

June 17, 2019

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A SUBSEQUENT EIR
AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

**To: State Clearinghouse
State Responsible and Trustee Agencies
County Clerks (San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Kings, Kern, Santa Barbara)
Interested Individuals and Organizations
Federal Agencies**

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report and a Public Scoping Meeting for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Dust Control Program Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (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 Program Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP) Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Subsequent EIR). The OHMVR Division would also be the Applicant for all permits, including a Coastal Development Permit, the PMRP may require.

On March 23, 2017, the OHMVR Division certified the Program EIR and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program. Since then, the OHMVR Division has coordinated with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board to develop an updated plan for controlling dust emissions at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The updated plan would modify the Dust Control Program evaluated in the 2017 Program EIR and may result in new significant environmental effects and/or substantially more severe environmental effects that were not identified in the 2017 Program EIR. Accordingly, the OHMVR Division is issuing this NOP and Public Scoping Meeting notice for a Subsequent EIR.

Project Title: Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP)

Project Applicant: CDPR, OHMVR Division

Project Location: Southwest San Luis Obispo County

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

The purpose of this 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 the PMRP

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 July 17, 2019. Send your responses to Mr. Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist, at 340 James Way, Ste. 270, Pismo Beach, CA 93449 or to OHVInfo@parks.ca.gov (Enter "Oceano Dunes SVRA PMRP 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 PMRP Subsequent EIR on:

Tuesday, July 2, 2019
Ramona Garden Park Center
993 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach, CA
6 pm – 8 pm

Signature: 

Date: 06/17/2019

Title: Deputy Director (Acting), OHMVR Division

OCEANO DUNES SVRA DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

PARTICULATE MATTER REDUCTION PLAN (PMRP) DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division proposes to implement the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP). The PMRP represents the latest and most comprehensive plan to address dust and particulate matter, or PM, emissions at Oceano Dunes SVRA, an established, approximately 3,600-acre unit of the California State Parks system that provides motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. The PMRP would improve regional air quality in southern San Luis Obispo County in partnership with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

The Draft PMRP is available on the San Luis Obispo County APCD's website:
<https://www.slcleanair.org/air-quality/oceano-dunes-efforts.php>.

Project Location

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located on California's Central Coast, in southwestern San Luis Obispo County, within the Coastal Zone established by the California Coastal Act. The SVRA borders and is contiguous with parts of Pismo State Beach (a separate unit of the State Parks system); both parks are adjacent to the "Five Cities" area of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Oceano, and Shell Beach (see Figure 1). The Oceano Dunes District manages and oversees the operations of both parks, which provide public access to beaches and coastal recreation opportunities, including off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in certain designated areas (see Figure 2). 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).

Proposed Activities

The Oceano Dunes SVRA PMRP would be implemented over an approximately four-year period (beginning in winter 2019) and would include the following implementation actions, which modify the Dust Control Program described in the 2017 Program EIR:

- **Development of a vegetated foredune behind the tidal zone.** CDPR would develop an approximately 23-acre foredune system immediately behind the tidal zone. The development of this foredune would occur over an approximately four-year period. The foredune may be located within designated critical habitat for the western snowy plover.
- **Conversion of approximately 50 acres of existing wind fencing areas to natural vegetation.** The OHMVR Division installed the existing wind fencing in 2018. The OHMVR Division would convert these treatment areas to natural vegetation over an approximately two-year period.
- **Restoration of up to 60 acres of back dunes from open sand to natural vegetation cover.** The OHMVR Division would restore back dune areas from open sand to natural vegetation cover. These restoration efforts could occur both inside and outside of the Oceano Dunes SVRA open riding and camping area.

- **Deployment of temporary/seasonal wind fencing and/or other artificial dust control treatments on up to approximately 40 acres of land at Oceano Dunes SVRA.** The OHMVR Division would deploy temporary/seasonal wind fencing and/or other artificial dust control treatments to support regional air quality improvements. The OHMVR Division may control up to approximately 40 acres of land on either a temporary (i.e., non-permanent) or seasonal (i.e., from approximately March thru September of each year) basis.
- **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 sand track-out control devices 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, including meteorological monitoring equipment, air quality monitoring equipment, and sand transport monitoring equipment.

Probable Environmental Effects

The Oceano Dunes SVRA PMRP 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 PMRP could 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. The PMRP may also reduce the amount of area open to coastal vehicular recreation and low-cost coastal camping. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the OHMVR Division has determined that a Subsequent EIR should be prepared for the proposed PMRP because the proposed activities have the potential to result in one or more new, significant or substantially more severe adverse environmental effects not previously identified in the 2017 EIR, including potential effects on, but not limited to, biological resources and public access and recreation. The OHMVR Division will further refine the scope of the technical issues to be addressed in the Subsequent EIR during the CEQA process, including input received in response to this NOP.

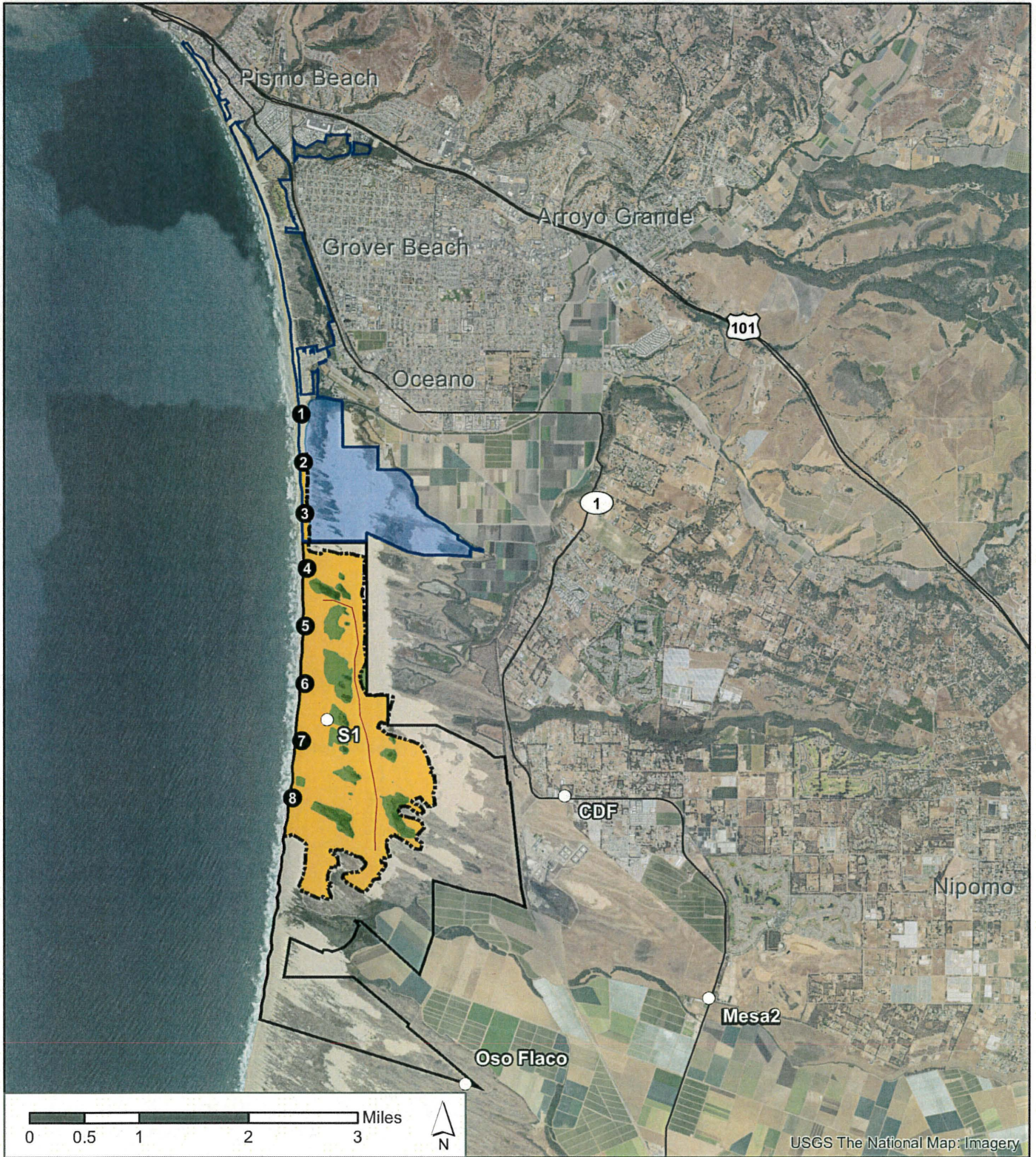
The Oceano Dunes SVRA PMRP is expected to have no impact on agriculture, forestry, and mineral resources as these resources would not be affected by PMRP activities. Accordingly, the Subsequent EIR will not present a detailed analysis of the PMRP's potential impacts on agriculture, forestry, or mineral resources.



Source: ARB, 2014; CDPR, 2016; MIG, 2019

- Oceano Dunes SVRA
- Pismo State Beach
- Existing air quality monitor
- Coastal Zone boundary
- Highway
- Major road
- Public park land
- Urban areas
- County boundary

Figure 1: Oceano Dunes SVRA Regional Location
Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program PMRP Notice of Preparation



Source: CDPR, Desert Research Institute, MIG; 2019

2/3/2019

- Marker post
 - Sand Highway, approx.
 - Riding area boundary fence
 - Fenced vegetation islands (no vehicles allowed)
 - Open riding and camping area
 - Existing air quality monitor
- Oceano Dunes District**
 - Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Riding Area
 - Pismo State Beach
 - Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve



Figure 2: Oceano Dunes SVRA Overview
Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program PMRP Notice of Preparation