



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Armando Quintero, Director

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Date: February 14, 2023

To: California State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, federal agencies, local jurisdictions, and interested individuals and organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Resource Management Areas Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Project Location: Carnegie SVRA located at 18600 Corral Hollow Road in eastern Alameda and western San Joaquin counties approximately 15 miles east of Livermore and 12 miles west of Tracy. See attached project location map (Figure 1).

Project Description: DPR proposes to implement sediment and erosion controls at Carnegie SVRA through establishment of new Resource Management Areas (RMAs) within the park. A brief description of the project, including its location and probable environmental effects, is attached.

The purpose of this NOP is to invite comment on the scope and content of the environmental review. Agencies should comment on the elements of potential environmental effects that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15082(b), you have 30 days from the date of receipt of this NOP to respond. **Responses must be received by 5 pm, March 20, 2023.** Please send your written responses to Gina Benigno, Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist, as follows:

By email: Gina.Benigno@parks.ca.gov. Please include "Carnegie SVRA RMA Program EIR" in the subject line.

By mail: Gina Benigno, Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist
California State Parks Diablo Range District
15751 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550

Agency responses should include the name of a contact person at the agency.

DocuSigned by:
Signature: Clinton Elsholz
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Date: 2/15/2023

Title: District Superintendent (Acting)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CARNEGIE SVRA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS PROGRAM
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Site Description

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) is a 1,575-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) park in in eastern Alameda and western San Joaquin counties (Figure 1) overseen by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division and operated by the Diablo Range District of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Carnegie SVRA has been operated as an OHV park since it was purchased by DPR and became a unit of the State Parks System. The park offers numerous off-road opportunities for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), 4x4s, and recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs or side-by-sides). Carnegie SVRA has more than 1,300 acres of riding area and over 80 miles of trails. OHV recreation within the park is divided into open riding areas, trails only riding areas, and trails only riding areas within fenced Resource Management Areas (RMAs), which are areas that have been rehabilitated in recent years. Roughly half of the 1,575-acre total park acreage is managed as RMAs (Figure 2).

The proposed project involves implementation of resource management activities, described below, within the existing Carnegie SVRA. Proposed project activities would not occur on the adjoining state park property (also known as the Alameda and Tesla Expansion Area).

Proposed Project

DPR proposes to progressively establish new RMAs and provide ongoing sustainable OHV recreation management within the new and existing RMAs. The proposed project consists of implementing activities that disperse storm water runoff, prevent accelerated erosion, and manage the existing trail system. Sediment loss and erosion control measures include reducing the number of trails, increasing vegetation, building sustainable trails, and enforcing trails-only riding. A brief description of the project activities associated with the new RMAs and the subsequent maintenance of the new and existing RMAs is presented below.

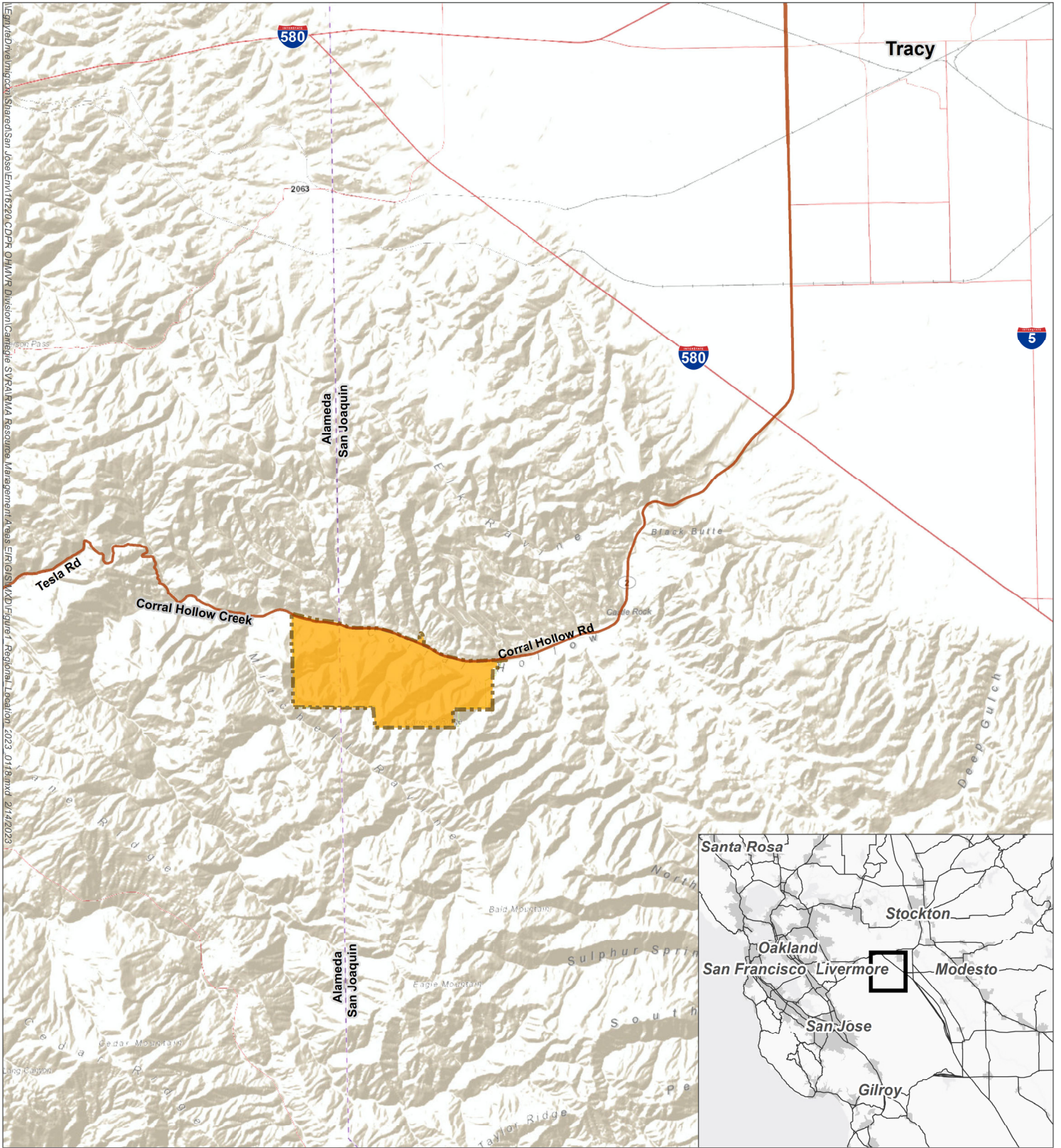
- Perimeter Fencing. Install and maintain fencing to establish RMA boundaries and isolate treatment areas from public access. Field fencing, a type of utility wire fencing with broad grid spacing, would be installed 6 to 8 inches off the ground with an H brace installed every 100 feet, to allow wildlife passage.
- Signage. Install signage at approved route/trail entrances along with signs carrying a public message explaining why certain areas are closed and how to get involved.
- Landform Grading. Grade area to restore natural slope gradient of impacted areas. Apply replacement soils as needed to achieve grade and prevent erosion.
- Access Routes. Create temporary roads to provide access for heavy equipment for bringing in soil, crews, wattles, tree trimming, etc. Temporary roads will be obliterated as the equipment is withdrawn.
- New Trail Construction. Construct new trails in stable, resilient soils to replace unsustainable trail routes.
- Erosion Control. Apply erosion control measures (e.g., hydroseeding, wattles) on bare slopes and install hard water crossing pavers on trail sections where drainage sheet flows across a trail.
- Revegetation. Establish vegetation on impacted areas through hydroseeding and/or hand planting.

- Inspections and Evaluations. Conduct visual inspections, including using drones to look for signs of off-trail riding and any damaged areas needing repair. Evaluate trail surface conditions using a Trail Evaluation Form.
- Off-Trail Rehabilitation. Cover disturbed area and install barriers. Place straw on new disturbance areas where vehicle has gone off a designated trail. Install metal H bars and drift fencing across non-designated trails to block access and stop use.
- Habitat Improvement. Improve habitat values through new native species plantings and removal of exotic or invasive species.
- Drainage System Maintenance. Remove accumulated sediment from culverts and watershed sediment basins.
- Routine Trail Maintenance. Assess and maintain trail conditions including trail surfaces, trail width, and drainage controls.

Probable Environmental Effects

The Carnegie SVRA Resource Management Areas Program EIR is expected to address potential environmental effects in the following resource areas: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gases, hydrology/water quality, land use, recreation, and tribal cultural resources.

Several areas of potential concern are likely to be found less than significant given the type of project, the absence of a resource, or the nature of the project site (e.g., agriculture/forestry, hazards/hazardous materials, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, transportation, utilities, and wildfire). Further refinement of the scope of the technical issues to be addressed in the EIR will occur during the CEQA process, including input received in response to this NOP.

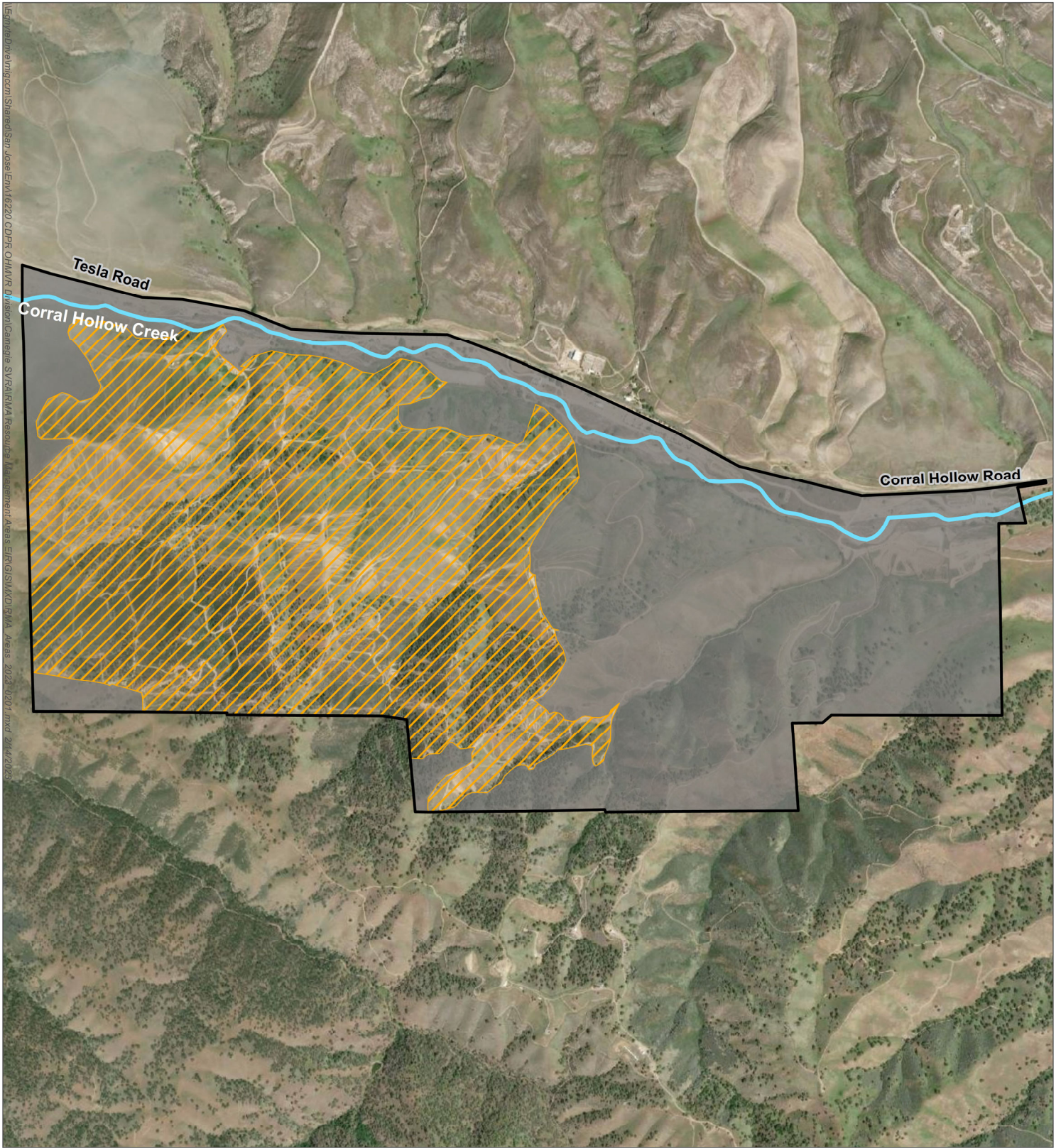


- Carnegie SVRA Project Site
- County Line



Figure 1 Regional Location





Source: ESRI 2023; State Parks 11/28/21




-  Carnegie RMA Project Boundary
-  Existing RMA
-  New RMA



Figure 2 New and Existing Resource Management Areas

Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area RMA Program EIR

