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OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Atascadero, CA 93422

November 8, 2019

STAFF REPORT: Oceano Dunes District

STAFF: Kevin Pearce, Acting District Superintendent

SUBJECT: Oceano Dunes District Program Overview

Summary

The following provides an overview of the Oceano Dunes District, including areas such as trends in park visitation, visitor services, resource management, education and interpretation, planning, concessions, and facility improvements.

Discussion

CREATION OF THE PARK

In 1934, the state acquired property now known as the Oceano Campground, which marked the start of Pismo State Beach. Additional acquisitions in 1949, 1951 and between 1958 and 1964 form what is now known as Pismo State Beach.

In 1974, the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) completed a General Development Plan for Pismo State Beach and Pismo Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) (Pismo Dunes SVRA was later re-named Oceano Dunes SVRA.). The State Park and Recreation Commission, which authorized the various recreational uses of both parks, approved the Plan in 1975.

Park Overview

Oceano Dunes District is located on California's Central Coast in San Luis Obispo County, within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex. The District is bordered on the north by the cities of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach, on the east by the community of Oceano, on the south by Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

Oceano Dunes is an active dune complex (shifting sand) that is geologically unique and was first documented by the early Spanish explorers on their way up the California

coast. The sand that formed the dunes was carried to the ocean by rivers and streams, deposited on the beach by ocean currents, and then shaped by the wind into the dunes seen today in a process that is still ongoing.

Archaeological excavations in the area surrounding the park have uncovered artifacts dating back at least 11,000 years, allowing archeologists to establish the time frame that the Northern Chumash, one of the oldest tribes in California, occupied this area. The areas are protected from disturbance by park visitors, but evidence of their presence may be seen in several locations in the dunes in the form of “middens,” which are piles of shells left after the Chumash collected shellfish for food.

Motorized vehicles operating on the beach was first documented in a 1906 newspaper article announcing that Ford Motor Company was meeting in Pismo Beach for a rally between California’s northern and southern car dealerships. Early photos depict families enjoying the beach and dunes in horse-drawn carriages and on bicycles. The SVRA has been a favorite camping and recreation site for families for over 100 years.

Today, distinctive features of the sand dunes provide a unique recreational opportunity for visitors to participate in motorized access to recreation on several miles of beach and coastal sand dunes.

General Park Information

The Oceano Dunes District operates the contiguous Oceano Dunes SVRA, Pismo State Beach, and the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve.

Oceano Dunes SVRA consists of 3,600 acres of sandy beach and coastal dunes of which 1,400 acres are open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation and camping. Approximately 2,200 acres are closed to OHV recreation, but open to various non-motorized recreational opportunities. Pismo State Beach consists of approximately 1,400 acres of sandy beach and coastal dunes that include approximately 720 acres of the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve. The areas are delineated by over 22 miles of perimeter fencing that requires constant maintenance and repair. Every year, approximately 200,000 linear feet of perimeter and vegetation island fencing is replaced.

In addition to motorized recreation, Oceano Dunes SVRA provides a wide array of non-motorized recreation opportunities including but not limited to hiking, nature walks, horseback riding, kite surfing, and bird watching. The Oso Flaco Lakes area is in the south end of the SVRA. This area consists of two freshwater lakes on the edge of the dune complex. Visitors to the Oso Flaco area can enjoy a moderate walk along the one-mile Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible boardwalk, observing wildlife and native plants as the path passes Oso Flaco Lakes area, leading out to the beach. This area is an important stopover for waterfowl traveling along the Pacific Flyway.

Visitation

In 2018, annual attendance at Oceano Dunes SVRA was approximately 1.2 million visitors. With its primitive beach and dune camping, the SVRA is the most popular camping destination in all of State Parks. The park has a 1,000 vehicle per night

camping limit, and a day use limit of 4,300 vehicles. These vehicle limits were established through a 1982 Coastal Development Permit and five subsequent Permit Amendments.

With over 800,000 visitors in 2018, Pismo State Beach continues to be a very popular camping destination for OHV enthusiasts. Located close to the Grand and Pier Avenue entrances to the SVRA, Pismo State Beach has two developed campgrounds—Oceano and North Beach—which have a total of 174 developed campsites offering conventional amenities such as picnic tables, restrooms, fire rings, and 40 hook-up sites.

Public Works Plan

In November 2017, the Oceano Dunes District initiated efforts to engage and prepare a Public Works Plan (PWP) to drive and guide the future of the District. A PWP is a long-range land use management plan for compliance with the California Coastal Act (Coastal Act) that is reviewed and certified by the California Coastal Commission. The PWP will be presented to the Commission in the fall of 2020 for review and consideration of approval. Department staff, as well as the contractor, AECOM, have held public meetings, community workshops, and focused stakeholder meetings over the past year and a half as we developed general and project specific concepts for this project. The next public meetings to present and discuss updated PWP project concepts are tentatively scheduled for December 2019.

VISITOR SERVICES PROGRAMS

Public Safety

Public safety is extremely important to the Oceano Dunes District staff. In addition to public safety contacts to ensure safe and responsible operation of vehicles, visitor services staff also respond to medical emergencies providing patient care and aquatic emergencies providing rescue and assistance, handle various types of law enforcement investigations, and assist local agencies within the community.

The District has a number of certified instructors who provide training to staff. Training topics include firearms, defensive tactics, emergency medical responder, off-road driving, drug and alcohol recognition, scenario evaluator, sound testing, ATV safety training, and rescue techniques. These instructors are in high demand because of their proficiency and experience and many teach at the Department's Ranger Academy and provide training to local agencies.

Aquatic Safety

Surfing, boating, operating personal watercraft, kite boarding, and paddling are some of the recreational watersports available at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and Pismo State Beach. Because motorized activity is allowed on the beach, visitors accessing the water for recreational purposes can park their vehicles and easily unload gear near the water's edge. During the summer season, lifeguards respond to numerous aquatic rescues and medical calls, and make hundreds of aquatic preventative safety contacts. Oceano Dunes SVRA continues to develop a successful and respectable aquatic safety program.

As part of community outreach efforts and a way to bring children and the aquatic environment together, Oceano Dunes supports a Junior Lifeguard program. Approximately 15 children ages nine to sixteen participated in the first Junior Lifeguard program held in 2013. Word of mouth and program enthusiasm brought back those initial participants and today the park hosts two back-to-back programs during the summer, reaching approximately 100 children in total program attendance. We have also had successful recruiting as a result of the Junior Lifeguard program. In fact, one of the first Junior Lifeguard participants was hired two years ago as a Seasonal Lifeguard. The children continue to be excited for the camaraderie, skills and activities they are involved with as Junior Lifeguards, and the parents of these children have become strong supporters of the program, Oceano Dunes SVRA and State Parks.

Volunteer Assistance

Volunteers dedicate hundreds of hours to Oceano Dunes District and provide a valuable and vital component to the park's public service staff. Volunteer staff offer tremendous support by providing District education programs, patrolling the parks and trails, sharing information with visitors, and assisting with public safety and medical operations.

The District has three very active volunteer groups, each with their own unique objectives and benefits to District operations. The OHV volunteers are 20 strong and provide assistance within the SVRA; the Mounted Volunteer Program, an equestrian group of 35 patrol trails and beaches, and the Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA) volunteers totaling 100, provide educational program support.

The success and achievements of many of the programs offered by the District would not be possible were it not for the dedication of these volunteers—their time and commitment to our parks and programs.

Concessions

The Oceano Dunes District administers nine concession contracts: Fin's Restaurant and Pismo State Beach Golf Course; four OHV rental contracts; a mobile sewer pump-out contract; a dune tour contract; an RV camping trailer rental contract; and a beach towing contract. Each concession operation provides very popular services to the visiting public. Rent to the state in 2018 for the concession contracts totaled nearly $1.5 million.

Special Projects

Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center

State Parks entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Grover Beach to build a lodge and conference facility on state-owned property within Pismo State Beach adjacent to one of the main motorized access points to the operational area of Oceano Dunes SVRA. A 1982 amendment to the Pismo State Beach/Pismo Dunes SVRA General Development Plan authorized the project and Public Resources Code (PRC) section 5003.02.1 authorized an Operating Agreement or JPA between the state and the city. Pacifica Companies was awarded a concession contract in 2010 to build the lodge and conference facility. The state will receive a share of the concession

monthly rent and a share of the monthly Transient Occupancy Tax revenue when the lodge and conference facility commence operation.

Current planning efforts estimate development beginning in the third quarter of 2021 for minor projects such as relocation of a dump station and building of a new parking lot; hotel construction in the third quarter of 2022; and an estimated hotel opening date the second quarter 2024.

Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center – Equipment Storage Building

The Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center, located at Oceano campground, opened in January 2017 and was part of a large campground and corporation yard project. In 2015, Oceano campground closed to redesign the RV camping circulation; build a new park entrance road and park kiosk; build a new Visitor Center complex with administrative office space, an exhibit hall and a multi-purpose space; and build an equipment storage building. The park and campground reopened in July of 2016.

Pismo State Beach Campgrounds

North Beach and Oceano Campgrounds recently completed a two-year project that focused on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and visitor serving improvements. Phase 1 occurred at the Oceano campground between the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018, and included improvements to select ADA campsites, RV campground restrooms and the construction of two combination buildings (showers and restrooms) in the tent campground. Phase 2 moved to North Beach campground between the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019, which included improvements to four campground combination buildings, associated parking and a redesigned campfire center.

We are currently in the final phases of initiating another project in Oceano campground. In October 2020, we anticipate to begin construction of an improved and enhanced ADA trail. The new trail will connect to our Visitor Center, extend north through the campground, border the western edge of Oceano lagoon, and will provide an ADA accessible trail and an opportunity to explore the abundant and unique wildlife and environment of Oceano campground.

Oso Flaco Lake

Oso Flaco Lake underwent facility improvements in 2016 which improved parking facilities, added a shade structure and gathering area, added new restrooms, improved public access along the causeway, improved a picnic area along the boardwalk, and we expect to accept delivery of a new entrance station (kiosk) in November.

RESOURCES PROGRAM

Habitat Monitoring System/Wildlife Habitat Protection Program

Oceano Dunes SVRA, like all of the SVRAs, conducts annual Habitat Monitoring System/Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (HMS/WHPP) monitoring that includes surveys of vegetation, shoreline birds, terrestrial birds, small mammals, and herpetological resources. The HMS/WHPP surveys are vital to understanding the long-

term status and trends of sensitive plant and animal populations. Staff is currently on a collaborative study with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on small mammal use and dispersal in the park, focusing specifically on the response to restoration activities. We completed our third year of California red-legged frog surveys and have documented frogs in multiple water bodies throughout the parks. The HMS/WHPP surveys provide valuable information on the trends of shorebird species that use the beach and estuarine habitats within the park. This HMS/WHPP information is vital to effectively manage plant and animal populations while providing recreational opportunities. Future research efforts will include Pismo clam and rare plant conservation.

Habitat Conservation Plan

One of the long-term goals for Oceano Dunes SVRA is a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to cover all park operations under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. This HCP will outline specific management and monitoring activities to address covered species, including western snowy plover, California least tern, California red-legged frog, tidewater goby, and numerous listed plant species. The HCP will help guarantee existing recreational programs can continue at the park and could result in additional recreational opportunities during the plover and tern breeding season. The District made important progress on the HCP in 2019 and is actively engaged with the wildlife agencies in this effort.

Plover and Tern Nesting Program

Each year, from March 1 - September 30, Oceano Dunes SVRA closes approximately 300 acres of the park to provide nesting habitat for the federally listed threatened western snowy plover and the state and federally listed endangered California least tern. Maintenance crews install over seven miles of fencing for the seasonal enclosure. The fence is buried 18 inches deep and constructed of two layers reaching over six feet in height to assist with predator management. A large complement of environmental scientists and seasonal staff monitor the area on a daily basis to track nesting activity, predator activity, nest success, and chick survival. Natural resource staff implement a number of habitat enhancement efforts to improve nesting conditions for the plover and tern including placing large woody debris, placing wood chips, adding surf cast kelp (wrack), installing native plants, and enhancing food resources in the nesting area on the sand. Resource staff monitor nesting behavior seven

days per week and during most daylight hours. Chicks are given a unique color band combination to allow monitors to track the chicks. One critical piece of information collected at Oceano Dunes SVRA is a count of the chicks reaching fledge age, the age at which the chicks can live independently.

In 2018 and 2019, the adult breeding population of snowy plovers exceeded 200 birds, up from a low of 79 birds in 2007. Fledge rates consistently exceed one fledged chick per breeding male, which is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimate needed to sustain the population of snowy plovers.

From 2005 to 2017, Oceano Dunes SVRA averaged between 41-44 breeding pairs of California least tern. During this same time period, the SVRA produced an average of 48 fledged chicks per year. The park produced more than one fledged chick per breeding pair, providing for strong population growth of this endangered species. In addition, over this same time period the park produced more than half of all the California least tern chicks to reach fledge age in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Restoration Program

Every year, Oceano Dunes SVRA implements a restoration project to control sand movement and maintain the habitat values of the vegetation islands located within or adjacent to the open riding area of the park. Over time, these islands become inundated with shifting sands. Since 2004, the park has restored approximately 200 acres of actively eroding sand dune. Staff manage an active greenhouse operation that produces an excess of 30,000 plants per year to plant in restoration areas.

Some recent restoration efforts include large areas at Dune Preserve and the Heather/Acacia/Cottonwood complex. These projects installed locally collected dune vegetation in areas that were inundated with sand and non-native vegetation. Some restoration techniques have been adapted and used successfully in air pollution control projects including a large project at Barbeque Flats and Eucalyptus North islands. Monitoring plots are being established in these restoration areas to demonstrate the success of these projects and the recovery of these restored areas to support the full complement of native plant species. Integral to this

program are maintenance crews and heavy equipment to maintain and install fencing, and distribute straw for sand stabilization.

The restoration techniques developed at Oceano Dunes SVRA have been adopted at other sites within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune System and at other coastal dune systems in the state.

Invasive Exotic Weed Control Program

The single greatest threat to habitat viability at Oceano Dunes SVRA is the spread of invasive exotic vegetation throughout the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune System. Two invasive exotic grasses (veldt grass and European beachgrass) are widespread and are continuing to impact habitats throughout the SVRA. These two weeds aggressively displace native plant species in foredune, dune scrub, and dune swale habitats. Staff has been working with partner agencies and adjacent public landowners to control large

infestations of invasive exotic species throughout the dune complex. In 2019, Oceano Dunes District partnered with the San Luis Obispo Resource Conservation District to secure a three-year grant to control invasive veldt grass from key habitats that host the state and federally listed endangered Nipomo Mesa Lupine. This grant will allow us to use aerial herbicide application to control weeds in a large and contiguous habitat. Controlling the spread of veldt grass will help protect the vital habitat for this critically endangered plant. This work will also complement the invasive exotic control efforts of adjacent public and private land managers. Weed control activities include herbicide application, hand removal of target weeds, and prescribed fire.

The restoration and weed control programs at the park are vital to the long-term preservation of habitats and the unique flora and fauna in the park. Restoration activities can help reduce the spread of invasive exotic species and invasive control efforts can help restoration projects succeed.

Water Quality

Oso Flaco Lake drains a small watershed that is dominated by irrigated agriculture. Monitoring by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board demonstrates significant issues with bacteria levels, nutrient levels, and pesticides. The Lake is listed as an impaired water body and is subject to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulation dealing with a host of water quality impairments. The water quality issues at Oso Flaco are not a result of OHV recreation. Oso Flaco Lake, and many other water bodies in the state, is subject to upstream uses that can degrade water quality.

The District continues to partner with local groups including the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and local landowners to identify threats to water quality and options to improve conditions in the Lake. In 2018, the District completed a sediment analysis of the lake working under a grant from the State Water Quality Control Board. This analysis mapped the distribution and depth of contaminated sediment and help developed a suite of projects that can be implemented in the future to remove contaminated sediments and control the influx of new sediments into the lake. Controlling contaminated sediments can help in other areas of water quality by reducing sediment inflow into the lake and providing deeper cool water habitat that supports native wildlife, including the federally listed threatened California red-legged frog.

Fish Surveys

Park staff conducts fisheries surveys of Arroyo Grande Creek and other District water bodies on a quarterly basis to document trends of native fish populations. These surveys have recorded important trends in species like the federally listed endangered tidewater goby and the threatened steelhead trout. These surveys have also documented declines in fish populations associated with drought conditions and upstream water uses. Additionally, these surveys provide the District with valuable information to determine if operational improvements are warranted or, as in our existing case, if operations are consistent with habitat and resource protection measures.

Air Quality

Since 2010, the District has been actively involved in monitoring air quality and implementing dust control projects within the SVRA. In 2018, the Department entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA) with the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board. In that SOA, the Department agreed to reduce emissions by 50% over a baseline condition measured in 2013 and achieve state and federal ambient PM10 air quality standards within four years.

The SOA included initial particulate matter reduction projects, requirements for track out control on the Grand and Pier Avenue exits, a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan, annual workplans, and the creation of a Scientific Advisory Group to advise and coordinate on dust control efforts.

In the summer of 2018, the Department installed the initial dust control projects (wind fencing or straw bales) on approximately 100 acres within the riding and camping area of Oceano Dunes SVRA. In the fall of 2018, the Department installed locally collected native vegetation on approximately 36 acres of land that had straw bales as part of the initial dust control projects.

The Department prepared a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan that was approved by the APCD in June 2019. Temporary Track Out devices were installed on a test basis at Pier Avenue in the summer of 2019. The Scientific Advisory Group has convened on three separate occasions and has provided valuable scientific and technical assistance in developing and implementing dust control projects.

The Department continues to work within the confines of the SOA and continues to strive for a balance between recreational opportunities and protecting public health.

CULTURAL PROGRAM

Oceano Dunes District has a rich, unique, and complex cultural heritage. District staff collaborate with a network of partners, including local Native American tribes, while planning projects, during field work, and when new sensitive areas are discovered, all to ensure protection and preservation of these valuable cultural sites.

The District shared a State Archeologist from the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division with other park units. The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) transformation process justified the need for a District Associate State Archeologist position. The District is now in the process of formally establishing a cultural program for cultural resources management. Staff will be able to complete project reviews more efficiently and comprehensively and develop a closer relationship with the area's tribal representatives.

The cultural program goals are to develop a consistent stewardship and site-monitoring program; identify, document and protect newly identified resources; enrich the relationship with local tribal members; ensure project reviews and monitoring are

consistent and a priority; perform historical research; and develop and contribute to relevant research.

INTERPRETATION (EDUCATION) PROGRAM

Oceano Dunes District interpretive staff consists of five permanent State Park interpreters and four seasonal interpretive specialists. This past summer, the District hired an Interpreter III program manager. The need for this position was identified during the Department's transformation process.

The District offers a variety of educational programs which include the traditional Junior Ranger and Campfire programs. In 2018, 1,210 children attended the Junior Ranger programs, while 1,315 park visitors attended campfire programs. Junior Ranger programs are held Thursday through Saturday beginning the middle of June through Labor Day weekend. Campfire programs occur intermittently throughout the year on holiday weekends, but consistently on Friday and Saturday evenings beginning the middle of June through Labor Day Weekend.

In addition to traditional interpretive programs, staff created park specific programs offered during the summer season—Roving, Walks and Talks, and Summer Fun Days. In 2018, more than 9,000 visitors participated in these programs.

With the growth of the Interpretive program in 2019, staff established consistent off-highway vehicle (OHV) educational programs in the SVRA including OHV safety programs every Saturday during the summer season and a Dunes Safety Day event in the summer. Staff also presents roving interpretation programs at Oso Flaco Lake.

The interpretation staff also provides free tours and school programs. All schools are welcome, but the programs have been predominantly used by San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County schools. Tours include the Monarch Butterfly Grove, the Visitor Center, Oso Flaco Lake, and Oceano Lagoon. In addition, park staff conduct programs at school facilities using a variety of natural and cultural learning tools. Over 14,000 children participated in these educational programs in 2018 and 2019 to date. The Monarch Butterfly Grove tour continues to be the most highly visited single educational attraction. With the assistance of dedicated volunteer groups, park staff reached an audience of over 93,000 in 2018.

The CCSPA is a cooperating association that helps promote public awareness and stewardship of the District's natural resources and cultural heritage. As a cooperative association, they support interpretation, education, and volunteer efforts in local state parks.

The District Visitor Center officially opened August 2017. The Visitor Center provides a facility to house exhibits and interpretive displays, host school groups and other interpretive programs, a parks store, and a space for staff to develop and manage District programs. In 2018, the Visitor Center exhibit building had over 12,500 visitors.

ADMINISTRATION

The Oceano Dunes District Administrative program supports all District programs by providing budgets, personnel services, and business management services (BMS). This is accomplished with a staff of six permanent employees and two seasonal employees. Additionally, effective October 2019, the Administrative program started managing the Revenue program, formally called the Park Aide program, which had been historically under the Visitor Services program. The Revenue program consists of two permanent staff and between 20-30 seasonal staff. The Administrative program takes pride in assisting all programs in achieving the best service possible to the public while staying in compliance with policies, laws, and regulations.

Budget

The Administrative program maintains oversight of the District's funding sources which is critical to ensure accurate expenditures related to OHV and Park operations, among other specialized funding sources and projects. In collaboration with the OHMVR Division and the Department, the Administrative Chief works with personnel, BMS, and core program staff to ensure funding compliance is met through budget allocations, expenditure reconciliation, processing corrections as needed, and preparing budget reports.

Personnel Services

The two staff members assigned to personnel services manage all aspects of personnel for 81 permanent employees and approximately 120 seasonal and permanent intermittent employees. Duties of personnel services include hiring and recruitment, exams, timekeeping, payroll, labor expenditures, audits, benefit coordination, Workers' Compensation, housing, employee management, labor relations, and human rights.

The Department reorganization was finalized in July of 2018 and Oceano Dunes started hiring identified staff through the approved Senate Bill 1(SB-1) process. The reorganization allows core programs full representation District-wide and identifies required staffing needs for each core program. Personnel staff work diligently with all core programs on their hiring needs, which continues through the 2019 fiscal year.

Business Management Services

Staff assigned to BMS and budgets consists of six employees who manage all aspects of accounting, procurement, contracting, budgets, and public reception services. It is our goal to assist District programs on implementation of these processes accurately and timely.

In February of 2017, the Department implemented the FI$Cal accounting system for all procurement, contract and accounting expenditures. Because reports from this new system are still in development, staff also utilize an internal Access Database Management System in order to track expenses for budget reporting purposes. This process allows us to see real time expenditures and provide reports to program managers.

Contracts are critical to the District programs to ensure effective operations and maintain compliance with policies, laws and regulations. Staff process approximately 65 to 70 contracts each fiscal year. Contracts range from lower cost one-time services to complex higher cost services, some which require specialized technical consultations and are unique to the District. For example, as a part of the dust reduction efforts, we contracted for the rental of heavy equipment that allows specialized equipment to operate on sand and in the dunes. We also contract with dust and particulate monitoring experts to provide the necessary reports and consultations.

Revenue Program

In August of 2017, the Department launched Reserve California—a new reservation system—and in October 2019, Oceano Dunes District launched the new Department-wide Point of Sale System referred to as R2S2. Revenue program staff ensure park collection and reporting of revenue in coordination with online reservations and automated pay machine revenues. The revenue program consists of two permanent staff and between 20-30 seasonal staff. Seasonal staff are typically the first people our visitors meet upon arriving to our parks. They provide valuable information to the public on park rules and operations as well as help resolve any issues with payment or reservations. Additionally, revenue program staff work collaboratively with all core program staff, especially law enforcement.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Pismo State Beach and Oceano and North Beach Campgrounds

The Oceano Dunes District maintenance staff are responsible for the upkeep of 40 recreational vehicle (RV) sites and 131 traditional campsites within the Oceano and North Beach Campgrounds. On a daily basis, the maintenance staff perform site cleaning, sweeping, trash pickup, fire pit cleaning, and housekeeping for eight combo restrooms, as well as the removal of any potential hazards.

During the past two years, maintenance staff assisted with campground improvements that included the installation of two restrooms and four restroom upgrades to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and mobility standards. Staff were also involved with the demolition and rebuild of the campfire center at the North Beach Campground. The project was completed August 30, 2019.

Maintenance staff also assisted with the installation of the new entrance gates at the North Beach campgrounds. These gates will improve park security in the event of flooding or other conditions that require the need to secure the campground.

Oceano Dunes SVRA

Maintenance staff install various types of fencing in the dunes for operations and the protection of our natural resources. Non-treated wooden peeler poles and t-stakes with fence clips, as well as hog rings with splicing metal flat rods are used during installation.

Overall, maintenance staff are responsible to repair, replace and maintain over 45 miles of fencing used for operational programs establishing alley ways, the park perimeter and boundary, protecting vegetation islands and supporting the nesting shorebird

program. Additionally, our maintenance staff and California Conservation Corp (CCC) staff installed and removed over 35 miles of fencing in support of our air quality projects.

Our staff are responsible for trash collection, service to 18 prefabricated concrete vaulted restrooms and 34 chemical toilets which are located throughout the SVRA.

Oso Flaco Lake

In 2018, the maintenance team installed new culverts on park access roads which improved water flow between Oso Flaco Lake and Little Oso Flaco Lake and will eliminate storm erosion and damage to the access road. Maintenance staff also assisted in site preparation for the new interpretive deck site along the mile-long boardwalk to the beach.

A new prefabricated concrete kiosk by CXT INC. - 10.5’ x 12’ has been ordered for the Oso Flaco Lake day-use area. Staff anticipates delivery by November 30, 2019. This new kiosk replaces the 4x6 wood kiosk that is currently in use on site.

Maintenance Corporation Yard

New asphalt around the equipment / car wash station and a speed bump for staff safety were installed in the maintenance yard. The asphalt work was needed because soil and utilities were moved for the installation of the new facilities. The asphalt installation helped with drainage issues to meet MS4 compliance requirements.

A Solar EV charging system was installed at the maintenance yard to charge the District’s two electric vehicles. The system will charge a vehicle completely in six to eight hours.

Gravel was place in the parking lot area to reduce soil runoff and to meet MS4 compliance requirements.

Heavy Equipment and Auto Shop

The District’s Heavy Equipment Mechanic (HEM) maintains the 150+ fleet inventory which includes ATVs, motorcycles, side by sides (gas and electric), law enforcement trucks and SUVs, maintenance equipment including all heavy equipment, and resource, administration, and interpretation equipment and vehicles. The HEM is also responsible for the parts inventory.

District Utility Systems

The District currently maintains three sewer lift stations, two trailer sanitation dump sites, one equipment/car wash station, one 20KW backup generator located at Ranger Station, 18 backflow devices, and fuel and diesel pumps along with the HVAC system at Ranger Station and Visitor Center.

District Programs

The entire maintenance staff are vital to each District program. Many of the required regulatory permit tasks would not be possible without their assistance. Throughout the year, the maintenance staff help with the Butterfly Grove, Sand Sport Super Show,

interpretation panel installation, Lifeguard Towers and equipment installation, large resource projects, APCD, seasonal bird fencing, and revegetation projects.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None