

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2015
8:33 a.m. to 4:54 p.m.

Lake Natoma Inn
702 Gold Lake Drive
Folsom, CA 95630

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Ted Cabral, Chair
Diana Pérez, Vice Chair
Erin Hafkenschiel
Eric Lueder
Kevin Murphy
Edward Patrovsky
Paul Slavik
Teresa Villegas

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Mangat, Director, California State Parks
Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

OTHER OHMVR DIVISION STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER – 8:33 A.M.

- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Cabral.
- (B) Roll Call – Eight Commissioners present at time of roll call; one Commission member appointment vacant.

Chair Cabral introduced Lisa Mangat, Director of California State Parks; OHMVR Division staff; and Dakota Higgins, Field Representative, Congressman Cook's office.

Director Mangat welcomed everyone to the OHMVR Commission meeting and thanked the Commissioners, OHMVR Division staff, and the public for their involvement with State Parks.

Chair Cabral spoke briefly about the NOHVCC 25th Anniversary conference and announced that members of INOHVAA would join the Commission meeting in the afternoon. He also introduced Steve Szalay, Transformation Team Lead.

AGENDA ITEM II – AGENDA MANAGEMENT

Receiving no objections to the agenda, Chair Cabral adopted the agenda as printed.

AGENDA ITEM III – APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 MEETING

Receiving no corrections to the minutes, Chair Cabral approved the minutes as distributed.

AGENDA ITEM IV (A) – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Commissioner Murphy spoke with staff from Santa Clara County Parks and encouraged them to apply for OHV grants to make improvements to Metcalf Motorcycle Park. He attended the Hollister Hills SVRA 40th Anniversary celebration.
- Commissioner Patrovsky discussed the Feinstein and Cook California Desert bills and the use of the 1906 Antiquities Act with individuals in his community.
- Vice Chair Pérez encouraged fellow Commissioners to watch the online video of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors summer meeting because it provides a good overview of some of the challenges involved in mitigating the dust issues in Oceano Dunes SVRA. She expressed her appreciation for all the work done by Parks staff to address these concerns.
- Commissioner Slavik reported on the following:
 - He participated in the Eastern Sierra Adventure Trail ride that was held after the September 25, 2015, Commission meeting.
 - He watched portions of the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors online video and expressed interest in continuing to address the dust issues at Oceano Dunes SVRA.
 - He also attended the Hollister Hills SVRA 40th Anniversary celebration.
 - On October 13, 2015, he attended the Castaic Youth Safety Day meeting with Greg Schumaker, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation staff, and a representative from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office. The group will meet again on April 23, 2016. He expressed concerns about a decision from the County Sheriff's office that does not allow youth to participate in events at Castaic Lake Recreation Area.
 - On October 27, 2015, he participated in the INOHVAA Round Table discussions with Maria Mowrey and Mark Hada.
- Chair Cabral thanked the OHMVR Division staff for all their efforts to prepare for a Commission meeting so soon after the September meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV (B) – COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cost Recovery Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Lueder expressed concerns about inconsistencies in permit fees for events held on U.S. Forest and BLM lands. He

encouraged the Commission to support the Blue Ribbon Coalition's proposed legislation to define permit fees and make them more consistent.

Events/NOHVCC Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Slavik shared his scrapbook covering 60 years of off-highway vehicle history. Chair Cabral thanked Commissioner Slavik for his dedication to off-highway recreation and his efforts to bring the NOHVCC 25th Anniversary conference to California.

Fuel Tax Study/2018 Sunset Ad Hoc Committee: Chair Cabral stated that due to the projected increase in electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles on California roads, there should be some consideration to increase the percentage of fuel tax allocated to the OHMVR Program.

Urban Parks/Acquisitions Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Villegas suggested the Commission take a more aggressive approach to get some of the legislators out to the SVRAs so they can see firsthand OHV recreation and the youth that participate in these activities. Commissioner Slavik discussed the donation of youth-sized off-highway vehicles proposed by Honda. Deputy Director Conlin stated that acceptance of the donation was in the signature phase and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to replace the old OHVs with new equipment.

USFS Liaison Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Lueder reported that he attended the Oakland Motorcycle Club Jackhammer Enduro held in the Stonyford area of the Mendocino National Forest on October 18, 2015. He was impressed with the rehabilitation work completed in the area since the 2012 Mill Fire. He also attended the Polka Dots Motorcycle Club 49er Enduro held on October 25, 2015, at Elkins Flat in the Eldorado National Forest.

Chair Cabral reported that he attended the Sierra Cascades Dialogue meeting in Sacramento on October 15, 2015. Topics of discussion included the Pacific Crest Trail, wild and scenic rivers, species of critical concern, and wilderness area designations. He expressed concerns that areas considered for wilderness designation by Congress would be managed as de facto wilderness areas during deliberations. He also stated that the group had a very collaborative discussion about the Pacific Crest Trail. Commissioner Murphy expressed interest in attending the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM V – TRANSFORMATION TEAM UPDATE

Director Mangat provided a brief overview of the history of the Parks Forward Commission and the significance of the Governor's January 10 budget release. She also discussed the Transformation Team and its initiatives. Director Mangat spoke about the leadership team and the Governor's appointment of Chief Deputy Director, Elizabeth McGuirk, and Deputy Director of Communications, Gloria Sandoval. Additional members of the leadership team include State Preservation Officer, Julie Polanco; Deputy Director of Parks Operations, Kathy Amann; and OHMVR Division Deputy Director, Chris Conlin.

On May 7, 2015, the State Personnel Board approved a new classification that would allow Parks to appoint District Superintendents from all backgrounds, not just law enforcement.

Mr. Szalay discussed the progress of the Transformation Team since his previous report to the OHMVR Commission on March 13, 2015. A Progress Report posted on the Transformation Team website provides an overview of the status of the initiatives and projects.

The Transformation Action Plan adopted by the team is based on four strategic goals:

- Protect and enhance natural and cultural resources,
- Create meaningful connections and relevancy to people,
- Maintain high-quality operations in public service, and
- Develop excellent management systems.

The team identified seven priority initiatives from the 30 initiatives outlined in the Transformation Action Plan. Mr. Szalay spoke briefly about some of the initiatives.

- Implementation of **Service-Based Budgeting** would allow State Parks to better understand its fiscal resources and track expenditures. This information would put State Parks in a much more credible position during budget talks.
- **Streamline Staff Hiring Process** was broken down into two phases. Phase 1 removed 20 to 30 percent of the steps and time involved in hiring staff. Phase 2 automates the entire hiring process with the exception of face-to-face interactions and interviews. This phase also includes automating the payroll system using the Kronos system.
- **Leadership Development** would provide employees with promotion information, as well as training and mentorships.
- **Organization structure and classifications** were streamlined and are more in line with the services provided by State Parks.
- **Services to Under-Served Communities** would be enhanced through the implementation of a new liaison program using the “promotora” model.
- Current **Partnership Policies** have been reviewed and a new partnership plan is in development.
- Two advisory committees are reviewing and identifying **Natural and Cultural Resources Best Practices** and developing pilot projects.

Mr. Szalay also discussed six Transformation Team projects.

- **Open Pathways to Leadership** identifies the career path steps necessary to move through management classifications.
- **Recreation and Reservation Sales and Services** is a two-year bid project that provides a much-improved, more flexible way for visitors to make reservations for both day use and camping opportunities throughout the state. The new system will be implemented and in place by the fall of 2016.
- Three parks currently use the **Smart Phone Parking (Passport Parking)** app.

- Ten Districts have implemented a new technology system for ***Streamlining Revenue Accounting and Electronic Collections Reports***. The system will be statewide by the end of 2015.
- ***Google Trekker*** currently provides street-view imagery of 110 State Parks within Google Maps.
- ***Pilot Cabin Program*** planning, architectural, and engineering work is underway.

In closing, Mr. Szalay stated that the new organizational structure of State Parks includes a unit that would be responsible for future innovations and continuous improvements. He also reminded everyone that transformation is a two-step process—the first is developing credibility and the second is developing a stable fiscal platform.

In response to Commissioner Villegas’s inquiry, Mr. Szalay assured her that OHV parks would be included in Google Trekker.

A discussion ensued regarding potential park closures, funding challenges, service-based budgeting, partnerships, donor recognition, and staff attrition planning. Commissioner Murphy proposed Parks leadership consider sustainable recreational diversity by adding OHV recreation in certain areas of parks that are vast, under-utilized, and under-funded.

In response to Commissioner Lueder’s question regarding park maintenance assessments, Mr. Szalay stated that the Operations Committee is developing standards for an annual sustainable maintenance program. The deferred maintenance list would not include substantive additions in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM V – TRANSFORMATION TEAM UPDATE

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association
- Jerry Fouts
- Amy Granat, Managing Director, California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA)

Chair Cabral acknowledged three past Commission Chairs—Don Amador, Eric Lueder, and Paul Slavik.

AGENDA ITEM VI (A) – ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016

Commissioner Lueder moved to reelect Chair Cabral as the 2016 Commission Chair and Commissioner Patrovsky seconded. Chair Cabral called for a roll-call vote; motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Approved: Commissioners Hafkenschiel, Lueder, Murphy, Patrovsky, Slavik, Villegas, Pérez, and Cabral

No: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Villegas moved to reelect Vice Chair Pérez as the 2016 Commission Vice Chair and Commissioner Murphy seconded. Chair Cabral called for a roll-call vote; motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Approved: Commissioners Hafkenschiel, Lueder, Murphy, Patrovsky, Slavik, Villegas, Pérez, and Cabral

No: None

Abstain: None

AGENDA ITEM VI (B) – ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: SELECTION OF DATES FOR 2016 COMMISSION MEETINGS

After discussing potential meeting dates for 2016, the Commission agreed to the following dates:

- February 4-5
- June 2-3
- September 8-9
- November 3-4

Deputy Director Conlin suggested holding the February 4-5, 2016, meeting near Carnegie SVRA because the General Plan would be ready for Commission review and approval.

AGENDA ITEM VII (A) – BUSINESS ITEMS: PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF S 414 (FEINSTEIN – CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ACT OF 2015) AND HR 3668 (COOK – CALIFORNIA MINERALS, OFF-ROAD RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION ACT)

Katie Metraux, OHMVR Division staff member, presented a report on a proposal to draft a letter in support of the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 (S 414) and the California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act (HR 3668).

Senator Feinstein introduced S 414 on February 9, 2015, and Congressman Cook introduced HR 3668 on October 1, 2015. Both bills have the potential to protect and enhance OHV recreation within the California Desert Conservation Area by designating five to six existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) OHV recreation areas as national off-highway recreation areas. The bills also propose expansion of three of these areas, but the amount of expansion varies in each bill. In addition, both bills

protect OHV recreation on existing BLM-designated routes within the proposed National Monument Management Areas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM VII (A) – PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF S 414 AND HR 3668

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association
- Bruce Brazil
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Bob Ham, Legislative Director, American Sand Association; CORVA Board of Directors; Imperial Valley Race Committee
- Diana Mead, CORVA
- Dakota Higgins, Field Representative, Congressman Cook's office

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Lueder made a motion to authorize the Chair to work with Division staff to draft letters of support for the OHV components of S 414 and HR 3668, and once finalized transmit those letters. Commissioner Hafkenschiel and Vice Chair Pérez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Approved: Commissioners Hafkenschiel, Lueder, Murphy, Patrovsky, Slavik, Villegas, Pérez, and Cabral

No: None

Abstain: None

AGENDA ITEM VII (B) – BUSINESS ITEMS: PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HR 1838 (FARR – CLEAR CREEK NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND CONSERVATION ACT)

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a report on the proposal to draft a letter in support of the Clear Creek National Recreation and Conservation Act (HR 1838). Congressman Farr introduced the bill on April 16, 2015. HR 1838 would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area and a new 21,000-acre wilderness area—the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness.

The Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) was a popular OHV recreation area managed by the BLM Hollister Field Office. It provided intermediate and advanced single-track off-highway motorcycle recreation as well as camping, hunting, and rock hounding. The CCMA is located in central California along State Highway 25 between the communities of Hollister and Coalinga. CCMA is approximately 75,000 acres with 30,000 acres designated as a serpentine area of critical environmental concern (ACEC). Most of the OHV recreation occurred in the ACEC.

Due to health concerns relative to naturally occurring asbestos, CCMA closed temporarily in 2008. In February 2014, BLM permanently closed the ACEC to OHV recreation. The OHMVR Commission unsuccessfully appealed that decision.

The proposed federal legislation, HR 1838, would establish a new Clear Creek National Recreation Area where OHV recreation would be a priority. Other allowed recreation would include hunting, hiking, and rock hounding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM VII (B) – PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HR 1838

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association
- Bruce Brazil
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Amy Granat, California Trail Users Coalition
- Diana Mead, CORVA
- Jerry Fouts, District 36

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Lueder made a motion to authorize the CCMA Ad Hoc Committee to work with OHMVR Division staff to draft a letter in support of HR 1838 and to transmit the letter when finalized. Vice Chair Pérez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Approved: Commissioners Hafkenschiel, Lueder, Murphy, Patrovsky, Slavik, Villegas, Pérez, and Cabral

No: None

Abstain: None

AGENDA ITEM VII (C) – BUSINESS ITEMS: APPOINT AN OHMVR COMMISSIONER TO SIT ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE SAFETY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Greg Schumaker, OHV Training and Safety Coordinator, presented a report on the appointment of an OHMVR Commissioner to serve on the OHV Safety Education Committee. Section 38500 of the California Vehicle Code establishes the Off-Highway Vehicle Education Committee. The Committee consists of the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Deputy Director for the OHMVR Division, the Director of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and a member of the OHMVR Commission appointed by members of the Commission. The Committee approves ATV safety training organizations that provide youth with ATV safety certificates as required by California Vehicle Code section 38503.

At the September 25, 2015, Commission meeting, the Commission approved a motion to reconvene the OHV Safety Education Committee and requested a staff report clarifying the Commission's appointment of a Commissioner to serve on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM VII (C) – APPOINT AN OHMVR COMMISSIONER TO SIT ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE SAFETY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members of the public declined to comment on this business item.

After a brief discussion, Vice Chair Pérez made a motion to appoint Commissioner Slavik as the Commission member for the OHV Safety Education Committee with Vice Chair Pérez as an alternate. Commissioner Lueder seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Approved: Commissioners Hafkenschiel, Lueder, Murphy, Patrovsky, Slavik, Villegas, Pérez, and Cabral

No: None

Deputy Director Conlin informed the Commission that the DMV and CHP invitation letters would be mailed when he returns to the office.

Chair Cabral restructured the ATV Safety Ad Hoc Committee. Current members of the Committee are Vice Chair Pérez and Commissioner Slavik.

AGENDA ITEM VIII (A) – PROGRAM REPORTS: CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA MONTH-LONG RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

Rick LeFlore, OHMVR Division Environmental Program Manager, presented a report on the CCMA month-long risk assessment report. In May 2013, the OHMVR Division entered into a subsequent agreement with the International Environmental Research Foundation (IERF) to provide a health-based risk analysis of asbestos and serpentinite rock and soil in the CCMA. This analysis is additional and complementary to the IERF study completed in 2010.

IERF issued its first Risk Assessment Analysis report on April 8, 2011, stating that there are times and conditions during which motorcycle trail recreation at CCMA would not expose OHV enthusiasts to unacceptable high levels of airborne asbestos. The subsequent report analyzed additional air samples collected over months not previously sampled by IERF. The final Risk Analysis and Report was due by September 2014.

After receiving a request from OHMVR Division staff, IERF provided a status update on October 15, 2015. Additional research and write-up work is necessary before finalizing the risk analysis and assessment report. At this point, the IERF study shows exposure to airborne mineral fibers at CCMA “could be a factor of ten-fold higher than the earlier

estimates or about two asbestos-related cancers per million lifetimes.” The final IERF report is due mid to late spring 2016.

A brief discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM VIII (B) – PROGRAM REPORTS: BLM

Jane Arteaga, Manager of OHV and Travel Management Program, reported on the following:

- The BLM Director presented testimony on the Feinstein bill on October 8, 2015. They have not been asked to testify on Congressman Cook’s bill.
- The WEMO Route Networking Project was extended to December 2016.
- Ms. Arteaga presented a slideshow showing OHV participant usage data on BLM lands from 2006 to 2015.
- Southern California generates 85 percent of the OHV grant applications because the majority of the BLM staff workload for OHV occurs in that area.
- BLM developed a new manual to address the permit application process. They will report on the new process at the next Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Jeff Blewett
- Diana Mead, CORVA
- Amy Granat, Managing Director, CORVA
- Don Amador, Blue Ribbon Coalition
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Bob Ham, American Sand Association, CORVA, and Imperial Valley Off-Road Committee
- Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist Association
- Jerry Fouts, IMA, District 36

AGENDA ITEM VIII (C) – PROGRAM REPORTS: U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Teri Drivas, Acting Director for Public Services, reported on the following:

- Kathy Mick accepted a new position as lead for the Youth and Volunteer Services Program.
- Garrett Villanueva transitioned to the position of Trails Travel Management and Motorized Recreation Manager.
- Damage occurred on approximately 166 miles of trails and 15 facilities during the 2015 fire season. Teams are reviewing the condition of the trails and facilities to determine the extent of restoration work.
- She encouraged continued discussions on the Forest Plan Revision process.
- She also asked for input on how the U.S. Forest Service can streamline the permit process for recreation events.

Garrett Villanueva reported on the following:

- He encouraged individuals to submit comments on the Plumas National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation proposed action.
- USFS anticipates release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Lassen National Forest in January 2016.
- Mr. Villanueva would like to set up a stakeholder meeting at some point during the next Commission meeting to discuss the Ride-On Campaign messaging.
- Mr. Villanueva presented a slideshow about the scope and scale of OHV recreation opportunities on National Forest lands in Region 5.
 - There are 157,000 miles of managed forest system trails; 32,000 miles are on wilderness areas.
 - USFS consists of 155 national forests and 600 ranger districts.
 - The Government Accounting Office 2013 Report determined the USFS needed a \$210 million budget to maintain the trail system. The current budget allocation is \$80 million.
 - There are 40,000 miles of designated routes (roads and trails) in California.
- Discussions about national trails strategies occurred at a Trails Summit held in Washington, D.C. the end of November. The American Council on Snowmobile Associations, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, and the Blue Ribbon Coalition attended the Summit.

A brief discussion ensued regarding streamlining the event permit process, cost recovery, and the Wet Weather Management Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS VIII (A), (B), (C) – CCMA MONTH-LONG RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT, BLM, AND USFS REPORTS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Bruce Brazil, CORVA
- Amy Granat, California Trail Users Coalition
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee

AGENDA ITEM VIII (D) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Deputy Director Conlin thanked Director Mangat for attending the Commission meeting. He also thanked Commissioner Slavik for his efforts to bring the NOHVCC 25th Anniversary conference to California.

Deputy Director Conlin provided an update on the closure of Cudahy Camp at Red Rock Canyon State Park due to concerns about the riparian area. Staff is working on creating connectivity through Lower Last Chance.

AGENDA ITEM VIII (D) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORTS: GRANTS PROGRAM

George McDougall, OHMVR Division Grant Administrator, provided the following Program update.

- The written report includes information about the impact of wildfires on OHV areas in California.
- The Director’s office approved the revisions to the OHV Grants Program Regulations. The Regulations were sent to the Office of Administrative Law for final review.
- The Division received 29 Recreational Trails Program grant applications totaling \$5.7 million. Approximately \$4.8 million is available for distribution.

AGENDA ITEM VIII (D) (2) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORTS: LEGISLATION – CALIFORNIA AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Tina Williams, State Parks Superintendent, presented the following legislation update.

- AB 549, signed by the Governor, clarified State Parks’ authority to enter into agreements regarding the operation of camping cabins and recreational vehicle parking facilities; expanded the type of services and donations State Parks’ can make; and increased the threshold on concession contracts that require legislative approval.
- AB 939, signed by the Governor, clarified some of the deadlines listed in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- SB 13, signed by the Governor, provided numerous technical and clarifying amendments to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and related sections of the Water Code.
- SB 204, signed by the Governor, contained a number of provisions to improve and expand State Parks’ partnership opportunities.
- SB 795, signed by the Governor, gave judges the option to decide if a person causing damage to State Parks’ facilities or natural resources should be charged with an infraction or misdemeanor.

Director Mangat provided background information on AB 549 and SB 204. In response to a question posed by Commissioner Villegas, Director Mangat stated that staff would receive training regarding statute changes.

Deputy Director Conlin encouraged members of the public to participate in the online Activity and Usage Survey for the Red Sticker evaporative and exhaust emissions assessment conducted by the California Air Resources Board staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS VIII (D) (1) AND (2) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Arenz, Vice President, Rubicon Trail Foundation and District 4 Parks and Recreation Commissioner, El Dorado County
- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs

In response to John Stewart’s comments regarding Grant audits, Deputy Director Conlin stated that audit reports would be posted on the OHMVR Division website beginning in 2016.

AGENDA ITEM IX (A) – JOINT MEETING WITH INOHVAA: PRAIRIE CITY SVRA

Chair Cabral welcomed members of INOHVAA to the Commission meeting.

Jeanne Sisson, Sector Superintendent, Prairie City SVRA, presented an overview of the park.

Prairie City SVRA received its name from the 1850s gold mining community of Prairie City. Gold dredging altered the park’s landscape creating dredge tailings that currently provide a unique and challenging off-highway riding opportunity.

Aerojet bought the property in the early 1960s and created the world’s largest site for rocket engine development and testing. The bunker (also known as the “Moon Room”) was built so scientists could observe M-1 rocket engine tests.

In 1972, Roy and Mary McGill leased 435 acres from Aerojet and created a privately owned motorcycle riding and competition park called “McGills Cycle Park.” Sacramento County purchased some of the land in 1975 and an additional 401 acres in 1976 with OHV Grant funds. The OHMVR Division received legislative authority to purchase the park in 1988 and began operating it in 1990.

Prairie City SVRA offers a variety of recreation opportunities including go-kart and quarter midget tracks, 4x4 obstacle courses, and motocross tracks for competitive and advanced riders.

The park hosts approximately 200 special events per year. The largest is the annual Hangtown Motocross Classic that attracts professional riders from all over the world and up to 25,000 spectators. The Hangtown race, dubbed the “crown jewel” of the 12-race Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Series, is the only event on the series run by a motorcycle club and held on public lands.

The Environmental Training Center (ETC) was designed specifically for OHV education and training. In addition to classrooms, the ETC includes a trail system planted with vegetation representing five ecosystems found in California—riparian, conifer forest, desert, chaparral, and oak woodland.

Prairie City SVRA hosts a 10-week mountain bike competition series with races held every Wednesday—the one day of the week that the park is closed.

During the 2014/2015 fiscal year, various vendors holding special events collected approximately \$1.6 million in revenue. The OHV Trust Fund receives 10 percent of that amount as rent for the events.

The interpretation team provides riding and driving instructions and presents outreach programs at various events in the park and surrounding communities. The environmental scientists host an annual vernal pool tour. One of the most successful environmental management programs at Prairie City SVRA is the Rotational Hill Climb Rehabilitation Program. The park is also home to a variety of mammals and birds—a valuable indicator of the overall environmental health of the park.

Prairie City SVRA is a unique urban off-highway vehicle park characterized by its facilities and motor sports events all within 30 minutes of the State's capital. Successful management of the park means that OHV enthusiasts have and will continue to have quality riding opportunities in an urban setting for generations to come.

AGENDA ITEM IX (B) – JOINT MEETING WITH INOHVAA: PRAIRIE CITY SVRA GENERAL PLAN

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a report on the Prairie City SVRA Preliminary General Plan project.

General Plans are programmatic level planning documents required by state law and developed before an SVRA can construct facilities, hire staff, or build a trail system. They help determine the appropriate balance of recreation and resource protection. The General Plan process involves a public component and a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliant analysis.

For the benefit of members of INOHVAA, Mr. Canfield provided a brief overview of the different chapters within the Prairie City SVRA Preliminary General Plan. He also stated that public comments on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) are due December 9, 2015. Mr. Canfield stressed that public comments made during the Commission meeting comment period will not serve as formal public comments to the Preliminary General Plan and DEIR.

A discussion ensued regarding the Preliminary General Plan. Mr. Canfield reminded everyone that a General Plan is a programmatic level planning document and does not get into project-level details. Deputy Director Conlin stated development of a five-year or longer Master Plan would occur after the adoption of the General Plan. The Master Plan would identify capital improvement projects for budget proposals in order to obtain funding.

In response to Commissioner Lueder's question about public notification, Mr. Canfield stated all contiguous landowners received the notice. Additional public notifications were placed in newspaper ads, Facebook posts, email blasts, and the website.

A discussed ensued regarding buffer areas surrounding SVRAs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS IX (A) AND (B) – PRAIRIE CITY SVRA GENERAL PLAN

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Drew Stoll, Great Outdoors
- Chris Johnson, New Mexico, Department of Game and Fish
- Chris Real, DPS Tactical
- Chris Camacho, Interim Chairman, INOHVAA

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Hafkenschiel; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.