

February 6, 2015

REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

To: State Clearinghouse
State Responsible and Trustee Agencies
County Clerks
Interested individuals and organizations
Federal Agencies

Subject: Revised Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Dust Control Project Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2012121008)

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, Oceano Dunes District, 340 James Way, Ste. 270, Pismo Beach, CA 93449, is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (Oceano Dunes SVRA) Dust Control Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The OHMVR Division would also be the Applicant for all permits, including a Coastal Development Permit, the project may require.

The OHMVR Division previously circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study for the Dust Control Project EIR for public review in December 2012 (State Clearinghouse No. 2012121008). Since then, the OHMVR Division has revised the Dust Control Project area and activities and reduced the duration of the program covered by the EIR. Accordingly, the OHMVR Division is issuing this revised NOP and Public Scoping Meeting notice.

Project Title: Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project EIR

Project Applicant: CDPR, OHMVR Division

Project Location: Southwest San Luis Obispo County

Project Description: The OHMVR Division proposes to implement a five-year Dust Control Project at Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA. A brief description of the project, including its location and probable environmental effects, is attached. A revised Initial Study was not prepared because the OHMVR Division has determined an EIR will be completed for the project.

The purpose of this revised NOP and Public Scoping Meeting notice is to request comments on the scope and content of the environmental review the OHMVR Division will conduct on its Dust Control Project from responsible and trustee agencies, federal agencies, and any other person or organization concerned with the environmental effects of the project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15082 (b), you have 30 days from the date of receipt of this NOP to respond. Please send your comments by the earliest possible date, but no later than 5 pm March 9, 2015. Please send your responses to Mr. Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist, at the address listed above or to OHVInfo@parks.ca.gov (Enter "Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project Revised NOP" in the "Subject" line). Agency responses should include the name of a contact person at the agency.

The OHMVR Division encourages all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to attend the scoping meeting for the Dust Control Project EIR on:

Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Ramona Garden Park Center
993 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach, CA
6 pm – 8 pm

Additional project information is available on the OHMVR Division’s Oceano Dunes SVRA Particulate Matter Information Website: http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26918.

CEQA Guidelines section 15168(a) permits a lead agency to prepare a program EIR on a series of actions that can be categorized as one large project and are related either: 1) geographically, 2) as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions, 3) in connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or 4) as individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways. The Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project represents a logical series of actions that are connected, would occur in approximately the same geographic area, and would result in generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways. Accordingly, the OHMVR Division is preparing a program EIR for the project.

Signature: 

Date: 2/5/2015

Title: EMI (R.A.)

OCEANO DUNES SVRA DUST CONTROL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division proposes to implement a five-year dust control program at Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). These two state-owned and operated parks are located in southwestern San Luis Obispo (SLO) County, on the central coast of California, within the Coastal Zone established by the California Coastal Act. Both Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA provide public access to beaches and public, coastal recreation opportunities, including off-highway motor vehicle (OHV) recreation in certain designated areas (see Figure 1). Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA also provide habitat for species listed under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts, such as the western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*; federal-listed as threatened). The OHMVR Division has applied for a Master Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission (CCC), Central Coast District, for the project because the project involves development in the Coastal Zone.

Project Location

The proposed Dust Control Project is intended to improve air quality on the Nipomo Mesa, which is located downwind of Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA. Accordingly, the OHMVR Division would implement dust control measures within an approximately 690-acre area of Oceano Dunes SVRA that is located upwind of the Nipomo Mesa (based on prevailing winds). This area includes most of the open sand areas in the central to northern portion of the Oceano Dunes SVRA open riding and camping area, commonly referred to as the “La Grande Tract”; however, the project area is set back from the Pacific Ocean by approximately 1,100 feet (in the vicinity of marker post 5) to 1,500 feet (in the vicinity of marker posts 6 and 7; see Figure 2). The project area also avoids western snowy plover critical habitat.

Proposed Activities

The OHMVR Division proposes to undertake the following activities in the project area:

- **Planting up to approximately 20 acres of native vegetation per year at Oceano Dunes SVRA.** The OHMVR Division would plant this vegetation during the fall, when rains support the establishment of native dune vegetation. In total, the OHMVR Division could plant up to approximately 100 acres of native vegetation over the five-year period covered by this EIR.
- **Temporarily deploying up to approximately 40 acres of wind fencing and/or straw bales at Oceano Dunes SVRA.** The OHMVR Division would annually deploy temporary wind fencing and/or straw bales from approximately March thru September of each year.
- **Potentially applying soil stabilizers at Oceano Dunes SVRA.** The use of non-toxic, environmentally-friendly soil stabilizers would be predicated upon the successful demonstration of such products at Oceano Dunes SVRA and evaluation of their potential to increase risks to vehicle recreation or resources at Oceano Dunes SVRA. If effective at reducing dust, the OHMVR Division could apply non-toxic, environmentally-friendly soil stabilizers as part of a comprehensive dust control program.

- **Preventing track-out of sand onto Grand Avenue in the City of Grover Beach and Pier Avenue in Oceano.** The OHMVR Division would install, operate, and maintain a rumble strip or cattle guard-like device at Pismo State Beach exits on Grand Avenue in the City of Grover Beach and Pier Avenue in the community of Oceano.
- **Dust and meteorological monitoring at Oceano Dunes SVRA.** The OHMVR Division would install, maintain, and operate scientific monitoring equipment to investigate and evaluate dust levels and control measure effectiveness.

The Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project also includes continuing existing dust control, monitoring, and track-out prevention activities currently taking place at Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA.

Probable Environmental Effects

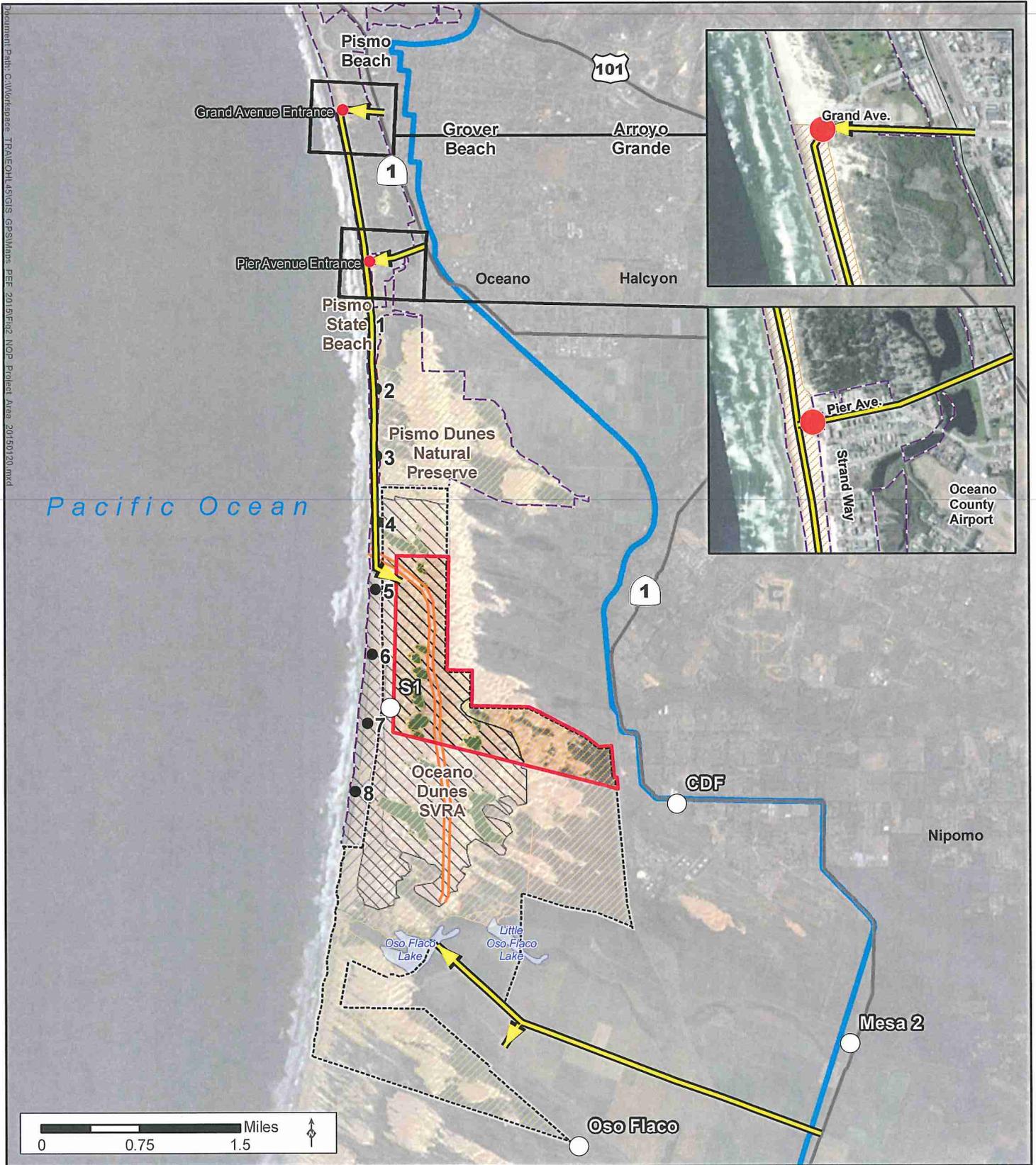
The proposed project is intended to improve air quality and would involve planting vegetation, temporary deployment of dust control measures, and installation of track-out prevention devices. The project could primarily disturb or modify undeveloped lands (e.g., open sand sheets, dune scrub vegetation) and may result in the permanent conversion of land at Oceano Dunes SVRA from open sand to vegetation, as well as a reduction in the amount of area open to vehicular recreation. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the OHMVR Division has determined that an EIR for the proposed project should be prepared because the proposed activities have the potential to result in one or more adverse environmental effects related to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, and recreation. The OHMVR Division will further refine the scope of the technical issues to be addressed in the EIR during the CEQA process, including input received in response to this NOP.

The proposed project is expected to have no impact on agriculture, forestry, and mineral resources as these resources do not exist within the project area, nor would they be affected by project activities. Accordingly, the EIR will not present a detailed analysis of the project's potential impacts on agriculture, forestry, or mineral resources.



- Proposed Dust Control Project Area
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- Proposed Trackout Prevention
- Highway
- Existing Air Quality Monitoring Station
- Major Road
- Oceano Dunes SVRA
- Pismo State Beach
- County Line
- Urban Areas

Figure 1 Dust Control Project Location
Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project – Revised NOP



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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Proposed Dust Control Project Area | Closed To All Public Use | Existing Access Route |
| Coastal Zone Boundary | Closed To Motorized Vehicles | Existing Air Quality Monitoring Station |
| Oceano Dunes SVRA | Street Legal Vehicles Only | Proposed Trackout Prevention |
| Pismo State Beach | Open riding and camping | |
| Marker Post | Seasonal Plover Exclosure | |
| Sand Highway | | |

Figure 2 Dust Control Project Area
Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project – Revised NOP

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