECP, various
7 covered species, the communities. There's biological
8 goals and objectives that have been developed with the
9 different species, communities and plant life.
10 Conservation management actions are those actions that
11 will basically implement those BGOs.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Let me cut in. And we
13 will table this until the next time, and then we will
14 get another coverage of it.

15 Here's the critical part. The plan is right now
16 being looked at, the final version. It's on about a
17 two-week turnaround. Connie is intimately involved
18 with that. She's running through it as well as Jane.
19 Connie from our side, Jane from the side of BLM.

20 When this is all said and done -- and this is
21 the important thing to understand about it, the good
22 news is that BLM has gone out of their way to involve
23 us as recreation. They have made sure that the
24 recreation that's out there is being safeguarded
25 against encroachment by the renewable energy. So

1 that's the really good news. And as a result, we're
2 working hand in hand with them. In the execution
3 phase, that should stay the way it is.

4 The other side of this, though, is that the land
5 that is out there, all this open space, will no longer
6 be open space. It's all going to be accounted for.
7 When this is all said and done, it will either be
8 painted as energy renewable potential or non-energy
9 renewable potential because it's a park or because it's
10 a conservation area or because it's a recreation area.

11 So it's a very significant plan, and it's going
12 to chart the course of what happens out there in these
13 large areas for the next 50, 100 years. So it's
14 important to understand. Don't fear it because it does
15 keep what we've got. But if you thought that suddenly
16 we're going to be able to open up a major new
17 recreational area or something like that that's not
18 already accounted for -- and Onyx is, by the way --
19 it's probably not going to happen with this coming out.

20 This is national push. This is literally like
21 number two or three on the President's inbox because it
22 is a huge push by him as part of his energy promises
23 that he's made.

24 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: Thank you, Chris.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do we need to comment on it?

1 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: We getting into that right
2 now. We fast-forwarded to the public comment section.

3 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: So the public draft is
4 expected to be released late this spring. That will be
5 coming out. We'll definitely get this body notified
6 when that happens.

7 There are going to be numerous public meetings
8 that will be happening prior to the release of that
9 document. The planning for those public meetings is
10 happening right now.

11 Chris and I sit in on those teams. I am part of
12 the outreach team for public meetings for recreation,
13 so I'll certainly keep you involved.

14 Also, it's important that we comment on the
15 document, the public document, attending those
16 meetings. They want that feedback. The DRECP team,
17 those key leadership agencies, they want the feedback.
18 They want to know, hey, did we hit the mark or, no, do
19 we need to change something here. So they're asking
20 for that.

21 There's a new tool that they're launching that
22 will come out with the draft document that's called the
23 Data Basin. Specifically in that program is the DRECP
24 gateway. It's a web-based mapping tool basically. So
25 all of the layers associated with this plan will be on

1 the database, and you can actually get on DataBasin
2 now, DataBasin.org, and start looking around. And they
3 also put on free webinars now. There will be a
4 specific DRECP webinar coming out before the public
5 draft as well. You can get involved that way.

6 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: I also wanted to include
7 another way of getting involved. We will be having
8 many public meetings. Each county will be having their
9 own public meetings also, so that's another way of
10 participation. And we will also be having workshops to
11 explain how to comment on the DRECP.

12 So one thing about the DataBasin is there won't
13 be -- so there's a mapping tool inside that. There
14 won't be commenting in that program, but if you see an
15 error or problem within the map, you can print that off
16 and send it in as part of your comments.

17 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: These are a few key
18 websites I do want to point out to you. The DRECP
19 website is up there at the top. You can go into that
20 website and get on the list where you're automatically
21 notified for any updates of the agencies that will come
22 out and also the DataBasin that I spoke about is at the
23 bottom there as well.

24 I want to make sure I echo what Chris mentioned.
25 Jane and I work very closely together. I work with a

1 lot of other agencies that are involved in this plan,
2 touching base with them weekly, and we're looking out
3 for recreation's interests, especially also OHV, of
4 course. So we are on top of this.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: About two weeks ago, we
6 were at a meeting of the Desert Advisory Commission.
7 Jim Kenna was there. We had representatives from DRECP
8 there. We were there. And it was exciting. It was
9 primarily for off-road vehicle -- off-highway vehicle
10 enthusiasts, but we also had rock hounds, you name it.
11 Everybody came on into that. It was down at Morongo
12 Valley, and they plan on doing that again several times
13 over the course of the next few months.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: We need to move on. We thank
15 you.

16 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Thank you for including
17 OHV in the plan.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: After some of the Forest Service
19 things where we were like completely excluded from
20 recreation, this is a breath of fresh air.

21 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: There is more to this. As
22 we get closer to that public document, maybe we can
23 come back and give you a formal.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: We will continually be kept up to
25 speed on this I'm sure.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Yes.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: And this is -- basically
3 everything the presentation had is in this document?

4 OHMVR STAFF LATHAM: And you've got the staff
5 report that really sums it up.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: We need to decide the next
7 meeting date and adjourn, right?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Next meeting is already
9 set, 1, 2 May.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Needing the site.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: So do you want to do
12 the Barstow or do you want to go further south?

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Can I make a proposal? Open for
14 discussion.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Our proposal was take a
16 look at Barstow just because we just opened up the new
17 park down there, the children's area, and it seems like
18 a good area. Plus, we're up north right now and that
19 would be a chance to go down south and visit BLM.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: When you say Barstow, are you
21 talking about El Mirage?

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: El Mirage.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: I had a conversation with Brian
24 this morning. So for the Commissioners, what I would
25 like to see is El Mirage as being the demonstration

1 site. And if you don't know about that place, it's a
2 25,000-acre, virtually an urban park because it's not
3 far. It's an hour and a half from L.A. There's all
4 kinds of things going on in there. They have a
5 beautiful new visitor center. They did this 54-acre
6 safety training site. It's about a half hour from
7 hotels and stuff, so it's not quite as remote as we are
8 here. Victorville would be one site or even Ontario,
9 where we could fly into Ontario and then drive out to
10 this place in about 45 minutes or an hour's drive from
11 there.

12 So my suggestion would be if we are going to go
13 south, it would be over to El Mirage.

14 Any comments on that?

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: Okay.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is that a good sales pitch?

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONLIN: You did great. That's
18 good.

19 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: Can I comment briefly?

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes.

21 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: The one good opportunity also
22 is that we could also invite Katrina Simmons, the
23 Barstow Field Office Manager along with the Marines to
24 come and discuss their plans on Johnson Valley in more
25 detail and do that type of presentation.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're really close to Johnson
2 Valley there, too.

3 BLM MS. ARTEAGA: It's right there.

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: Motion to adjourn.

5 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Second.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor.

7 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

8 (Meeting adjourned the 5:23 p.m.)

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