

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING TRANSCRIPT - UNAPPROVED

November 16, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 4:41 p.m.

Borrego Springs Resort
1112 Tilting T Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

IN ATTENDANCE:

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Paul Slavik, Chair	Breene Kerr, Vice Chair
Ted Cabral	Edward Patrovsky
Diana Perez	M. Teresa Villegas

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS Absent: Kevin Murphy

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF:

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director
Phil Jenkins, Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

1 AGENDA ITEM I - CALL TO ORDER at 9:00 a.m.

2 AGENDA ITEM I(A) - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3 Commissioner Perez led the meeting attendees in the
4 Pledge of Allegiance.

5 AGENDA ITEM I(B) - ROLL CALL

6 All Commissioners present except Kevin Murphy.

7 AGENDA ITEM III - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Couple of items in this that I
9 reviewed and wanted to have some discussion about that,
10 the East Bay Regional Parks. On page 9 in the General
11 Plan, Deputy Director Conlin stated that there would be
12 a leadership meeting, and I'm just wondering if that
13 took place.

14 DEP. DIRECTOR CONLIN: Sure did. You probably
15 saw in the press there was a leak of the letter that I
16 sent to East Bay addressing the issue.

17 And then we did have a leadership meeting. I
18 met with Mr. Bob Doyle, who is the executive director
19 for East Bay Regional Park District. We had a good
20 discussion. He understands our position, and he in
21 fact said that he was in discussions with his board and
22 telling them that they should respect our position.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

24 Any comments?

25 Any comments on the minutes?

1 Can I have a motion to approve the minutes?

2 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Motion to approve.

3 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Second.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor?

5 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Motion passes.

7 I'd like to thank the staff for an awesome field
8 trip yesterday. Garratt and his staff, you guys did a
9 wonderful job, and it's well appreciated by the
10 Commission.

11 We know there are a lot of things going on in
12 your park, a lot of challenges. And just moving
13 forward, I think guys are doing a great job, and it's
14 well appreciated. I don't know what else to say.

15 Any comments?

16 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'd like to add that I
17 concur with Chair Slavik. It was great tour. I
18 enjoyed seeing the collaboration between all of the
19 agencies and everyone there working together. It is, I
20 know, a huge undertaking to get everyone out there, but
21 I think it's well worth it when we all come together
22 and have frank discussions about how we can resolve
23 issues in the future.

24 I do want to send a special thanks to Bo Neece
25 for that extreme ride. I greatly enjoyed that, being

1 upside-down. I don't know what happened there, but
2 that was fun. So thank you, everyone.

3 **AGENDA ITEM II - APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: So call for a motion to approve
5 the agenda, but there is one change, a minor change, in
6 moving the Ocotillo Wells report to the top of the
7 Deputy Director's report instead of at the very bottom.

8 Anybody have any problems with that?

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: So moved to approve the
10 agenda as amended.

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Second.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor?

13 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Motion pass.

15 **AGENDA ITEM IV (A) - COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Now we're back to the
17 Commissioners' reports.

18 As far as I'm concerned, I did take a field trip
19 to the Littlerock area that was discussed at the last
20 Commission meeting in Costa Mesa. L.A. County Parks
21 and Recreation -- are you folks here? Well, they're
22 here somewhere. It's an exciting opportunity for the
23 people down in the L.A. Basin to maybe have the
24 potential for a park.

25 And from what I could see, that area could

1 really do with some management. It's one of the most
2 difficult situations. It's close to an urban area.
3 It's loaded with trash, shooting and illegal trespass.
4 And having management in there could do nothing but
5 good.

6 I understand coming up this week there is a town
7 hall meeting in the local area, and based on that town
8 hall meeting is whether the L.A. County Parks and
9 Recreation would be able to move forward on that park.
10 So I would like to -- I was hoping those folks would be
11 here.

12 But I would like, if it is moving forward,
13 Deputy Director, if we could have an opportunity to
14 meet with their leadership in L.A. County Parks and
15 Recreation sometime in the near future. I think it
16 would be very helpful to move that project along.

17 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Sure, absolutely.

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: Are we going to have a
19 representative from the Division there, or is that
20 inappropriate? If there is a town hall meeting, that's
21 a big deal, right?

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: You're talking about the town
23 hall meeting?

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: You said there is a meeting
25 next week where it's getting input from the public, so

1 I was wondering --

2 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: You wanted to represent or
3 you just wanted to sit down with the leadership at some
4 point?

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: My direction was sitting down in
6 a meeting with their leadership people, but the town
7 hall meeting is a different deal. I don't believe we
8 have anybody scheduled to go there.

9 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Sixto and Martha are going
10 to be there because of the grants.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Great.

12 I might add we've all been to these meetings in
13 the past where two factions come together and there is
14 a lot of arguing back and forth. It really comes down
15 to preparation, I believe. And what I've seen so far
16 of L.A. County, they've spent a lot of time kind of
17 salting the earth with information about this park and
18 hopefully trying to get good attendance there.

19 Commissioners, do you have any other reports?

20 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I have a little bit
21 of stuff to report. First off, this is hard to do. I
22 hate to report this, but I think it's important. The
23 off-road racing community lost a very highly respected
24 and honored racer last night in the Baja 1000. Kurt
25 Caselli, the factory KTM racer, was leading the event

1 with about 90 miles to go, and he struck a booby trap
2 that was put in the course near Ensenada, and he
3 crashed, had some massive head injuries, and he passed
4 away from his injuries.

5 So Kurt Caselli represented the United States of
6 America and the ISDE for multiple years. A couple of
7 times he was top American. He had recently signed a
8 contract with KTM factory for three years to be their
9 lead rider in their world rally effort. And he was
10 also known -- I didn't know the man personally, but I
11 know many people in the industry that have had either
12 contact with him or had been his sponsors or stuff
13 along those lines, and they spoke extremely highly of
14 him. He was considered to be of the utmost quality as
15 to a human being. He was a Californian, and I'm sure
16 he used many of the off-highway vehicle areas that
17 we're discussing -- we will be discussing today to not
18 only to learn to ride -- because I mean his parents
19 brought him up right, like many parents have in this
20 area, but he just -- you know, he trained, got his
21 craft up to that high level by using these riding
22 areas.

23 So I would like to have a moment motion of
24 silence for him, please.

25 (Moment of silence observed.)

1 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you, everyone. I
2 appreciate that.

3 With that, Paul, I have a question for you. Are
4 we going to go into the Commissioners' subcommittee
5 reports? Because I can move some of my stuff into that
6 instead of doing it in the Commissioners' reports.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes, I think that's fine.

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: So that's the only thing I
9 have in the Commissioners' Reports then.

10 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: So I have two items to
11 report. Early in October, Commissioner Perez and
12 myself visited Oceano Dunes. We were able to do a tour
13 and invited the Senate Subcommittee on Natural
14 Resources to attend with us so staff could be
15 knowledgeable on the issue and just so we can start
16 educating more of the staff in the Senate and Assembly
17 that make decisions on budget items. So that was
18 really helpful and fruitful.

19 I apologize, I don't have a specific date, but
20 in November I also attended the California Parks
21 Forward Commission since they did their slew of
22 meetings to get information from the community. So I
23 participated in that and just provided comments. And I
24 was able just to talk to the Chair and some of the
25 Parks Commissioners after the meeting.

1 And that is all.

2 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: As Commissioner Villegas
3 said, we did provide a tour for Ms. Freeman from the
4 Budget and Fiscal Committee, and that was a great tour.
5 And I do want to thank the Oceano Dunes staff. That
6 particular day the wind was blowing. I've never seen
7 it blowing that hard actually, quite frankly, and it
8 was a huge challenge to get through the tour. I know
9 Commissioner Villegas was suffering with her contact
10 lenses. I don't know what she was trying to do with
11 her eyes just trying to see.

12 The park's conditions on that particular day --
13 sometimes I have to wonder, we do have staff that live
14 in that terrain that work -- that's a huge challenge.
15 We just got to be there for a few hours, and they get
16 to be there all day.

17 So I greatly appreciate Superintendent Brent
18 Marshall, Will Harris who was out there from the
19 Geological Survey, Dena Bellman and Ronnie Glick, they
20 do an amazing job together. They're amazing. Their
21 expertise and what they can provide and what they can
22 answer for our visitors, it's just an outstanding job
23 that they do, and I really do appreciate it.

24 Did you ride?

25 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I did.

1 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: A side-by-side?

2 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I did.

3 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: For the first time?

4 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I did.

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I set that up for her, so
6 great, and so did Catherine Freeman. That was a little
7 icing on the cake for them, to get a sense of the folks
8 that we serve that we're here for and why it's
9 important to continue to protect off-highway vehicle
10 recreation. So that was in early October.

11 And I also attended with Commissioner Villegas
12 the Parks Foundation. They had an event in L.A. I
13 think it was Latino history. I was only there part of
14 the time. And I think you took the other half, right,
15 that's how it worked out?

16 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: We also provided an Oceano
18 Dunes SVRA tour for the newly-appointed supervisor for
19 San Luis Obispo County. Her name is Caren Ray. That
20 actually had been earlier this week, and that was
21 another great tour for her. She's new. She had a lot
22 of questions. I thought that was great, and she had an
23 opportunity to see and listen to what some of the
24 challenges are out there, and so I think it was great
25 for her to do that.

1 And then the last item that I'd like to discuss
2 is I had an opportunity to see our very own Deputy
3 Director Chris Conlin in a presentation at the Pismo
4 Beach Chamber of Commerce.

5 And I must say that that was an outstanding
6 presentation, Chris, the way you presented the
7 information, the economic value. It was a chamber of
8 commerce event, and I think there were 50 or 60 members
9 from Grover Beach, that entire area, and your style and
10 the way that you presented that information, if someone
11 left that presentation without a greater appreciation
12 for the Oceano Dunes, then I don't know how we can
13 persuade them because I think everyone left there
14 having a better understanding of the great park that we
15 have there. And I did get some feedback. Folks were
16 very pleased. And I was in a trance with your
17 presentation, quite frankly. I couldn't even look
18 sideways because it was just that great. And so I
19 wanted to commend you for your ability to reach out and
20 reach out sometimes to some folks who are sometimes
21 critical of us.

22 That particular meeting did have a high number
23 of supporters, but I think what it did for them, it
24 gave them a better understanding of why the park is so
25 important. I want to thank you for that.

1 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: And I also did participate
3 in one of -- the Parks Forward Commission, one of those
4 meetings, but I'm not sure when I did that, but
5 somewhere in there.

6 And that's the end my park.

7 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I wanted to thank
8 everybody for the excellent tour yesterday. It was
9 very informative. I've never been to the Ocotillo
10 Wells area before, and it was great to be able to tie
11 in what I had heard and actually see and hear it
12 firsthand. So I want to thank everybody involved.

13 And the only other thing I wanted to bring up is
14 that I notice under the Deputy Director's report
15 there's going to be an update on the Twentynine Palms
16 expansion area, and I'm getting a lot of questions. I
17 live in that area near Johnson Valley, and there seems
18 to be a lot of confusion about the legislative status
19 of the bill, Congressman Hood's bill, and also what's
20 happened in the Senate. So I'll be very appreciative
21 to have all that cleared up.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: I would also like to thank
23 the local staff and Division for setting up the tour
24 yesterday. And particularly we saw some areas of
25 Ocotillo Wells, particularly in the new part, that I

1 hadn't been to before, and it's really quite a
2 resource, so thank you very much.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Lastly, I'd like to say thank you
4 to Brian and staff for serving lunch. You know,
5 there's so many times -- you hear so many bad things
6 about people that are in the public sector, you know,
7 all kinds of things. But I think you guys, your staff,
8 went way above the call of duty while we sat there and
9 we were served by OHMVR staff, and I want to thank you
10 guys. It was really awesome. (Audience applause.)

11 For most of you that weren't there, there's that
12 little Mexican restaurant in Salton Sea, and they had a
13 big long table set up, and there must have been 30
14 people at that table, something like that. And Brian
15 and his staff were running up to the window and
16 grabbing the plates and bringing them down. It was
17 awesome. So thank you, guys.

18 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B) - COMMISSIONERS' SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Moving on, Subcommittee reports.
20 Do we have any Subcommittee reports?

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I am on the
22 Subcommittee -- first off, thank you for producing,
23 staff, the book that has the binder with the
24 information in it on the subcommittees. I notice there
25 is a couple missing. Maybe we can get together after

1 the meeting and maybe edit this a little bit, but go
2 from there.

3 As far as I'm on the Forest Service Liaison
4 Subcommittee, I had a meeting with Lee Johnson up in
5 the Mendocino. He's the district ranger up in the
6 Mendocino National Forest in the Upper Lake area. And
7 what we discussed is the possibility of reclassifying
8 some Class III roads to Class II roads to give them the
9 ability to be opened up to different types of use, and
10 it will also allow them to apply for grants to get
11 different type of funding.

12 They have an area that is east of Hull Mountain
13 that has got a number of land-locked OHV designated
14 trails. So there's two main roads that go through.
15 There's M-6 and M-61 that we discussed. We're going to
16 be going up and doing a tour of the area with some of
17 his staff, and he's very open to the possibility of
18 changing the designations.

19 The reasoning I used behind it was that the --
20 there's a couple of things. First off, that the larger
21 pickups that the hunters are using to get in the area,
22 they would rather use their side-by-sides and ATVs, but
23 they're stuck in their pickups. With that, they are
24 doing damage to the area. As far as on the main road,
25 the bigger pickups will do more damage than, let's say,

1 a side-by-side would. And also when they try to access
2 up into the OHV trails or get in the areas where
3 they're trying to do some hunting, they either have to
4 do it on foot, or they've got to tow their vehicle up
5 there and then use it, or actually in the worst case
6 scenario is they're trying to get up into these areas
7 with their pickups and actually are tearing up the
8 trails quite a bit.

9 So with that, he agreed with what my push was,
10 and he would like to be able to also apply for some
11 grant funding to be able to maintain those roads. So
12 it looks like this might be something that I'll be able
13 to start bringing to each different ranger district and
14 discussing with them, and hopefully we can have a
15 little expansion of this thought pattern that I've been
16 a proponent of.

17 My experience so far with the Forest Service has
18 been that they've been very open to my ideas and
19 suggestions, and also that the communication level
20 between the OHV Division with Deputy Director Conlin
21 has been excellent. And I think our partners there,
22 they're willing partners, and I think we're going to be
23 having a new generation that's going to be moving into
24 a new area there because they understand the importance
25 of the partnership, especially with their financial

1 issues they're facing right now on the federal side.

2 So that's pretty much what I have on that
3 report. And if anyone has any detailed questions or
4 any type of thing they'd like to ask me, by all means
5 feel free to contact me at the lunch break, and I'll
6 give you my contact information, and we can go from
7 there. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I have a question. These
9 vacant -- these other subcommittees that are listed
10 here, is there going to be a time when we're going to
11 be filling these or are these just for our information
12 only?

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Well, as far as I can see, for
14 information only at this point. If somebody would like
15 to volunteer -- if there comes a need for specific
16 information that one of those subcommittees could
17 address, we certainly have that opportunity to do that.

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I know we're always
19 pressed for time at these meetings. I'd like to work
20 through this list. There is one as an example that I
21 see on the other side, Subcommittee No. 11, the Red
22 Sticker Subcommittee, that's getting to be a rather
23 significant issue with the California Air Resources
24 Board. I think that subcommittee needs to be filled.
25 And maybe as the Commission we can kind of work through

1 these and maybe report on each one as we need to go.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Shall we go ahead and do that
3 now?

4 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: We're just doing a quick
5 discussion to figure out if these are standing or
6 ad hoc subcommittees.

7 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: While we're waiting,
8 Commissioner Cabral, you and I are on the Clear Creek
9 Management Subcommittee?

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Did you have any follow-up
12 from that?

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I have had some
14 follow-up, and the answer is nothing has happened.
15 Every time I ask, it's like, well, we're waiting, so.

16 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Thank you.

17 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: So the short answer on the
18 subcommittee, this is sort of a menu. These are
19 subcommittees that have been around in the past. They
20 were filled by other members. As members left or as
21 the issues kind of dropped off, the subcommittee went
22 dormant for one reason or another. So I think in
23 answer to your questions about should we address some
24 of these, I would suggest just using it as a menu.

25 As you mentioned, Commissioner Cabral, about the

1 Red Sticker, you're right; that's becoming a relevant
2 issue. That will be something that we are going to
3 have to work on with CARB.

4 So if there is interest in the Commission on
5 reenergizing a couple of these subcommittees, then go
6 for it, but don't feel like you have to fill every one
7 of them. They're not statutory.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Having said that, does anybody
9 have a burning desire to join one of these
10 subcommittees?

11 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I do not have a burning
12 desire, but we have a need. So I would like to be on
13 the Cost Recovery Subcommittee.

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I know in the past I
15 expressed interest in the Education Subcommittee. I
16 see your name is there, Paul.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Right.

18 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Is that something that
19 you're still interested in doing?

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Absolutely, but for various
21 reasons that's fallen off the website. We've talked in
22 the past about reenergizing the Education Subcommittee
23 and how important that is. And it's probably the
24 Deputy Director's call whether we move forward with
25 that. It takes some resources.

1 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: The resources are there to
2 use, and education is absolutely critical. I don't
3 have any issue with that. We will certainly take any
4 recommendations you've got on what we need to do with
5 the education aspect, and we certainly have people
6 already dedicated to that in the staff.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: The previous subcommittee
8 meetings on education, I believe the last one was at
9 Prairie City, and there were several people outside of
10 staff that were included in that. I wonder if we
11 should reconnect with those people, ask them if they're
12 still interested and see if we can set a date.

13 CHIEF JENKINS: That was the statewide education
14 committee. We took initial direction from them,
15 implemented some of those things. Since then we've
16 switched our interpretive coordinator for the Division,
17 so now we have a fresh face in there. It might be a
18 good time. Your advice is well taken. We can
19 reconvene that group. It was a very helpful group. We
20 had a broad representation of professors from various
21 universities, whatnot, so we can do that, yes.

22 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Kathryn Tobias, legal counsel
23 for the Commission. May I add for the audience who may
24 not know this that there's two types of committees that
25 the Commission can use under Bagley-Keene Act. So one

1 is a standing committee. That is a noticed committee,
2 must have agendas and a notice of meetings within ten
3 days of its meeting.

4 The other type of committee is an ad hoc
5 committee. That's two members, and the ad hoc
6 committees are really more appropriate for issues that
7 arise, and we will have some kind of resolution and
8 then go away.

9 If you're going to have something that's really
10 continuing on and especially something that really
11 needs public input, then that may be more appropriate
12 for a standing committee, which actually then is
13 appointed by you, and as I said does require notice.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: And education falls under that?

15 COUNSEL TOBIAS: It sounds to me like it does.
16 I'll certainly bow to Deputy Director and Chief on
17 that, but it sounds to me like what you're describing
18 is more like a standing committee.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: So should we have a discussion on
20 what should be ad hoc and what should be appointed?

21 COUNSEL TOBIAS: That's up to you. It would
22 probably be better to have that noticed so that if you
23 want to -- really if you're going to appoint a standing
24 committee, we really should have had notice so that
25 people --

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: So put it on the agenda for next
2 meeting then?

3 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Sure.

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: The education committee?

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: The whole thing. We should go
6 through this list -- I'm assuming go through this list
7 and discuss individual needs.

8 COUNSEL TOBIAS: I think if you're going to go
9 through the whole list, that probably is a good agenda
10 item. If at any meeting you want to add somebody to an
11 ad hoc committee or something like that, that's
12 certainly appropriate in your authority as the Chair.
13 But if you're really going to look at everything and
14 people are going to start to take -- if you're really
15 reallocating people to committees and things like that,
16 might be best to have it noticed.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: For instance, the Triennial
18 Report Committee, after this meeting we don't need to
19 have that committee anymore.

20 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Right.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other discussion?

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'd like to discuss a
23 couple of things. I've just had an update on the Clear
24 Creek Management Area, so I can speak to it. It just
25 fell out of the air.

1 Starting this coming week of November 18 and 19,
2 there will be taking of Division-funded scientists out
3 to the Clear Creek area by Division staff. And they'll
4 be doing it for two days each of the next five months,
5 and they'll be working also with the California
6 Geological Survey. So there is going to be some
7 monitoring going on with scientists out at Clear Creek
8 it sounds like during the appropriate time, which would
9 be the winter months when there is more moisture in the
10 soil.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other discussion on
12 committees?

13 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Chair Slavik, I want to be
14 clear, so we're going to place this as an agenda item
15 to review all committees and determine which ones we
16 want to move forward with?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Which ones would be standing
18 committees and which ones would be ad hoc, right.

19 Thank you for bringing that up.

20 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: The last one on our list
21 here is the Back Country Discovery Trail, which is also
22 known as the Statewide Motorized Recreation Trail.
23 There's been some work done in that with the Division
24 staff as far as producing historic maps; discussed with
25 the Forest Service regarding some of their Back Country

1 Discovery Trail program that they already have in place
2 in Northern California. I have personally gone out and
3 ridden those areas to make sure that they exist and to
4 follow the maps they gave me and the brochures. I have
5 a couple of brochures with me if anybody would like to
6 see them later.

7 And this is a real possibility to be able to put
8 this system together. Unfortunately, it's really hard
9 for me to gauge what support it would have from the
10 public. And if it's hard for me, since I'm on the
11 subcommittee. I'm sure it's hard for the rest of
12 everybody up here at the table and Division staff and
13 everything else.

14 So I'm looking in to creating some publicity for
15 this to see if there is going to be any support for
16 this type of a program. So next meeting I'll have a
17 more complete report on an idea I have floating around
18 in my head that is possibly something that we can put
19 together to kind of bring this to a head and get this
20 moving forward or take it off the agenda because it's
21 an item that's been there for a while. It's in the
22 Triennial Report. I believe it's supposed to be done
23 around 2020 is the time we were looking for time frame
24 wise. But I certainly would like to have it done
25 before then if we're going to move forward with it. So

1 that's my report on it.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Isn't that legislatively
3 mandated?

4 CHIEF JENKINS: Yes, it's also in legislation.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Right. So we have a good reason
6 to keep moving forward.

7 I'd like to thank staff for this document. I
8 believe we asked for this -- I can't remember when.
9 Excellent resource. Is there one up there for the
10 public to take a look at?

11 CHIEF JENKINS: We don't have one for the public
12 today. We can post it online as part of our Commission
13 materials, and that way anybody can access it any time
14 they want. Might be a good idea.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Might be a good idea. Thank you.

16 **AGENDA ITEM V (A) - BUSINESS ITEMS - ELECTION OF**

17 **OFFICERS FOR 2014**

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Next business item, we have
19 election of officers for 2014.

20 CHIEF JENKINS: Just very briefly, background on
21 that, the current Chair, yourself, since we had a loss
22 of a Chair midterm -- that's why this term lasted more
23 than a year. Leading up to this reelection, we were
24 looking into are there still parameters from old
25 Commission policies that would say you can't do two

1 terms back to back or anything of that sort.

2 Our research on the Commission policy showed us
3 that there were various policies about some constraints
4 on how many times you could serve and whether they
5 could be concurrent. Back after SB 742 was passed in
6 2008 when the Commission reset the bar and rewrote all
7 of your policies, there are no constraints currently
8 per Commission policy on the election of chairs.

9 And so it's an open ticket, essentially. You
10 need to elect a chair and a vice chair for the next
11 term. People can be reelected. You can go with new
12 chairs, however you choose to do that.

13 It's also silent on when they take effect, so
14 you can have an election right now. The current chair
15 could finish out the meeting and the new chair could
16 start at the next meeting, or you could have an
17 election now and immediately pass the gavel.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: And we can't have an election
19 midterm next year or something like that. We have to
20 do that now. That's the one criteria, I believe.

21 CHIEF JENKINS: Yes, that's correct.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Just to be clear on that.

23 All right. Any discussion?

24 I'll lead off. I don't mind continuing my
25 position here as the chair. I have a few other things

1 I'd like to see accomplished in the next year. I know
2 Commissioner Breene is kind of on the short list for
3 leaving. And I guess we should ask if you're
4 interested in continuing in being a vice chair --
5 probably is not appropriate at this point.

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: As I mentioned, I'm going to
7 serve until a new commissioner can be appointed by the
8 Speaker probably sometime early next year.

9 But just to kind of move this forward, I think,
10 Paul, I would like to nominate you to continue on as
11 the Commission Chair. I don't know if there is anybody
12 willing to second that?

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Anybody willing to second that
14 motion?

15 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I'll second.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a vote.

17 I abstain.

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is that unanimous? All right.

24 So the question of a vice chair.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: And so since I'm a short

1 timer --

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Motion passed. I'm sorry.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'd like to further nominate
4 Ted Cabral for vice chair because I know he's got a lot
5 of projects and a lot of things he wants to get done
6 over the next few years, and I'm looking forward to
7 seeing what he can accomplish, so I'd like to nominate
8 him for vice chair.

9 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Second.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor?

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Well, before you vote, I
12 would be interested in the vice chair seat myself.
13 I've been on the Commission for three years, and I'm
14 certainly dedicated to this program. I'd like to be
15 considered as vice chair. My term doesn't end until
16 2016, so I certainly have some time.

17 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I'll move to nominate
18 Diana as vice chair.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: We have two motions then.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: So how does this work?

21 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Well, we don't really have a
22 procedure for this, clearly. But under Robert's Rules
23 of Order, one of the ways you could deal with this, if
24 there is an existing motion, then that means that the
25 second motion that's made is a substitute motion, which

1 means that the substitute motion is voted on first.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: The substitute motion is voted on
3 first.

4 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Correct, under Robert's Rules
5 of Order.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. So we take a vote on
7 whether Diana Perez would be the vice chair in the
8 upcoming session.

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: Let's do roll call.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Roll call, okay.

11 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Abstain.

12 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I don't know if I can vote
13 for myself. Yes, for me.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: I abstain.

15 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'll abstain.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Where does that take us?

19 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Can you announce the vote,
20 Vicki?

21 THE CLERK: Three abstentions and three ayes.

22 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Well, an abstention is not a
23 vote. So if you have three, this does not come under
24 quorum, so it's really just a majority vote.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Should we retake the vote?

1 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Your pleasure as Chair to do
2 that.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think we ought to try this
4 again.

5 Can we do this by roll call, Vicki?

6 THE CLERK: For vice chair for Commissioner
7 Cabral?

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: No, for Diana Perez, vice
9 chair -- the motion is for Diana Perez to be vice
10 chair.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner Slavik?

12 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Well, I would say that that
13 motion actually passed. If you have three votes and
14 the rest of the people chose not to vote, then that's
15 basically a vote. You can interpret it any way you
16 want, but I would say from a legal point of view, that
17 that was probably a passed motion.

18 If you'd like to retake it because people would
19 like to change their votes that's certainly the
20 prerogative of the Chair.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any discussion on that?

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'd like to change my
23 vote. I would like to vote no.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: No offense.

1 COUNSEL TOBIAS: No, if you're going to change
2 your vote, you should basically revote.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: Is this a motion for
4 reconsideration?

5 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: In the motion to reconsider
7 Commissioner Diana Perez for vice chair, Commissioner
8 Slavik.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: No.

10 THE CLERK: Commissioner Kerr.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cabral.

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: No.

14 THE CLERK: Commission Patrovsky.

15 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: No.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Perez.

17 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Villegas.

19 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: The vote is three/three.

21 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: If I may say, Counsel, I
22 think that if it's a tie, it does pass as you've
23 mentioned.

24 COUNSEL TOBIAS: I think that's correct.

25 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: So congratulations to the

1 two office holders. Good job.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: A lot of drama, yes. Okay.
3 Thank you. Welcome, Diana.

4 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Thank you.

5 **AGENDA ITEM V (B) - BUSINESS ITEMS - 2014 COMMISSION**

6 **MEETING CALENDAR**

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Moving on, 2014 Commission
8 calendar.

9 CHIEF JENKINS: You see there under Tab 4 a
10 discussion -- there's a lot of background information
11 in there about you have to have four meetings per year,
12 what the meetings are supposed to be directed towards.

13 But what I wanted to point out, this year our
14 Director has asked that we make an effort with all of
15 the Commissions to avoid doubling up on weekends, most
16 particularly between this Commission, the OHMVR
17 Commission and the State Park and Rec Commission,
18 because both of those commissions share Kathryn Tobias
19 as counsel.

20 So what we ran into this year was there were
21 some times when we were meeting and they were meeting,
22 and it created difficulty for Kathryn who can't
23 physically be in two places, which is why we had the
24 Chief Counsel for the Department here for couple of
25 meetings.

1 There are four commissions that we're working
2 around. So besides yourselves, there is the State Park
3 and Rec Commission. There's now the Boating and
4 Waterways Commission added to the Department. There's
5 the Office of Historic Preservation. They have their
6 own Commission, and then there's the new Parks Forward
7 Commission.

8 In the past, this Commission has been extremely
9 well organized. We were one of the few commissions
10 where the agenda was set for the entire year, so
11 everybody always knew when we were meeting.
12 Unfortunately, this year coming up to this meeting, all
13 those other commissions have already picked dates.

14 So what we included in your materials down
15 around the bottom of page 2 is a short list. In the
16 very back of your packet, by the way, is the entire
17 year's calendar that marks off various things going on
18 that we should try to avoid, either Commission meetings
19 or unavailability of some of our membership.

20 So what then we did was look at your
21 availability individually, and we looked at the
22 potential conflicts with other commissions, and then
23 created this short list at the bottom of page 2, top of
24 page 3. Those would be the best dates. Those dates
25 wouldn't conflict with any other commission meetings

1 and should be available for all of the Commissioners.

2 That being said, we also discussed with
3 leadership that if you can't find dates there that work
4 for you, we might be able to double up on one or two of
5 the other Commission meetings. Just keep in mind that
6 the General would like to be able to come and attend
7 meetings, and when there is doubling up, then he
8 doesn't have the prerogative. So that's the
9 background.

10 We also tried to look at some of the major
11 events going on around the state and, of course, tried
12 to take that into account because we want to have as
13 many members of the public as possible to be able to
14 attend the meetings with us, of course. So that's the
15 history of that list.

16 On the wall we have summarized all of that, so
17 those yellow dates on that calendar on the screen
18 represent the list of open dates that's included in
19 your packets there. So that's the starting point, and
20 then from that you guys can make your best decision on
21 when you want to meet.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Kind of a game changer?

23 CHIEF JENKINS: It is a new game, yes.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Discussion, Commissioners?

25 (Discussion on available dates ensued.)

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Do we have any required places
2 that we have to meet? I'm thinking of the acquisition
3 at Onyx or anything else that's mandated?

4 CHIEF JENKINS: The only time that we would be
5 required to be in a certain location would be for
6 either the approval of a general plan or an acquisition
7 is called out. We had that one EIR meeting where we
8 had some Commissioners attend, which I believe
9 fulfilled the requirement for that Commission meeting
10 in a location of a new acquisition. That being said, I
11 know there is a lot of interest in the local groups
12 around there to have you in that area, but I don't
13 think it's tied to a certain date.

14 And as far as general plans, we don't anticipate
15 having a general plan ready for approval this coming
16 year; although, you all may want to go back to some of
17 the areas where the general plans are approaching that
18 level so you can continue to get some local input on
19 those. But once again there is no date requirement on
20 that.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: And one of those general plans
22 that we might be interested in is Carnegie?

23 CHIEF JENKINS: Certainly, Carnegie. We're here
24 in Ocotillo Wells, obviously partly because of the
25 general plan developing here. Carnegie is the next one

1 in line most likely.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: And, Commissioners, we've talked
3 about having a meeting in a winter location to look at
4 the snowmobile program, which we've never really looked
5 at, so that means either February or December.

6 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: That would be about it.
7 We'd probably like a little bit more prep than
8 February for one of your winter locations, so we might
9 target next year December if we're going to do that.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I would suggest either
11 February or April for a desert meeting while it's still
12 cool, and if we're still looking at going to Ridgecrest
13 or Mojave to do a field trip at Onyx acquisition, is
14 that something that we could entertain? You wanted to
15 see Onyx?

16 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes, I did.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're all interested in Onyx.
18 It's a big deal coming up.

19 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: As far as the schedule goes,
20 February looks okay for everybody? February looks good
21 for everybody, so that one is locked in.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Let's back up just a second here.
23 There's another discussion that's happened at previous
24 meetings about having Saturday and Sunday -- Friday and
25 Saturday meetings and having the Friday meeting the

1 business meeting so that the agency and actually you
2 folks don't have to entertain people at time and a half
3 or whatever you do. And we've heard that from the
4 audience, as well.

5 CHIEF JENKINS: The other thing, I know there
6 are some members of the public that have some
7 preferences on dates and places, so I don't know if you
8 want to take any input on that before you make a final
9 decision.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Can we ask for public comment on
11 it now?

12 THE CLERK: I only have one card.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. If anybody is interested
14 in throwing something in the hat about an upcoming
15 meeting, this would be a good time to do it, and just
16 give Vicki the green card.

17 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners.
18 First off -- John Stewart, California Association of
19 Four-Wheel Drive Clubs.

20 First off, I have a personal request. It's very
21 difficult for the audience to hear because somehow the
22 microphones are not picking up, so we request that you
23 please either speak closer to the microphones or
24 something so we can hear.

25 Now, with respect to meeting dates, I am opting

1 for supporting any avenue that can drive the largest
2 availability of the meetings to the public. The
3 Commission is in the business to solicit input from the
4 public. So something that will solicit and accommodate
5 the public's schedules, work schedules, I think is very
6 appropriate and something that the Commission should
7 really take into consideration because you are here to
8 serve the public. Thank you.

9 JIM BRAMHAM: The evening presentation at
10 Carnegie last week or this week actually shows that the
11 public will show up for an evening meeting during a
12 weekday process, and you might consider that, as well
13 as the weekends, as a possibility to get more folks to
14 show up.

15 And, secondarily, we would like to invite you to
16 the sand dunes at Glamis for February, of course. And
17 your best winter is February in the north. December is
18 still sketchy as far as snowfall. So if you're going
19 to do one, I would either put it in February and forgo
20 the Glamis. But as the Deputy Director said, that
21 would be a very short window, but your best snow is
22 going to be January or February or March in the north.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: We ran into last time when we
24 tried to do a winter meeting, we ran into some real
25 hiccups with the Forest Service trying to put something

1 together at the last minute.

2 NICOLE NICHOLAS GILLES: Hello, my name is
3 Nicole Nicholas Gilles. I'm the Executive Director of
4 the American Sand Association.

5 And I would like to thank you for being here
6 today; although, originally this meeting was scheduled
7 to be held at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area,
8 but because of the government shutdown things got
9 changed. So I'm glad that you're down in our neck of
10 the woods; however, I would still like to get you a
11 little bit further to the Imperial Sand Dunes.

12 We receive grant funding for many, many
13 operations at the sand dunes, and I think it would be
14 very important to make sure that everyone is on the
15 same page so you can see what the issues are down
16 there, so I would like to invite you. Thank you.

17 DAVE PICKETT: Good morning, Dave Pickett,
18 District 36.

19 Reminder, February is when King of the Hammers,
20 King of the Motos takes place. You might want to have
21 that as a consideration. And then --

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: What's the date?

23 DAVE PICKETT: I don't know the exact date.

24 AUDIENCE: 2nd through the 9th.

25 DAVE PICKETT: The topic of having a

1 Friday/Saturday weekend combined Commission meeting, I
2 talked to Mr. Amador and Mr. Harris on this, the three
3 of us have batted this around quite a bit. The whole
4 idea was to increase participation at Commission
5 meetings by having it on Saturday, more open to the
6 public to work around work schedules, et cetera.

7 From what I can see, it has not increased
8 participation. I would like to see it go back to the
9 traditional during the workweek, and I'm speaking on
10 behalf of Mr. Harris and Mr. Amador on that also. So
11 I'd really like you to think about that for the future.

12 A lot of weekends that the Commission meeting
13 takes place, those of us that are regulars miss other
14 activities that are going on while we feel that this is
15 extremely important, that's why we always show up. So
16 I'd like you to keep that in mind for consideration.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: We had a discussion at that
19 previous Commission meeting -- we all remember that. I
20 think the result of that was that we would continue to
21 have business meetings on a Friday, unless there was
22 some situation that drove it to be a Saturday business
23 meeting, some controversy or something along those
24 lines that we needed to do something different.

25 The Chair recognizes Jane Arteaga from the BLM.

1 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: I apologize, I didn't fill
2 out a card. But good morning to everyone.

3 And just on behalf of BLM, whether we go down to
4 Imperial Sand Dunes in February or possibly Eagle Lake,
5 which is on the other side of the world of California,
6 in February to have the winter experience, those are
7 options. Also, if we choose to go to Imperial Sand
8 Dunes in April, we can do that also. But you're
9 missing the hoards of public that go down to visit that
10 area at that time. And you may want to consider Cow
11 Mountain in June, Ukiah area. Those are options
12 available.

13 And as far as BLM and attendance to these
14 meetings, we will always have representation. It may
15 not be myself because of travel restrictions for me,
16 but there will be representation at all of the meetings
17 whenever we can generate the most public to attend
18 these meetings.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

20 Commissioners, any discussion?

21 (Discussion on available dates ensued.)

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'd like to address what
23 the public was discussing would be -- trying to get
24 more participation here. I think I agree with Jim. I
25 think being at the Carnegie public workshop in the

1 evening, there was a much greater turnout from the
2 public, and I just think that having it weekday/evening
3 would be a much better process for the public, and then
4 having our tours to be on the Saturdays during the day.
5 So that's just a thought. That would seem to make more
6 sense to me.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: I agree with you, but the reason
8 I think they had a lot of participation is because of
9 what was going on at Carnegie with the general plan.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Well, I would agree it's a
11 hot subject. Any time we have a hot subject here, we
12 should have more participation than what we have in the
13 crowd right now.

14 I'm just saying since I've been on this here,
15 we've had relatively low participation from the public,
16 and I think we owe it to the public to be able to try
17 something different. And my experience with all of the
18 other public meetings that I've been involved with are
19 that the evening ones are better attended.

20 CHIEF JENKINS: I was trying to recall the
21 discussion at the previous meeting regarding the
22 weekend issue. The way I recall it going, I have to
23 double check the record, but I thought what had come
24 out of that was that you would go to, generally
25 speaking, weekday meetings for the tour and the meeting

1 itself and would only put the Saturday on the agenda
2 when it was needed. Because like Hangtown was going
3 on, for instance, if you wanted to go on an event that
4 was only on a Saturday, then you would pull it into a
5 Saturday. I could be incorrect. That's what I recall
6 the general consensus of that discussion.

7 And just as a note, sometimes on those events
8 you want to be out in a place on the weekend so you can
9 see the crowd. But other times on those events, you
10 want to be out there when we can have a more quiet
11 discussion. We can really look at facilities and see
12 stuff without having to deal with the noise and
13 commotion going on around you.

14 So just a couple of things to consider as you
15 move forward. And weekdays are always easier on the
16 host, because usually on the weekend the staff is fully
17 committed to running the place. And on a weekday they
18 can put a lot more resources into showing and
19 demonstrating what they have.

20 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: And to follow up on that
21 also as far as budgetary-type needs, costs of hotel
22 rooms, supplies and transportation and everything is
23 cheaper midweek than it is on the weekends typically,
24 so I think that would be a benefit to our government
25 partners in this program.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: So are we at some kind of a
2 consensus here that weekdays are the general direction
3 that we should take, and then be flexible if there is
4 an event that's specifically that we need?

5 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: That would help us a lot.
6 If we can pick four weeks right now that generally we
7 have consensus on, then we can play within those weeks,
8 is it a weekday or weekend, that would help us
9 tremendously. Then we can start putting something to
10 paper.

11 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Weekends are more
12 convenient for me, but I will work my schedule around
13 to fit the needs. And I like Ted's idea for evening
14 meetings rather than the day. I think we'll get better
15 attendance weekday evenings. And I also like the idea
16 of tieing these events in with specifics, such as the
17 King of the Hammers, and also the proposed date in
18 February in the Ridgecrest area regarding the Onyx
19 annexation.

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I have a question regarding
21 the evening meetings. Does that mean they start in the
22 morning or do they start midday into the evening? What
23 time do those meetings start?

24 CHIEF JENKINS: They start whenever you tell us
25 to.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: So generally these meetings will
2 go from about 9:00 to 4:00 or 5:00, sometimes 3:00, but
3 having it that short usually is not the norm, if I
4 remember.

5 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Probably have to start
6 in the evening to capture the community.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: City council meetings start
8 at either 6:30 or 7:00 and they go to about midnight.
9 You have to adjust the agenda so that you have the
10 stuff you want the public comment on appropriately
11 timed, and you have a time certain for that. And it
12 works great. You get a lot of people.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Maybe we can do the business
14 stuff prior to dinnertime, let's say, and after
15 dinnertime, you do the public comment stuff. I'm
16 totally open to having meetings in the evening if it
17 gets the most public here as possible. That's our real
18 goal here.

19 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Okay. Why don't we try that
20 out in February, so we will look at that as a Thursday
21 Friday, okay, for the February meeting?

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Back up a little bit,
23 Thursday/Friday, it still means you've got some travel
24 probably on Saturday. What if we did a midweek thing
25 so your people can get back on a regular schedule?

1 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: That poses a serious
2 issue for me. That would be three days.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Any other Commissioners
4 that poses a problem for?

5 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Midweek would be more
6 difficult for me.

7 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Same here.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: So Thursday/Friday is a
9 consensus.

10 (Discussion on available dates ensued.)

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: I do have one more public comment
12 from the public.

13 SHERRI KUKLA: Thank you. I'm Sherri Kukla.
14 I'm the publisher of S&S Off-Road Magazine. We're
15 based here in Ocotillo Wells.

16 And I don't necessarily have an opinion on when
17 the meetings should be held to attract the public, but
18 I think there should be consideration given as to how
19 the public are being notified of the meetings, because
20 I don't really think most people are aware of them. If
21 they're in a club or we're a magazine so we get press
22 releases, we know.

23 But I would say the majority of people that we
24 are friends with who are green sticker, red sticker
25 vehicle owners have no knowledge of this meeting going

1 on or what the purpose of it is or what they're
2 supposed to do when they come here.

3 So I think there might be some consideration
4 given on how to let the public know well in advance,
5 and then let them know what are they supposed to do
6 when they come here, what is the purpose of them being
7 here. And I'd like to be a part of helping to
8 publicize it. And just wanted to give you my five
9 cents. Thank you.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Well taken. We've talked in the
11 past about how we get the word out for these meetings
12 and whether we use social media or however we do it.
13 It's the latest thing. I think that's where the
14 Education Committee comes up.

15 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: We've been trying to get it
16 out on all forms of media that we have access to. But
17 if there are ideas from the public on better ways we
18 can do that, we will certainly take those in.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Just my experience talking to
20 people out in the field, I know lots of people don't
21 have any clue about this Commission. They might know
22 about the green sticker program, kind of in cursory
23 thing know there is money floating around there
24 somewhere and has something to do with the trails
25 they're riding on. But most people that I'm coming in

1 contact with have very little understanding of the
2 program specifically. So I think whatever we can do to
3 move that forward is a benefit to our public.

4 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Is it possible when we're
5 going to be in a specific area to send out a news press
6 release, let the community know by a little article?

7 COUNSEL TOBIAS: There's always a legal notice.
8 I mean it's probably not what everybody is looking for,
9 but there is always a legal notice on it. And, of
10 course, the dates are all on the website.

11 But I don't know that there's anything -- any
12 reason we can't do a press release in that particular
13 area. Newspaper noticing is very expensive, so.

14 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: And people don't read
15 newspapers anymore, so.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: That's not a bad area of
17 discussion. And you talked about public noticing,
18 that's really pretty meaningless.

19 I think that it is a worthwhile goal to get
20 better public participation. And maybe as far as the
21 cost of it, I think it would be relatively minor
22 compared to the cost of having 25 vehicles out in the
23 desert yesterday and all of the staff time and
24 everything else.

25 So maybe that's something that the Commission

1 should think about is how can you make yourself better
2 known to the public and get more public participation.
3 And particularly if you're going to go into some
4 evening format where you start in the afternoon and
5 have some public comment at a time around seven o'clock
6 at night, maybe you could get a group in. And that
7 meeting down at Jawbone, maybe that would be a good
8 example of where you do want to hear from the public.

9 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: In the area that I live --
10 I don't know if most communities have an independent
11 newspaper, but it's out there. They're printing it,
12 and people are reading it. There's still the boomer
13 generation that still reads that's not going online for
14 everything.

15 Or even a short notice on TV, a local station,
16 there is going to be a meeting somewhere. I think that
17 we can do something to get more of the public. I think
18 there is interest. I agree with the speaker who said
19 we need to let them know that we're coming in advance.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Try billboards? In access points
21 like coming into Anza-Borrego area, if there were an
22 opportunity to put a billboard there that there is a
23 public meeting coming up regarding this, I think as the
24 people stream in here they're going to know about that.
25 That's the quickest way to get people to know about it.

1 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: That's a good idea. To
2 discuss that just quickly, you have how many SVRAs that
3 have signage opportunity that each meeting could be
4 noticed at the SVRAs -- not noticed, but actually
5 promoted where there is a sign saying this is the next
6 opportunity for public participation in this type of
7 forum. It would be not that big of a deal to erect
8 signs at each SVRA and do that.

9 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: We can look at other
10 advertising options, alternatives. Certainly something
11 we can look at trying to do. We would also ask the
12 community, too, as much as you can to get the word out.
13 That's usually our best method for getting the word to
14 everybody that's interested.

15 (Discussion on available dates ensued.)

16 THE REPORTER: May I have all the dates decided
17 upon?

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I have it.

19 February 27th through 28th, May 1st and 2nd,
20 September 25th and 26 potentially, and December 11th
21 and 12th.

22 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Can I make one request?
23 As these meeting dates are confirmed, if we can get
24 them on our own website as soon as possible, I think
25 that would help also get the word out.

1 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Great idea.

2 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'd like some
3 clarification. So each of these meetings is going to
4 have an evening component, is that what we agreed to?

5 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: I think what we said is we
6 will try it out in February and see how that works. If
7 it seems like a model to do it that way, we will
8 continue it. But for right now all we're doing is
9 blocking a Thursday/Friday.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: So, Paul, before we leave
11 this topic, you're talking about February being
12 potentially sort of a trial of a new format, a little
13 bit of an evening component. What is it that you're
14 going to talk about down there that you want the public
15 involved with?

16 Can you provide staff direction for -- the word
17 "advertising" is probably exactly not the right word.
18 But there could be posters at the Jawbone Visitor
19 Center. There could be things around the local
20 community; might be some e-mails supplied to the local
21 clubs. What is it you're trying to get input on, and
22 while you're there, what do you want the public there
23 for?

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: If you're asking me that
25 question, it's for information regarding the potential

1 acquisition and what it means to them as constituents
2 of that area, people who visit that area. Right now
3 there is a lot of misinformation.

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: There is an agenda item
5 about the acquisition, and that's what you're trying to
6 get the public to come in and talk about?

7 I think that would be clear direction from the
8 Commission that's what you're trying to promote to the
9 public.

10 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Right.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I would add to that, thinking
12 about this, and the OHV areas around Jawbone, El Mirage
13 comes to mind, several places where there could be some
14 kind of a signage. You're getting hundreds of people
15 in these places a day in some cases that would be
16 potentially interested in what's going on at Onyx.
17 That would be your direct marketing campaign, I
18 believe.

19 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: We'll publicize that, get
20 the word out to everybody. There is already a lot of
21 interest in us coming down there and what's going on.
22 The public wants to find out about it. So I think
23 we'll generate a lot of interest just simply by being
24 there, but we will get the word out on the street.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other discussion on calendar

1 items? Move away from that. It's done.

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1 **AGENDA ITEM V (C) - BUSINESS ITEMS - 2014 TRIENNIAL**

2 **REPORT**

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Item C under the Business Items
4 is review and comment on draft two of the Triennial
5 OHMVR Program Report.

6 I'd like to start off with this. Commissioner
7 Perez and I are on the subcommittee for this. We have
8 chatted a couple of times, most recently last night,
9 and want to commend staff, especially you, Dan, on the
10 excellent job. Excellent job. Reading this -- I did
11 spend some time. I wouldn't say I have read every word
12 of it, but it really seems to follow an historical
13 context of where this program has been in the past and
14 where it's going now. So thank you for that.

15 OHMVR MANAGER CANFIELD: Thank you,
16 Commissioner. Hello, Commissioners, Dan Canfield,
17 OHMVR Division Planning Manager presenting the
18 Triennial OHMVR Program Report business item on your
19 agenda.

20 The report has been provided to you in your
21 binders behind Tab No. 5. This report is also
22 available on the back table for the public.

23 The Triennial Report, or as we've been calling
24 it, the 2014 Report, is due to the Legislature and the
25 Governor on or about January 1, 2014. Draft No. 2 of

1 the 2014 Report was provided to the Commissioners,
2 posted up on the Division website, and also we have a
3 couple of desk copies on the back table for the public
4 to review.

5 The contents of 2014 Report have previously been
6 discussed at both the May 17th and the September 20th,
7 2013 Commission meetings. Draft No. 2 is the product
8 of the feedback the Division received at these two
9 meetings. State law requires that the contents of the
10 report be discussed at a minimum at two Commission
11 meetings. So with today's meeting we have surpassed
12 that requirement.

13 Draft No. 2 does include placeholders near the
14 beginning for a letter from the Chair and a letter from
15 the Deputy Director. These letters can be added once
16 the report is finalized. Additionally, the Commission
17 had previously requested a summary document. This
18 summary document can be assembled once the main report
19 is finalized as well.

20 This is the last Commission meeting that the
21 2014 Report will be discussed. At today's meeting, the
22 OHMVR Division needs to get confirmation from the
23 Commission on finalizing the report for submittal to
24 the Governor and Legislature.

25 At this point I'd like to turn it back over to

1 the Commission to receive public comment and to have
2 discussion on the 2014 Report.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

4 Do you want to open it up?

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Dan, thank you for your
6 work. It is a great document, and I actually have read
7 it two or three times.

8 Chair Slavik and I went over it, and for the
9 most part I think it's done. You've got those maps
10 that I wanted back in there, so I was pleased to see
11 that. I absolutely love the front cover. I think
12 that's great. Love it and love the pictures and just
13 the way it's composed.

14 I know I was looking for specific information,
15 and it was great to find it. You know, if I wanted to
16 find something, it was great to be able to locate it if
17 I was looking for targeted information.

18 And, Chair Slavik, you can join me, probably the
19 only area of discussion that came up was the executive
20 summary, and I know you mentioned that, and I think
21 that when I read the executive summary, at least for me
22 I see it as an opportunity maybe for someone who
23 doesn't have the time to go through the entire book to
24 get a sense of who we are and what we do.

25 And I think in the executive summary, I'm

1 feeling like there is a need to add a little bit more
2 to it. I thought it needed a little bit of an
3 introduction. Even though the introduction is on the
4 following page, it just seems to kind of jump somewhere
5 in the middle.

6 And then the other pieces that we discussed were
7 the new leadership that we have for the Division. I
8 think it's a good point, to point out that we have new
9 leadership.

10 And, again, what I would like to use this
11 particular summary for is when I'm meeting with
12 legislators and they see this book, I want them to be
13 able to at least look at a couple of pages and leave
14 with a sense of who we are and what we're about. And I
15 think there is a little bit missing there.

16 Did you want to add anything, Chair Slavik?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes, thank you.

18 I made some notes here, Dan, and I concur. I
19 think the executive summary, and basically that first
20 three paragraphs there, I would like to expand on that
21 a little bit more and be a little bit more edgy, if you
22 will. You guys are writing from more of a bureaucratic
23 point of view. I would like to see it more come from
24 the Commission's point of view.

25 And to that end, I would like to talk about the

1 leadership, the new leadership that's in State Parks,
2 and the Deputy Director, and where that's kind of taken
3 us. I'd like to talk about in this area right here
4 that there's been challenges, and some of the funding
5 challenges that the Legislature have imposed on us.

6 I'd like to make sure that people understand
7 that this is the second report, so if somebody forgot,
8 that we've gone through this exercise before. That
9 probably should be right up front: This is the second
10 report, second report mandated by the Legislature.

11 And I don't see any pictures of the
12 Commissioners, so we probably need to do that. I
13 know it's been real difficult getting the Commissioners
14 together in one place. I guess we're going to have to
15 go to individual pictures. I think we should do that.

16 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Do we need them?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Pictures? It's the
18 Commissioners' report.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: It's more about the OHV
20 program, isn't it?

21 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: I understand that, but I think
23 that personalizes the report a little bit. I don't see
24 it doing any harm unless somebody had some objection to
25 that.

1 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I'd like to see a group
2 picture.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: But we can't do that because
4 Kevin is not here.

5 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Can't do it today.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes, we can't do it today, and we
7 couldn't do it the last time. So we're probably
8 looking at individual pictures, I guess, unless
9 somebody is good at Photoshopping.

10 So I would like to take a stab at rewriting this
11 with Diana and maybe we can pass text back and forth.
12 It shouldn't be too big of a deal.

13 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes, I don't think it
14 should be too much more.

15 And I don't know how important it is to mention
16 SB 742 just slightly, that it's something that we would
17 need to look forward. It's something you need to
18 address at some point.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: And then where we would draw the
20 line for the executive summary. I think that's
21 probably the biggest thing that we want to know as
22 Commissioners.

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Where does it end?

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: And where can the public take
25 that document?

1 CHIEF JENKINS: One thing that we had been
2 discussing on our team as we were working at the
3 executive summary was how far do you go with the
4 executive summary versus once the report is done. The
5 direction we took, and the reason the executive summary
6 is so much of a summary and not more expansive, we
7 heard what you had said last time about wanting a
8 bigger document to use as kind of a short course or
9 briefing document.

10 So what we have been discussing as a possibility
11 would be to take the report pretty much as it is. We
12 can expand it a little bit. We take your direction
13 however you want on that. But, in addition, what we
14 have been planning on doing to accommodate the need to
15 have somebody get a CliffNotes version is to create a
16 companion document.

17 Once this is approved and it is the report, now
18 we have all of that information, we can go back and
19 spend some more time with -- Debbie Burgeson, by the
20 way, is the master of the graphics. And so all of that
21 cover, all of the great graphics in the document, the
22 look and feel of it, as with the 2011 Report, she
23 handles all of those graphics and makes the material
24 accessible. Dan makes it digestible with content, and
25 he edits. We give that information to her.

1 So we've been talking about working with her in
2 creating a more condensed, friendly, short CliffNotes
3 version that would be a handy tool to pass around to
4 somebody that just has a short amount of time to look.
5 And then if they're interested, they can go into the
6 full report. That's just format-wise what we've been
7 looking at.

8 Just one question, Diana. You said we might
9 mention 742. I'm not really clear, a little more
10 explanation of what you're looking for there. Because
11 the way we've been approaching 742 is in Division
12 documents we've been phasing out references to 742 and
13 instead talking about the actual content of what 742
14 was. Because when we talk about 742, a lot of times
15 that just brings up a lot of the kind of conflict that
16 evolved around getting the decisions out of 742. So
17 our internal messaging is focused on -- we have a
18 direction from the Legislature. We have that
19 direction, and we're just focusing on existing
20 legislation that resulted from 742.

21 So I want to make sure I'm capturing it right.
22 Is it you're wanting us to make sure that we kind of
23 document that history of how we arrived to where we
24 are; is that what your reference is?

25 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: No, I was actually looking

1 forward to when the program sunsets in 2018, if there
2 is anything that needed to be done differently or
3 addressed at this point to address that upcoming
4 deadline.

5 CHIEF JENKINS: That's another message that
6 we've been working on internally that we need to really
7 all focus on because that's coming at us very quickly.

8 Thank you. Now I understand.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I think for the public out
10 there, when you see this document, it's your
11 responsibility, I believe, to take this thing and
12 digest it among your peers out there. Anybody who
13 wants to know anything about this program is in this
14 report. And in my experience here, it's probably the
15 best document I've seen that really traces that history
16 from start to finish. Thank you again for staff help.

17 Do we have any more discussion on this report?

18 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Just a few comments.

19 Yes, I really like the cover of the report.
20 First of all, it just captures California in diversity,
21 so I really commend the staff for finding a photo that
22 captures that.

23 Second, I agree with Paul and Diana just on
24 making those minor adjustments. I didn't have any in
25 terms of content that should be added on here, because

1 I was pleased to see that changes were made. But in
2 terms of follow-up and the next step after this is
3 ready to go out, just count me as a resource to be able
4 to deliver the message to the Senate and the Assembly.
5 And just the permanent -- you know, I always think of
6 know your audience and know who you are going to be
7 speaking to so you can highlight their specific
8 projects and what they've done over the years when
9 we're submitting.

10 A report this thick, it's not going to be read
11 in its entirety, but if we just flash of couple of
12 pages that pertain to their district would be good. I
13 know this report needs to be given to the Assembly
14 Water Parks and Wildlife. So just knowing specifically
15 the projects that could be highlighted in the report I
16 think would be good.

17 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Thanks. That's our intent.
18 We have a statutory requirement to have a report like
19 this done by the end of the year, but we have more time
20 to kind of create that nice glossy handout that we're
21 trying to do that will summarize this. We have a
22 little bit more time to do that and think about it once
23 we've got this statutory requirement done.

24 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I have a couple of
25 comments on this. First off, excellent job, I really

1 like what's going on with this document.

2 One area that I want to point out to the public
3 is something that we asked to be included that has been
4 a subject that's been kind of sidestepped at times and
5 to have it in here with the loans and transfers -- the
6 loans and transfers from the OHV Trust Fund on page 9
7 and have the detailed information on that flip over the
8 next couple of the pages, I think the manner that it
9 was handled was perfect. It's laid out in a manner
10 that is clear and well written, something that someone
11 could easily understand. And it doesn't come out
12 across in a negative manner, so thank you.

13 The other thing would be the economic impact of
14 the OHV use. I think this was an important item to
15 include, and it looks great.

16 My criticism would be of it is I believe the
17 executive summary -- I know what you guys are doing
18 with the executive summary, and I don't even know if it
19 needs to be edited. I think it's presented improperly.
20 And what I see with this is that you open up this nice
21 looking document, and you come to a couple of letters,
22 a couple of pictures, then you've got a dry executive
23 summary because it kind of needs to be dry in a way.

24 So what I don't like is the Division statement
25 buried back in it, and what I would think would be a

1 more appropriate -- let's see, I had it marked I
2 believe. On page 12, the Division statement in the
3 small box halfway down the page on the left-hand
4 margin, I think that would be a really good item to
5 have on the page. That is the one right here with the
6 photos that's next to the executive statement if the
7 graphics can be redone and have it bold in the middle
8 of that or however it would be, because I think the
9 Division statement is one of the most important things
10 and it needs to be really brought up. Because that is
11 something that will catch the eye of someone who is
12 kind of browsing this, oh, here is the Division
13 statement. They're going to read that and look and see
14 what it is.

15 The Division statement is pretty clear. It's
16 just -- for people that don't have the copy of the
17 report, I think it kind of captures what we're about.

18 "The OHMVR Division will assure
19 ongoing access to a wide variety of
20 high-quality OHV recreation
21 opportunities, to our commitment to
22 prudent resource management, outdoor
23 recreation, community education and
24 environmental stewardship."

25 I think that should be our first message.

1 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Okay.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: We have agreement on that? I
3 think that's a good point.

4 I would like to see it buried in this collage
5 with the pictures, if you will, the Division statement
6 with the collage around it. You have plenty of white
7 space.

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I agree.

9 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I think we've been
10 through this already, the vision statement.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're not changing the vision
12 statement.

13 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: No, I remember just
14 making comments in prior meetings that -- I don't have
15 any problems. I'm just raising this as an item that's
16 been discussed in the past. If we want to move it up,
17 that is fine. But that is the vision statement of the
18 Division. That is not necessarily the vision statement
19 of the Commission.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Good point.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: I have one more comment.

22 So I agree with moving the vision statement up
23 to the front page. That's a good idea.

24 I was just looking at the Hollister Hills
25 section earlier, and I'm wondering -- that starts at

1 page 115, and we have a lot of pictures of sort of
2 motorcycle campgrounds.

3 On that page 116, I'm thinking maybe we could
4 have a Google Earth shot maybe substituted in so you
5 can understand a little bit more about that place.
6 When I describe Hollister Hills to people, I basically
7 say it's the premier off-road riding area in the whole
8 country, if not the world.

9 So these pictures -- I think the first page is
10 good, but then we kind of lose the impact of what a
11 great place that is. You're talking about the
12 different areas of the park on page 116, and maybe if
13 you had sort of a Google Earth kind of point of view
14 with those sections delineated, that might be helpful.

15 The other suggestion, when I talk to people
16 about Hollister, I say, well, there's various
17 difficulties, kind of like at the ski resorts, and that
18 seems to communicate. We have the black diamond. We
19 have the intermediate level, and I believe it's green
20 for really easy stuff -- whatever. Dan knows better
21 than I do. So showing that and getting that across, I
22 think that might mean a little bit more than just more
23 pictures of kids.

24 Great to have the family aspect identified and
25 promoted that's on the cover, but I'd like to

1 communicate a couple of other things about how -- you
2 know, this unique nature of Hollister Hills is in that
3 section.

4 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: Good, we will do that.

5 Chair, if I can make a suggestion? We're going
6 to need to take a break soon for our lovely
7 stenographer here.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think we can finish this up in
9 a few minutes. Let's finish the Commission.

10 What I would like to add to this is can we
11 insert some of the more historical challenging things
12 that have gone on with the individual parks, like the
13 Renz property, for instance, and how long it took to
14 put that in. And I'm not saying a whole narrative on
15 the thing, but a couple of sentences. It took ten
16 years to get those properties online. What's the
17 challenge with Carnegie right now? What's the
18 challenge here in Ocotillo Wells? Just so there is a
19 continuation of that history that when we're all gone
20 somebody can pick up this document and see what
21 happened over those years.

22 Is that something that's not politically
23 correct, or can we move along with that?

24 DEPT. DIR. CONLIN: No, that's perfectly fine.
25 As you said, we don't want to draw out the history, but

1 we can certainly put a couple of lines in that describe
2 that.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I'm not talking about pushing
4 hot buttons here, just some description, a short
5 narrative in the history section of the park. It could
6 be a timeline that it took ten years for something to
7 happen.

8 So having said that, we're all done with that.
9 We will take public comment on this particular item,
10 the Triennial Report.

11 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners.
12 John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel
13 Drive Clubs.

14 I looked at this report, and, yes, it is quite
15 comprehensive, and it's a fairly good snapshot in time.

16 From an editor's perspective though, I came
17 across two glaring errors. Drawing your attention to
18 pages 130 and 132, there are two inserts there that
19 talk about a partnership with the Tierra Del Sol
20 Four-Wheel Drive Club. I would offer up on both of
21 those pages, the Tierra Del Sol Club is referred to by
22 two different names, neither of which is the official
23 name as registered by the Articles of Incorporation
24 through the Secretary of State. So I would request
25 that the official name of the Tierra Del Sol Club be

1 referred to as Tierra Del Sol Four-Wheel Drive Club of
2 San Diego in the historical document that's going to be
3 prepared.

4 I won't belabor some of the executive summary
5 comments because I agree with them. That is something
6 that should be there.

7 Also, looking at this document, if it's going to
8 be a snapshot in time, I believe it should cover more
9 of the historical perspective of what the program is
10 and has been and how it has transpired and morphed over
11 the years.

12 To that extent, I'd like to see an appendix
13 that -- one appendix, number one, covered all of the
14 legislation that have impacted the program from its
15 very inception and how it has changed the program over
16 the years.

17 And over the years the program has been
18 subjected to numerous Bureau of State Audit reviews. I
19 believe as an historical perspective, those should also
20 be included as far as referencing these documents, that
21 they are a part of what has brought the program to what
22 it is now and how it is to move forward in the future.

23 And also one thing -- in my glance through it, I
24 did not miss but was highlighted yesterday on the tour,
25 was Ocotillo Wells is doing some experimentation with

1 dust control methods. Something about that, dust
2 control methods, and how the park or the units are
3 being proactive in responding to potential problems
4 affecting the environment, I think those are
5 accomplishments that should be highlighted, and I don't
6 see those highlighted in here.

7 So thank you.

8 JIM BRAMHAM: To go along with part of John's
9 comment, there were renewed sunsets of the program
10 through the years. I think it needs to be highlighted,
11 the fact that it has been continually past sunset dates
12 be highlighted, that the Legislature has repeatedly
13 said yes to this program.

14 And to Commissioner Breene's comments, more of a
15 ski resort type of map I think is what you were looking
16 for with the routes and trails and the expert and
17 moderate so that people can get an idea of the trail
18 network and what's actually available there, rather
19 than just the campgrounds.

20 And I think that's going to do it for that.
21 Thank you.

22 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36.

23 When the 2011 Report came out, it was pretty
24 comprehensive because there hadn't been much prior to
25 that. And one of the requests that District 36 had put

1 in over the years was this document's target audience
2 is the Legislature primarily. And the feedback I've
3 received through the years has been it's large, it's
4 complex, the gatekeepers throw it in the trash can,
5 what have you.

6 And when we touch on selected items, as you well
7 know, anybody who has been around awhile with me, has
8 been follow the money. And emphasis that I get back as
9 feedback from the senators, assembly people, those
10 types of folks, has been they want more specificity.

11 I walk in and say: Well, the State has used the
12 OHV Trust Fund program as a bank since the beginning.
13 And I start throwing numbers out of 150 million,
14 200 million, lawsuits, waste of resources on lawsuits,
15 et cetera, et cetera.

16 I did not get much of an opportunity to review
17 the second draft, but looking at it, there are some
18 areas that -- especially on pages 8 and 9 -- where I
19 would like to see more minutia, I guess would be the
20 proper word for it. It just looks like five or six
21 little things, and it's just a little couple of
22 paragraphs on a page, but it doesn't get down into the
23 hardcore funding of, yeah, the loan got kicked in a can
24 down the road, is what I'm trying to say.

25 But it doesn't emphasize that the State is

1 actually breaking the law when the law says the loans
2 shall be two years. Well, it goes from 2008 to 2010,
3 now at 2010 to '12 and '14, and now some of them are
4 going to go into '16. That's eight years of trust fund
5 money with zero interest. You couple that into the
6 situation with the \$10 million take, I don't see much
7 emphasis on that.

8 I think that's got to be bold print somewhere
9 that they're pulling the \$833,000 a month every month,
10 month end and month out, with no mechanism for
11 repayment of that money. I really think that this
12 needs to have more fiduciary detail put into it.

13 The document itself is awesome. The
14 presentation package is very well done. I agree we
15 need pictures of you guys up there. It adds a face, a
16 realistic face, to this along with the Deputy Director
17 and the General.

18 Paul, you mentioned some historical challenges.
19 I'd like to add to that that we have, as I said
20 earlier, the historical challenge of leave our money
21 alone. We no sooner had the program started 40 years
22 ago, and we know the Department borrowed \$1.5 million
23 40 years ago. As far as I know, that's never been
24 replaced. Okay. That was a bond issue.

25 And I think we need to formulate it somehow so

1 the Legislature sees that this thing has been a cash
2 cow of our money. And you start talking a couple of
3 hundred million dollars combined, that's serious money.
4 We've paid our share. It's time for this to be
5 addressed forcefully, not just, well, we can't do
6 anything.

7 I don't see the word anywhere in here about
8 fungible and nonfungible. I'd like to see some more
9 defined characteristics regarding that committee
10 hearing, those committee hearings, those of us that
11 attended. Phil, I know you were there. Again, more
12 specificity.

13 I didn't see much in here on page 8 or 9 about
14 SB 742 that was mentioned, not so much the title of the
15 legislation, but the fact that the user community came
16 forward and doubled their own fees to make the program
17 go forward and have a solid mechanism of funding that
18 the State could not attack. All right.

19 We also need to show emphasis that CHP got
20 another two dollars back when SB 742 kicked in. So it
21 went from \$25 to \$52, and within hours we had
22 \$10 million taken off the top. As a representative of
23 District 36, I'm asking you to fight and fight hard to
24 get that \$10 million take stopped. Personally I feel
25 it's legal theft. So it's time to start fighting.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Let us finish out this report.
3 So shall we take into consideration those final
4 comments?

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I think we should, but she
6 needs a break, too. Do you want to do that after the
7 break?

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a break. It is quarter
9 to 11:00, let's say 15 minutes. Public comment period
10 starts at eleven o'clock. We can continue this
11 business item and finish it before the public comment.
12 (Returned at 11:07 from a break starting at 10:47 a.m.)

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're going to try to finish this
14 Triennial Report and go right into public comment.

15 THE CLERK: Non-agenda public items is at eleven
16 o'clock.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: We had public discussion on the
18 Triennial Report, or the 2014 Report, and there were a
19 couple of items that looked like they would be not
20 necessary but good to put in this report.

21 Does anybody have any problem with the
22 legislative history context that's been brought up?

23 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I was going to
24 suggest -- and this is probably something that the
25 Division may already have -- in terms of the history

1 probably providing it in a timeline manner so it's a
2 chart and easy flow. And I think that the Division may
3 already have something like that.

4 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think we can do that. If
5 we don't have that, that's easy to generate. So as an
6 appendix we can certainly do a legislative flow and
7 probably highlight also the times of those critical
8 items.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: And the loans, that was the
10 second thing.

11 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Right, we're going to
12 create some narrative in there for the loans that
13 explain not only the fact that the loans were taken out
14 and also the \$10 million pre taxes, I'm calling it,
15 that's coming in annually and what effect that's having
16 on us long-term as sort of we're buying down the trust
17 fund and not getting correct input into it.

18 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: And just "wordsmithing"
19 and finessing that language so we again know our
20 audience, even though we're trying to make that
21 assertion and that point across, but at the same time
22 we still need them as a partner. So it's a fine
23 balance of how that is communicated.

24 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Sure, we will balance that
25 off our Legislative Affairs folks as well.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other points of discussion?

2 So there's two possibilities here. We can make
3 a motion to adopt the report with the changes and
4 additions that we've already talked about, and we can
5 vote on that. Or we can give the Chair the authority
6 to review this final draft and the changes, and
7 basically give me the authority to approve the report
8 as I see the next draft coming from staff.

9 We can either do it right here now and say this
10 is it, or give me an opportunity to look at it and
11 probably Diana as well, since we're on the
12 subcommittee.

13 What would be your preference? Vote on it now
14 or?

15 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I would suggest that we
16 vote on this now, and with additional edits that will
17 be made, the additional minor edits that will be made,
18 and move forward so we're done with this.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's the first option. You're
20 saying take us out of the picture of the final
21 approval?

22 Let me go back; let me read this. Dan provided
23 me with these two motions. Make a motion to adopt the
24 2014 Report with the changes and additions as directed
25 by the Commission at this meeting, or make a motion to

1 give the Chair the authority to approve the final draft
2 with changes and additions as directed by the
3 Commission. So the only difference is I would be able
4 that look at the report down the line before its
5 published time, which is January 1st.

6 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I would agree with the
7 second one. I think that we should have Commission --
8 final version to be able to be edited, so I would make
9 a motion to do that.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any other discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I would make a motion for
12 us to approve it with you being the final say on it.
13 In other words, you'll get to read the final version of
14 it and okay it.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Second the motion?

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: I thought it was you and I
17 Diana were the subcommittee.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're the subcommittee, but I
19 would make the final decision.

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'd like to second that.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Vote. All in favor with ayes.

22 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: The motion passed.

24 **AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Public comment on non-agenda

1 items, these blue forms. If anyone has comments on
2 non-agenda items, please fill out the blue forms and
3 hand them to Vicki.

4 COUNSEL TOBIAS: I just want to be clear, this
5 is actually the eleven o'clock agenda item.

6 NICOLE NICHOLAS GILLES: Nicole Nicholas Gilles,
7 American Sand Association, Executive Director.

8 I just wanted to take a quick moment to thank
9 the Commission for coming to the Sand Show but also
10 more importantly to thank Brian Robertson for helping
11 us out with the tour. And we worked with him quite
12 closely to get that all arranged, and, you know, there
13 were so many people, it was kind of like trying to
14 heard cats, but you guys did a great job. So thank you
15 very much. That's it.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Thank you for hosting
17 us.

18 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36.

19 I, too, attended the Carnegie workshop last
20 week, and participation was awesome. Staff that was
21 there did a phenomenal job. Folks understood what they
22 were looking at on the maps. A lot of passion on this
23 acquisition as it moves forward.

24 I appreciate the amount of work that the
25 Division is putting into this to make sure it's fair

1 for all parties concerned. I also appreciate the
2 effort of Division, especially with the East Bay
3 Regional Parks situations that transpired. A lot of
4 websites have popped up on this whole thing. That was
5 that.

6 As we move forward with the new acquisitions,
7 know the public is behind you guys, and feel free to
8 ask any of us to assist where necessary. And that's
9 pretty much what I have to say, which is not usual. So
10 thank you.

11 JIM BRAMHAM: I would likewise like to thank the
12 Commission for coming to the Sand Show and specifically
13 making yourselves available.

14 Secondly, I know the turnout for the public for
15 your folks was a little limited, but we did get some
16 very positive return comments from your effort not only
17 to be there for the meeting but to be there and make
18 yourself available. And obviously to the OW staff and
19 Oceano staff that manned booths there the entire
20 weekend, we greatly appreciated that effort.

21 To the education component we were talking about
22 earlier, one of the things that have predated three
23 sunsets ago, we tried to get in legislation -- it was a
24 topic pre-stakeholders. At stakeholders it was
25 excluded out of SB 742 -- was to try to get some small

1 even 15-minute component into driver's education
2 mandatory about OHV and boating responsibility.

3 And I think it's time to try to pick that back
4 up again, that somehow legislatively we create an
5 opportunity for all youth that are going through
6 driver's education to at least be notified that there
7 are rules about the operation of off-highway vehicles
8 and boating in California and know where to get the
9 information to do that legally and properly. We have
10 missed that opportunity for 15 years now, and I think
11 it's time for us to pick that up.

12 And third, Clay Pit had its open house a couple
13 of weeks ago. California Association of Four-Wheel
14 Drive Clubs would respectfully request that the
15 Commission honor Don Klusman, the late advocate for OHV
16 for years, by naming the Four-Wheel Drive Safety
17 Training Area at the Clay Pit facility in his honor. I
18 don't know the exact process that it would take to make
19 that happen, but I would certainly entertain that for
20 the body. Thank you.

21 ROBERT ETTLEMAN: Hello, Commissioners. My name
22 is Robert Ettleman. I'm employed by L.A. County
23 Department of Parks and Recreation as the OHV Planner.

24 There are just three items. I know I have three
25 minutes, I'll try to make it pretty quick.

1 Number one, I want to thank you, the State OHV
2 Parks Division and Ocotillo Wells, for that fantastic
3 tour yesterday. It actually meant a lot to me
4 personally and also to our Parks Bureau.

5 And I'm going to lead into the next section, but
6 what I really liked about it was the educational
7 outreach that was demonstrated, the environmental
8 mitigation areas, the history of the area which is so
9 interesting, the maintenance operations and the law
10 enforcement. I think they have a wonderful park out
11 here. I hope we can mimic something like that but on a
12 much lower scale in size.

13 Most people are aware that L.A. County is
14 pursuing the acquisition of land for a 550-acre OHV
15 park and most also know, as the Commission is aware,
16 that we have an approved acquisition grant to pay for
17 51 percent, and we are going to cover the other 49
18 percent with our in-lieu fees.

19 Flyers are on the table in back. We have a
20 meeting upcoming on Wednesday, November 20th at Jackie
21 Robinson Park, and that's in Antelope Valley. So we
22 hope to get as many people up there. We have received
23 a tremendous amount of support recently, letters,
24 e-mails from folks from all over the county, not just
25 off-highway vehicle. People from the mountain bike

1 community, they've actually said that they have an
2 interest in possibly a bike park at the site, so I was
3 really happy to hear about that.

4 And I also want to mention that most folks may
5 not know that we have a 50-year agreement in San
6 Gabriel Canyon, and it's an agreement between L.A.
7 County Flood Control, Department of Parks and
8 Recreation and the Forest Service. At this point in
9 time, the OHV area the Forest Service manages and
10 operates it. But I, as the representative for the
11 county, have been doing whatever I can to spend the
12 in-lieu fees to upgrade the site with an obstacle
13 course and an ATV training area.

14 Partly because of that and because of some
15 nonprofits, CORVA and CTUC with Ed Waldheim's
16 involvement, the amount of people out there on the
17 weekend has increased dramatically. And because the
18 Federal Government -- the Forest Service is low on
19 funding and staff, we are working and collaborating in
20 the last couple of weeks with the Parks Bureau to have
21 them out in the area with their side-by-sides and
22 DR-Z400s, which most people probably saw the trailer.
23 Those are the vehicles, and the gentleman back here
24 will be, I think, the lead for that operation.

25 So we're going to be using our in-lieu fees for

1 at least a year to get them out here on the weekends.
2 It's not just about enforcement. As we all know, it's
3 about safety. When there is an accident, and we know
4 that will happen, that someone is out there to get
5 those folks the help that they need right away.

6 So I really want to thank you for allowing me to
7 speak to you today. If you have any questions or
8 comments?

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're good at this point. Any
10 comments? Thank you, Robert.

11 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commission. John
12 Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive
13 Clubs.

14 I want to thank the OHV staff of Ocotillo Wells
15 for the informative tour yesterday. And while on the
16 tour and the stop in Gray's Wash, the discussion about
17 the Ocotillo Wells north properties and the management
18 issues in conjunction with Anza-Borrego Desert State
19 Park came up, and it was noted that there's still a
20 need for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to complete
21 their roads and trails plan, and in fact they are
22 working towards that.

23 What I'd like to encourage Commission, the OHMVR
24 Commission, to essentially begin working and open the
25 door for dialogue with the State Parks Commission on

1 the concept of roads and trails plans and the
2 importance of having some input or some information
3 exchange on the different recreation opportunities.

4 Now, this is important not only at Ocotillo
5 Wells SVRA, which has Anza-Borrego Desert State Parks
6 property adjacent where you have an open area working
7 right there sharing common borders with the State
8 Parks, but also there are other public land managed in
9 the Anza-Borrego area. To the west of the park, there
10 is adjacent BLM lands which allow some green sticker
11 type non-street-legal vehicles.

12 So in order to maybe facilitate some transfer
13 from one land to another land possibly including
14 restricted -- I think it was some options for use of
15 non-street-legal vehicles within the State Parks on
16 designated routes where feasible.

17 Now, when you look at Ocotillo Wells and
18 Anza-Borrego, this is a very apparent issue, but I
19 would also point out that Picacho State Park along the
20 Colorado River has similar type management options and
21 struggles, along with Red Rock Canyon State Park in the
22 Southern California area. And these are places where
23 there is a high prevalence of federal partners that do
24 use the green sticker funding for their operations.

25 And this is a perfect place for the OHMVR

1 Commission to begin opening a dialogue for a common set
2 of guidelines for the operation of vehicles that do
3 cross boundaries of the different authority agencies.
4 Thank you.

5 SGT. ROGER WALLACE: Good morning,
6 Commissioners. Sergeant Roger Wallace for L.A. County
7 Sheriff's Department for the Parks Bureau. First off,
8 I'd also like to echo the comment, what a wonderful job
9 the staff did on the tour yesterday. It was very
10 educational. They stayed right on schedule.
11 Everything was -- just outstanding job. The attention
12 to detail was just phenomenal.

13 I would like to hear -- from the L.A. County
14 Sheriff's Department, we would like to open discussion
15 about a joint agency program regarding the PALS Program
16 for underprivileged kids in the inner cities. The
17 sheriff's department has 28 patrol stations, and with
18 each station we have a youth activities deputy. And
19 each deputy has a 15-passenger van assigned to it for
20 transportation of these children to areas to go to
21 venues.

22 We would like the Commission to authorize staff
23 to provide "Train the Trainer," and we can get some of
24 our own personnel, own deputy sheriffs from the Parks
25 Bureau trained as PALS instructors, and we can have the

1 kids transported to Hungry Valley or another venue
2 where we can provide these trained opportunities for
3 these children out there. So we would like to have
4 open discussions regarding a project, joint agency
5 issue on this.

6 We've had several discussions with Commissioners
7 and staff, and Kent Miller and Jeff Gaffney seem to
8 have enthusiasm on this idea. So with that, I would
9 open up for other questions.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. Thank you. Any
11 questions? This is an exciting opportunity.

12 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Thank you so much for
13 bringing that up. I'm glad that you spoke on it. I
14 know that we are -- you know, we've been discussing it
15 in very preliminary discussions, and so I'm glad that
16 you all were able to participate and then make that
17 request to the Commission and to the Division so we can
18 formalize things and get the ball rolling. I think
19 it's a good opportunity.

20 DIST. SUPT. JEFF GAFFNEY: This is exactly the
21 kind of partnership we've been looking for. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: How would they do that?
23 Would they apply for a grant for some small motorcycles
24 for these kids? That sounds like the way to do it.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Probably, Phil, would you be able

1 to comment on this? Because this is not new ground
2 we're breaking here. This is old ground, and some of
3 the newer Commissioners may not have had the history of
4 the thing which may be missing from here, I'm thinking.

5 Dan, do we have a history of the PALS program in
6 here?

7 DIST. SUPT. JEFF GAFFNEY: Jeff Gaffney,
8 District Superintendent for Hungry Valley/Hollister
9 Hills.

10 So we were talking earlier, and we've been
11 talking for this last couple of years with L.A. County
12 and L.A. City and the Forest Service. Hungry Valley
13 has existing infrastructure. We have motorcycles. We
14 have the ATVs. We have a dormitory for kids to spend
15 the night. We have training pads, training facilities.

16 All we needed was the partnership with the staff
17 and somebody who cares and are invested, and these
18 gentlemen seem to be very invested. And probably with
19 Commissioner Villegas' support, we will have a lot more
20 support, I imagine.

21 CHIEF JENKINS: That being said, we are budgeted
22 for it, so we have the financial means to do it. The
23 two largest components are finding a willing partner
24 and then finding a really excited staff member to
25 wrangle it up. We've got Jeff; he's excited. And now

1 we've got a partner, so I think we will be able to make
2 some progress.

3 DIST. SUPT. JEFF GAFFNEY: And a very
4 enthusiastic new interpreter at Hungry Valley as well
5 who will also be very helpful.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: The name of the program was
7 Off-Road PALS, if I remember, the official names within
8 the department, because we were partnering with CalPAL,
9 which would not be the sheriff's; is that correct?

10 DIST. SUPT. JEFF GAFFNEY: Correct, yes. And
11 we've actually done different versions even within our
12 own -- we've got policies that allow us at the district
13 level to divert from that. For example, having to
14 spend each night in the park for maybe four or five
15 nights consecutively, they learn about the resource
16 management program. They learn about the interpretive
17 program, the law enforcement programs, they learn how
18 to maintain the bikes, and, of course, learn how to
19 ride them responsibly.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Great.

21 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes, we would probably
22 work closely with the sheriff's department on
23 identifying those youth that would be able to
24 participate in this. I've been talking with Jeff for
25 some time about trying to create this, establish this.

1 So this is, you know --

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: You could run an incentive
3 program. Go to school, get grades, learn to ride a
4 motorcycle.

5 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Alternative to being
6 indoors.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: I see an ad hoc committee forming
8 here.

9 DIST. SUPT. JEFF GAFFNEY: I know where we can
10 have the meetings.

11 CHIEF JENKINS: And it's also worth noting that
12 in order to make the maximum use of the equipment,
13 because when we went through DGS and they were looking
14 at use of equipment, they weren't really understanding
15 why the CalPAL's equipment would set for long periods
16 of time without being used. We've also expanded use of
17 that like into the Being an Outdoors Woman program, a
18 number of other programs. We're beginning to take that
19 equipment, because it was purchased with just
20 generalized OHV funds, not CalPAL funds specifically,
21 and use it for a number of programs. So we can work
22 with at-risk youth, any youth group.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Boy Scouts have changed their
24 charter.

25 CHIEF JENKINS: So there's a number of

1 opportunities there for their equipment.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would like to propose an ad hoc
3 committee for the development of an Off-Road Youth PAL
4 program -- or continuation. I guess we have the
5 program, so somehow to invigorate that program to make
6 it viable.

7 CHIEF JENKINS: One last note, just as you're
8 bringing that up, what we have done at the Division in
9 the last month, I think, we have identified that we're
10 going to take the core, the center of the program for
11 the Division and put that into the Environmental
12 Training Center out at Prairie City.

13 So we will take the Environmental Training
14 Center, and we will have a very motivated staff member
15 there that's going to be heading up kind of the
16 Division-wide coordination and rehabilitation,
17 revamping -- reenergizing I think is the term I'm
18 looking for of the program.

19 So both Natalie, who will be speaking to you
20 shortly -- and you might ask her on her presentation on
21 education and public outreach to expand on this even
22 more. With her leadership and then working with the
23 Environmental Training Center and all of the resources
24 we have there, that's where we, as a Division, are
25 trying to kind of reenergize the program. And so

1 coupling that with a subcommittee, as you're bringing
2 it up, is timely and a great opportunity.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you for bringing that to
4 our attention.

5 Teresa, would you like to be on the
6 subcommittee?

7 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm going to nominate myself
9 unless somebody else is really excited about it. And
10 the only reason I'm even nominating myself for it is
11 because I have a long history with the Department with
12 the program, but I think, Teresa, you would be an
13 excellent ally.

14 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Chairman Slavik, I just want to
15 point out that that would be an ad hoc committee. You
16 referred to it as a subcommittee, but actually it's an
17 ad hoc committee.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Right, I thought I said ad hoc.

19 **AGENDA ITEM VI - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Moving on, Deputy Director's
21 Report. And you wanted to change where --

22 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We're going to let the
23 Twentynine Palms folks speak first if that's okay, so
24 we can get them back on the road.

25 So first off, I want to echo the same feelings,

1 great job by Ocotillo Wells staff setting up the tour
2 yesterday. Thank you very much to all of the public
3 that was with us, that were able to come along and for
4 your input, the spontaneous input out there on the
5 tour. And I also appreciate everybody's work in
6 getting this set up here.

7 **AGENDA ITEM VI (1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**
8 **TWENTYNINE PALMS EXPANSION**

9 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We're going to start off
10 the Deputy Director's report with our guests here from
11 Twentynine Palms. They're going to talk to us a little
12 bit about the expansion.

13 Before we get into that, let me just say real
14 quickly, we all have seen the Johnson Valley expansion
15 coming. This is in the hands of the Federal Government
16 right now. It is out of the hands of the local
17 government; although, you are encouraged to continue to
18 put your word into your representatives in Congress and
19 the local legislators and in all of that that's going
20 to influence the decision. It will probably be made
21 over the course of the next month or so.

22 Some of you have seen there was an opinion that
23 was provided by the Military Advisory Council, of which
24 General Jackson, the Director of Parks, is a member.
25 When General Jackson was appointed as the Director of

1 State Parks, the Governor also asked him to act
2 independently of that job as a member of his Military
3 Advisory Commission because he was a senior officer in
4 the Marine Corps and had been formally the director of
5 Marine Corps Installations West, so he had intimate
6 knowledge of the activities of the military in Southern
7 California.

8 As a result of that, he sits on this council.
9 General Jackson is a straight shooter. And when we
10 were on the tour yesterday, you've seen that up close
11 and personal. So when he got asked the question as a
12 member of that council what is in the best interest of
13 the Department of the Defense and the State of
14 California in the Johnson Valley expansion, he signed
15 on with the consensus of that group, that the expansion
16 was in the best interest in the Department of the
17 Defense and the State of California.

18 As far as his feelings on OHV recreation, he's
19 an advocate. He's a supporter. He's 100 percent
20 behind that. But he got asked the question as a
21 retired general in the United States Marine Corps, and
22 he gave his honest opinion on that. That's what he
23 does, okay? That wasn't against OHV recreation. That
24 was tapping into his expertise.

25 Now, what I've asked the folks from Twentynine

1 Palms to do is come up and give you a quick briefing
2 from their perspective on what is going to be done out
3 in the expansion area, their perspective on this as
4 well. So we can kind of voice this, get this out in
5 the open, and we can alleviate any folks that have a
6 misperception or don't understand exactly what's going
7 to go on.

8 With that, I would like to ask is Colonel
9 Proudfoot in here?

10 DIRECTOR CHRISTMAN: Mr. Chairman, members of
11 the Commission, thank you very much for this
12 opportunity to address the Commission today and the
13 public. On behalf of my boss, Brigadier General
14 Bullard, who unfortunately could not be here today --
15 as you may recall he had a rather tragic accident at
16 Camp Pendleton this week. We also have a Marine
17 Expeditionary Unit heavily involved in supplying the
18 Philippines right now, so that taxes the entire system.
19 So he thinks it's important, but otherwise could not be
20 here today.

21 My name is Patrick Christman, I'm the Assistant
22 Chief of Staff for Marine Corps Installation West and
23 also the Director of the Marine Corps' Western Region
24 Environmental Coordination Office.

25 We very much appreciate Chris' opportunity to

1 come here. My boss, General Bullard, commands or
2 supports all of the Marine Corps installations west of
3 the Mississippi, so he has a big portfolio to take care
4 of. We're working very closely with Major General
5 Berger, who is the commanding general of Twentynine
6 Palms. Chris will come up in a moment and talk more
7 specifically about that.

8 With me today is Chris Proudfoot. He is the
9 project manager for the Twentynine Palms Expansion
10 Project, as well as the Deputy Director of the
11 Operations and Training. Also with me today is the
12 Assistant Chief of Staff Jim Ricker for Twentynine
13 Palms G-5, and one of his staff members, Laura.

14 So we've come today to try to answer any of the
15 questions or straighten out any of the misperceptions
16 that are going on in this moment.

17 We very appreciate working with the staff, and I
18 would take a moment to just commend Chris' staff, Dan
19 and Vicki and Jeff and all of the other folks. We've
20 been working with them since the inception of this
21 project. I knew very little about the OHV community or
22 the Commission when it started. So we've been doing
23 this for, what, five, almost six years when Daphne was
24 here.

25 I would tell you in my capacity of working for

1 Government and External Affairs for the Marine Corps in
2 they western region, they are probably one of the most
3 professional staff I've ever had the pleasure to work
4 with. I never have to worry about the professionalism
5 or timeliness or any of those kinds of things. Thank
6 you very much for them. We anticipate continuing to
7 work with them as the Twentynine Palms Expansion
8 Project goes forward and as we continue to work on the
9 Onyx Ranch Partnership that we've been working on for
10 sometime, so thank you very much for that.

11 At this point in time, what I'd like to do is
12 have Chris come up and give you specifics about the
13 Twentynine Palms Expansion Project, where we are right
14 now. I know there was some interest by one of the
15 Commissioners earlier of the status of the legislation.
16 I think Chris will be able to address that. Thank you.

17 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Thanks for the opportunity
18 to come down and talk to you all again. It's been
19 about, what, two years since we were down last time to
20 chat with you. So I know it's a controversial subject
21 for someone with the title of OHV, so my hope today is
22 to provide information.

23 So as Mr. Conlin stated already, this is way
24 back east. Even in Marine Corps parlance, we don't
25 generally talk about it locally that much anymore

1 largely because it is a Headquarters Marine Corps,
2 Department of the Navy, Department of the Defense and
3 just recently now it is a congressional issue. So this
4 is all in the House and the Senate at this point.

5 So I want to provide the information as I can,
6 what we know. It's nothing terribly new, but maybe it
7 will engender some questions from you all so that you
8 can get your -- the Commission can have as much data as
9 it needs so that you can get your constituents smarter
10 or at least make sure you've got the ground troop.

11 These are similar slides that you all have seen.
12 It's fairly been public for the last probably four
13 years, so no real changes to it. We did amend it with
14 some BLM support about a year-and-a-half ago to
15 increase the size of a portion of the area.

16 This is the proposal that the Department of the
17 Navy has adopted and has become the Administration's
18 position that has gone forward to Congress. So
19 different than, say, the Congressman Cook proposal, but
20 this is the proposal that the Marine Corps has
21 submitted, the Department of the Navy has approved, DOD
22 has submitted, and the Administration has submitted as
23 part of the National Defense Authority Act.

24 As you can see, we would try to acquire about
25 170,000 acres, just shy of that. Some of that would be

1 to the south of the base around Twentynine Palms,
2 Wonder Valley area. The majority of it is clearly out
3 to the west in what is now BLM-designated Johnson
4 Valley OHV area.

5 We would propose to have a larger area of that
6 be exclusive military use. We would propose that some
7 of that would be exclusive military use in which we
8 would create a dud ordnance -- or that's a hazard when
9 people come around that. So that would become an
10 exclusive military-use area.

11 And we would also have a shared-use area that we
12 would use pretty much just to transit through twice a
13 year for about two months, 60 days, and the rest of
14 that time would still be under BLM management and be
15 part of continuing along in the recreation aspect.

16 There is one picture I'd like you to see that
17 will help cement what we see from our side. We
18 mentioned that everything is back at the Federal
19 Government. I think that's critical.

20 What happens in the National Defense
21 Authorization Act discussions, as you know, if you know
22 Constitution 101, the House has a version of the bill.
23 The Senate has a version of the bill. They have to get
24 together and argue it out, which those arguments are
25 getting pretty good back there right about now on all

1 things but this topic. So as they go through their
2 discussions, they'll come to some agreement or
3 compromise, and that will be what it is. So at this
4 point locally we're waiting just like everybody else
5 is, and we will see what comes out of the Congress'
6 work.

7 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Can we ask questions
8 now? I just had a quick question.

9 When you say the legislation that's being
10 discussed in both the Senate and -- in Congress, is
11 that discussion going to be surrounding the number of
12 acres, the use? What is that in specific, the
13 discussion?

14 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Good question. What
15 essentially is coming is a request to withdraw the land
16 from public use and then redesignate it for other uses.

17 So portions of it, the exclusive military use,
18 would be withdrawn for military training purposes. The
19 yellow bottom portion you can see down in Johnson
20 Valley would be withdrawn from public use but
21 reallocated for the 60 days of use by the military, and
22 then the ten months of the year for recreation use,
23 still to be used by BLM.

24 The acreage is pretty well settled. Congress
25 can do whatever it wants to. So if they wanted to

1 start striking through lines and change it, they can do
2 that. So it really becomes their ballpark. That's why
3 at this point we're just waiting to see whatever they
4 decide, and then we will move out smartly from there.

5 Again, the shared-use area encompasses the
6 majority of the Hartwell Hills, which, as you know, the
7 major race in Johnson Valley is the King of the Hammers
8 run generally associated with Presidents' Day every
9 February, really great event. So we've tried to keep
10 all of those unique rock crawling areas inside of that
11 shared-use area so they can continue to be used.

12 And then we've tried to take our requirement and
13 reduce that to the point where it starts impinging on
14 what we can get accomplished. So that's kind of the
15 graphics change around that.

16 This kind of highlights the status, as we said.
17 And, frankly, for about the last year or more, the
18 local agencies, meaning Twentynine Palms Marine Base
19 and even Marine Corps Installation West, really haven't
20 had that much to do with it. It's been back at the
21 Pentagon with the Headquarters Marine Corps, Department
22 of the Navy. So really for about the last year and a
23 half we've been information people for the most part
24 locally. So it's good that it's there because I think
25 that's the right place for this type of decision.

1 Just to augment it, it does require
2 congressional approval, and the Joint Committee is
3 going to have to come up with that answer. We are
4 working on airspace, but until the land decision is
5 made, we really can't do anything with the airspace.

6 We've got a proposal. We can throw that in once
7 we've got the congressional action taken. It does
8 involve purchase of both state and private lands
9 although, about 89, 90 percent of it is BLM land, so
10 it's federally managed right now.

11 This is the one chart I did want to show you.
12 What we've done is taken everything that's out there
13 now and then shown you what it might look like if
14 congressional approval were made of the
15 Administration's proposal. What you can kind of see
16 there is the entire area encompasses what is today the
17 Johnson Valley OHV area. The red area would become
18 that area that would get more heavily used by military
19 and would eventually become very hazardous for public
20 use. So that would become exclusive military use.

21 You can see that southern area, which is about
22 44,000 acres, give or take, that changes as you do your
23 parcel reviews, titling, where things actually are.
24 That would be open again for that ten months out of the
25 year.

1 The green area out here is the remainder that
2 has not been looked at at all from that aspect. So
3 that's about 45 to 46,000 acres of Johnson Valley
4 Off-Highway Vehicle Area. And the Marine Corps has
5 actually put in the legislative proposal that went
6 forward from the Administration that the yellow and
7 green would become a national OHV area. That seems to
8 be a pretty logical step. So all told, your yellow and
9 green would become about 91,000 acres.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: What's the meaning of a
11 national OHV area?

12 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Get it federally designated,
13 get Congress to designate it an OHV area.

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: Who runs it? Under whose
15 jurisdiction, whose regulations is something like that
16 run?

17 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: BLM still.

18 CHIEF JENKINS: If I might, I think the point is
19 BLM mandate -- we can have BLM speak to this directly
20 because I'll probably get it slightly wrong. But BLM's
21 mandate, like Forest Service's, is multiuse. And so
22 the benefit of something like this would be to say this
23 is a little bit different. This is a specific use that
24 would come to the top of the priority list. I'm sure
25 BLM can clarify that much better later on.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: And that has to be
2 congressionally designated?

3 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Exactly.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: So it has to go through a whole
5 process itself?

6 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: No, it can be tagged into
7 this. That's the beauty of this. If Congress decides
8 to accept that language, let's say they do, it's going
9 to come out in the NDAA. That's going to say that's an
10 OHV area. Because of the land withdrawal withdraws the
11 land from public use and then reapplies it for
12 recreation and military training, period.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I'm sure you're aware that
14 the OHV community thought that that's where we were in
15 the first place.

16 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Absolutely.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: That we had an OHV-exclusive
18 area.

19 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Yes, I think you and I
20 talked about that two years ago.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Now, we're getting down to the
22 nitty-gritty, and things have changed. They've changed
23 to the fact that somebody else can now designate a use
24 for the area, which we understand it's a process. And
25 then once this green and yellow area are codified in

1 legislation, after that, nobody can take it away, is
2 that?

3 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: It would be in law that
4 that's what it would be used for, period. As good as
5 period is in Washington, D.C.

6 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: So I just want to make sure
7 I'm clear. So for two months the Marines will be using
8 the red designated area?

9 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: No, that would be all the
10 time.

11 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: That's a significant
12 portion of land.

13 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Yes, ma'am.

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: And I'm assuming that
15 you've already done the work where you figured out how
16 many riders it's going to displace and the impact. I'm
17 assuming those impacts have already been discussed, and
18 I guess primarily my biggest concern is what you
19 mentioned a little earlier when you said that that area
20 would not necessarily be safe for the public to go.

21 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: The red area, correct.

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Right. And so I would be
23 interested in understanding if riders were to go into
24 that area in the future, I mean what kind of safety
25 concerns?

1 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: My last chart will kind of
2 hit that. But just to clarify the point, this has been
3 about a seven-year process. Under the National
4 Environment Policy Act, any of this activity has to go
5 through a very rigorous environmental review. So we
6 finished that last year. That went forward for
7 decision, and it has met. So we've studied economic,
8 biological, water resources. You can go right down the
9 line of the 13 basic areas that we've studied in detail
10 to provide that report out so that all of those impacts
11 are in the Federal Register.

12 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes, thank you.

13 And we did take a tour to the Johnson Valley --
14 those of us that were here, if you recall. And I guess
15 right now what I'm trying to figure out visually is
16 those areas that we were at and that we were able to
17 ride, I mean I would like to see that kind of visual
18 impact of what's being cut out. Because it's hard to
19 recall right now. I do remember taking that tour. And
20 are any of those areas being impacted if you guys
21 recall?

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: Some of them, yes.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: The Hammers area, can you
24 identify that on the map? That's kind of the eastern
25 part of where we were talking about.

1 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: The unique Hartwell Hills
2 area right here is really those rock climbing trails
3 that Dave Cole uses in the King of the Hammers. So
4 that's why early on we identified that that's an area
5 that's got to be maintained.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: And where is the highway there?

7 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: 247 is the major road coming
8 out of Death Valley and generally runs kind of like
9 this. So it branches off to Barstow to the north and
10 Victorville to the west.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: And just for point of reference,
12 Camp Rock Road, a kind of major thoroughfare north
13 and south?

14 COUNSEL TOBIAS: May I interrupt? If you're not
15 on the microphone, you're not being recorded.

16 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Camp Rock Road is up here.
17 You have Bessemer Mine Road that runs down the center,
18 and you have Boone Road that comes in. So those are
19 the three major entrance points into the Johnson Valley
20 area. Southern California Edison power line runs right
21 here.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: Just to clarify, all over
23 the world we're going around trying to find unexploded
24 ordnance and remove it. There's a huge effort
25 worldwide, kids being maimed, and we're going around

1 the world trying to find unexploded ordnance and get
2 rid of it. You're going to take a large section of
3 California and turn it into one of those hazardous
4 areas by having your war games out there, right?

5 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Generally, yes.

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: I don't know what the --
7 we've heard from these guys before, and the story
8 hasn't really changed much, and it hasn't changed much
9 since our visit to the Johnson Valley.

10 Is there anything we can do to affect the
11 legislative outcome here? Is there appropriate action
12 the Commission can take? Because I think this is, at
13 least from my perspective, a really bad idea.

14 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: It is in the hands of the
15 Federal Government right now. So, yes, you can
16 absolutely communicate with your legislators, with your
17 congressmen. And it's not even in local politics.

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: Can we officially
19 communicate as a Commission?

20 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Have you done that? I
21 think you already have.

22 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Two years ago you all voted
23 on a letter what was submitted and is part of the
24 record.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: Would there be any benefit

1 to restating those positions during this critical time?
2 Because I think the world has moved on since you
3 started this project, and I think the Marine Corps is a
4 very valuable resource. I commend your work in the
5 Philippines and around the world. But training for
6 large-scale tank warfare seems to be kind of part of a
7 legacy of a bygone era, and I frankly would not like to
8 see a significant portion of California subjected to
9 this kind of activity.

10 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Commissioner Kerr, I concur
11 with you, and I actually think we should consider
12 taking some sort of action. I'm not sure what we can
13 do besides sending a letter.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Our opportunities are relatively
15 limited except for communicating to our congressional
16 representatives. And Senator Feinstein I understand --

17 Can you kind of give us a feeling of where
18 Senator Feinstein fits into this picture? I know she's
19 a very important component.

20 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Well, certainly she's been
21 involved well back, but at this point it's really --
22 NDAA comes out of the Armed Services Committee side
23 both in the House and Senate, so technically she's not
24 in that setup. So obviously as a senator she'll have a
25 play. She weighed in earlier on when we were looking

1 at some of these uses, three, four, five years ago.
2 But outside of that, she's been doing her normal role
3 as a senator obviously representing California.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: My question is is she in support
5 of the expansion or does she have other ideas?

6 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Since it is -- I don't think
7 she's on record as voting any one way or the other, but
8 I believe that she is in support of the Senate version
9 of the Senate Defense Authorization. That's my belief.
10 I don't know that for a fact.

11 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Would you happen to
12 have a slide of Congressman Cook's proposal?

13 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: I do not. In fact, I have
14 only heard in word what that is. So he's never
15 transmitted that to us, I don't believe.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: A question is how does that
17 legislation fit into the big picture here; is it being
18 considered?

19 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Absolutely. So the House
20 has Congressman Cook's proposal. The Senate has the
21 Administration's proposal that the Administration has
22 put forth for approval. So those two have to come
23 together in Joint Committee to determine what that's
24 going to actually end up looking like in order to
25 approve the National Defense Authority Act, which has

1 all of your funding for all military things. People,
2 equipment, everything that's going on in the Department
3 of the Defense is in the National Defense Authorization
4 Act.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: And this is only one small
6 component of that.

7 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Absolutely.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's a big huge bill.

9 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Right.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: With other land transfers going
11 around in other places.

12 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: I think there are two others
13 that are in there, in my mind. I would have to reread
14 that.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'm a relatively new
17 Commissioner, so I'm not privy to some of the earlier
18 information.

19 Since I've been on this Commission, the OHV --
20 first off, I support -- as an American, I support the
21 Marine Corps and completely appreciate any efforts that
22 the Marine Corps does in disaster situations, like
23 Commissioner Kerr stated. And I think also that this
24 is kind of going down a way that's going to be a past
25 way for the use of military.

1 And the Federal Government with armed services
2 bases in California has a long history of creating
3 bases and then abandoning bases. And I have a problem
4 personally with the unexploded ordnance, and you guys
5 unfortunately lost a few valuable Marines recently just
6 trying to clean up that type of mess. So that's my
7 personal belief.

8 But as a Commissioner, the communities of the
9 members of the -- the citizens of the State of
10 California have made it very clear that they do not
11 want -- the OHV community does not want to see this
12 expansion. It's been made very, very clear to me as
13 I've been here.

14 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Sure.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: It's also what I know
16 about the government and what I've read online, that
17 this is pretty much -- for us to be able to stop this
18 is going to be like we're going to have to score like
19 five touchdowns with about ten minutes left in the
20 game. So it's not looking too good.

21 With that, the national designation of this
22 area, is it possible to attach other BLM lands that are
23 in the State of California to this bill to be able to
24 make them available with that type of recognition, to
25 give the off-road community some kind of gift, some

1 reason for losing such a valuable area.

2 Because I mean there's going to be a time 50
3 years from now, you guys are going to be paying to
4 clean this up. There's going to be a bunch of pissed
5 off residents, and it's going to be an issue then.

6 And so it's like, you know, there has to be some
7 kind of give-and-take here other than just kind of
8 ramrodding this thing through. There's a little bit of
9 give-and-take here, but we have other BLM areas like
10 Clear Creek and other things that can be attached to
11 this possibly where we can kind of maybe have something
12 to offer to the off-road community.

13 But, frankly, and I want to be blunt, you guys
14 are putting us in a really bad position, and I
15 personally don't appreciate it. So I appreciate your
16 efforts to explain everything and such, but when I got
17 on this Commission, I never wanted to be stuck in a
18 situation where I've got to look an OHVer in the eye
19 and go, geez, I can't do anything. So that's where I'm
20 at.

21 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: And I wouldn't take it so
22 much as you can't do. You guys have done things. You
23 have put in your letters. You have put in your
24 submissions, and the OHV community has made their
25 concerns very well-known. I've sat down with some of

1 the representatives for Congressman Cook, and, believe
2 me, there is great support for his bill. But, again,
3 this is going to get decided at the federal level.

4 This is one of those times where we're a state
5 in a federal union, and the Federal Government is going
6 to make the final decision on how they use this. It is
7 their land. I mean that's why it's BLM land, Bureau of
8 Land Management for the Federal Government.

9 Now, a couple of things you asked about, the
10 area, the green and the yellow, and designation as OHV
11 area, federal designation, that will actually be a
12 first. Other than what Congressman Farr is working on
13 for Clear Creek, that's the only other time that
14 somebody has invoked that as assigning something as a
15 federally-required OHV area. So this is something new.

16 The other thing I would tell you, and I think
17 it's no secret here, is that the Onyx Ranch
18 acquisition, the Department of Defense is kicking in
19 REPI money for that, which is money that will help
20 support that acquisition and sustain it down the line.
21 So that is another consideration as we look at this.
22 That's not direct mitigation, but it is something else
23 DOD is trying to do.

24 I get it. I mean this is going to be a
25 substantial impact on the OHV community. But at the

1 same time, we need to understand, and we've been making
2 this point over and over again -- and nothing against
3 the federal lands folks, but the fact that the federal
4 lands are out there and we can recreate them are good,
5 but by no means can we bet that that's going to be
6 there in the future. I mean look at the sequestration.
7 Look at what's going on with the federal budget. Look
8 at what's going on with now using a lot of these large
9 federal lands for energy generation. You cannot bet
10 the farm on these federal lands.

11 I know in our discussions about the Onyx Ranch
12 purchase there has been some discussion about just
13 leave it open, just leave it as BLM land, just leave
14 that as open recreation. Ultimately that winds up
15 being federal land, and the Federal Government will
16 decide what they're going to do with that, and we don't
17 get to question that.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Further question: Camp Rock
19 Road, the green land to the west of Camp Rock Road,
20 isn't that designated limited-use area by the BLM?

21 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Beyond that. So if you go
22 beyond that green area, you get to the Desert Wildlife
23 Management Areas that our BLM managed for the tortoise
24 habitat where you can only drive on the trails or
25 about I think it's ten feet or something.

1 So beyond that green area. The green area right
2 now is the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's the open area. That's an
4 important point. If that land to the west, the green
5 area to the west, is limited-use area designated by the
6 BLM -- I've ridden out there since the '60s, okay? I
7 kind of know the landscape. There is very limited use
8 for OHV recreation there. You can't go run a race out
9 there.

10 Do you understand what I'm saying, I guess?

11 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: I do. I've been up in that
12 area quite a bit. The 36th brethren, the 38th run all
13 of their motorcycles races up there. Sure, is it
14 restricted? Somewhat. But it is right now part of the
15 Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area of 189,000
16 acres. So the DWEMAs are much further up.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: I understand that. All right.

18 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: That's currently open right
19 now as part of Johnson Valley, so I guess that's -- we
20 can all go back to the books and look make sure we've
21 got that right.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: I don't think it's open to --
23 it's restricted to travel on designated routes, which
24 are relatively limited in that area. And if that's the
25 point, basically you can throw that whole thing away.

1 There is nothing there to ride on. So that's a point
2 of contention in the OHV community.

3 I was around when S 21 was debated with Alan
4 Cranston, and they basically took a line drawing and
5 you went around the desert and drew lines. Jim Bramham
6 and John, you guys were there. We were all there, and
7 we were given this land as basically sacrificed land
8 because they got everything else. So we really feel
9 like we've been thrown under the bus. I know you know
10 that.

11 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Yes.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: We don't want to shoot the
13 messenger.

14 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: I'm here to provide
15 information.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: I hope you get paid well to do
17 this.

18 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I want to thank you for
19 appearing here, you facing the firing squad like this.

20 But one concern I have -- I'm sure that you've
21 probably heard this before, but the area east of Camp
22 Rock Road has been heavily used by OHV riders for years
23 and years. And once that area is closed and then live
24 ordnance start showing up there, it's going to be a
25 very difficult job even for the military to keep people

1 from riding out there, what would end up being trespass
2 riding. And I think it would create a very dangerous
3 situation for a lot of people.

4 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: That kind of goes to
5 Ms. Perez -- and that kind of is what Mr. Conlin
6 actually asked us to talk more about today. So I knew
7 there were some new faces, so we had to kind of go over
8 some of the past things.

9 But you give up a valid point. So you have
10 muscle memory of however many years, however many
11 decades, of people going out there. You have to kind
12 of break that muscle memory. There will be issues with
13 that.

14 So what they're doing is creating a joint
15 partnership with BLM who would still be managing all of
16 the recreation land so that we have a joint committee
17 and a place for stakeholders to come bring their issues
18 up. So we would create that resource management group
19 jointly chaired with BLM and the Marine Corps.

20 We were trying to come up with ways to -- best
21 management practices and bring those issues up. We've
22 kind of got to get real out there. I apologize one of
23 those bullets isn't out as far, but the public outreach
24 is probably the most critical thing. Educate,
25 disseminate, get that information out into the public's

1 hands so everybody knows what's going on. Then your
2 passive measures like a sign or a fence or any law
3 enforcement patrolling, those then enhance what you're
4 telling the public on a routine basis in order to make
5 sure that people know that. That is a major issue.

6 Lastly, I would throw out that the range safety
7 procedures that the Marine Corps utilizes day-in and
8 day-out are pretty trusted. And the methodology used
9 is going to be very tightly disciplined. So does that
10 stop every accident? Absolutely not. But it really
11 brings the level of safety up.

12 For example, we don't have a problem on the base
13 right now with people getting hurt coming -- that are
14 trespassing. They're still trespassing, and we try to
15 get them off, but they're not getting hurt on the
16 installation. So as an example, we've been operating
17 at Twentynine Palms since 1952, and we haven't had
18 people get hurt that are trespassing on the base. We
19 did have an incident where somebody took something off
20 the base and then went back and hurt themselves pretty
21 severely.

22 But I don't know if that gets to both of the
23 Commissioners' questions, but these are the important
24 things that we've gotten done. And they can only be
25 done in cooperation with the local law enforcement, the

1 other federal agencies, state agencies and the county
2 agencies and the local municipalities to make sure that
3 we're doing everything that can be done to safeguard.

4 I don't know if that gets to the heart of your
5 question.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Are we talking about a fence up
7 Camp Rock Road?

8 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Along the Power Line Road,
9 we would probably in certain places apply some limited
10 fencing. We were talking earlier with -- which the
11 Californian norm for those type of fencing. You've
12 seen some of the fencing up at Jawbone and places like
13 that.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: You've got a desert tortoise
15 habitat.

16 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Right. You have to be very
17 careful because of the habitat. So we would go for
18 joint fencing slash Carsonite signs, metal signs,
19 things of that sort that can be done.

20 So Congressman Cook has asked that we look at
21 real fencing, so I think we've got some work being done
22 with that. So, yes, we'll use some aspect of fencing
23 in with that.

24 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I have a comment I'd like
25 to make. I'm still trying to digest all of this

1 because I want to follow Commissioner Cabral's comments
2 because I actually do believe that we can do something.

3 I know some things have already taken place, but
4 I would like this Commission if we are not in agreement
5 to go on the record that not only did we not agree with
6 it, but we made one last attempt to do something
7 because I think one person can make a difference.

8 And I'd like to see one of us or some of us have
9 the opportunity to meet with Senator Feinstein and at
10 least bring up the concerns and the concerns of the
11 public, the community. I don't see why we couldn't do
12 that. It might not change anything, but it leaves at
13 least our notice that we're not in agreement with it.
14 We're here. We're representing the OHV community, and
15 we're representing millions.

16 And so I'd like to take more proactive roles,
17 and I think as the newly-appointed Vice Chair, I would
18 be more than happy -- I would love to take Senator
19 Feinstein on a tour, have her take a look at it and see
20 if there's anything that we can do.

21 I know on the military side, that would be --
22 I'm sure that's not what you probably want to hear me
23 say, but I don't see any reason why we can't make an
24 attempt. I want this Commission to be active and
25 proactive when we feel strongly about certain issues.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: A comment I would have, just that
2 Senator Feinstein has this monument bill in the hopper,
3 right, huge monument bill. And correct me if I'm going
4 off base here, but they have spent a considerable
5 amount of time, her staff -- and I don't know if she's
6 been out there personally, but I think what you're --
7 you know, it's great to talk like that, but this horse
8 is down the barn -- it's out of the barn. It's gone,
9 and we've got to deal with those issues now. They've
10 been out there, and they probably spent a huge amount
11 of time out there.

12 What options do we have? Contact our
13 congressmen when the horse is already out of the barn?

14 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think you're at the point
15 where again you can go to your congressmen, you can ask
16 them. You can go to your senators, you can ask them,
17 tell them, express your concerns. That is absolutely
18 legitimate. I would encourage the entire OHV community
19 to do that.

20 But this is literally down to probably within
21 the next -- definitely before Christmas this will be
22 decided because it's been up there for a while. It's
23 been hanging in there, and they've got to make a
24 decision because this has got to be done before they do
25 the budget decisions.

1 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: As far as the Commission,
2 I'd like to have it clarified by the counsel as far as
3 what we can or cannot do as a commission.

4 COUNSEL TOBIAS: As a commission, you really
5 can't take any action today because it's not a noticed
6 item. So that does not stop you from taking
7 individual -- making individual calls or actions.

8 So in your individual calls or letters, you may
9 not represent a Commission action, but you may
10 represent yourself as a member of the Commission and
11 identify that you are basically making a comment or
12 having an appointment as an individual.

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I wanted to ask if our
15 Administration had taken a position.

16 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: The letter --

17 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Outside of the
18 Commission, if the Governor's Office in particular has
19 taken a position, if we have asked the Governor's
20 Office for that.

21 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: To my knowledge the
22 Governor's Office has not taken a position on this. We
23 can ask, but I think they have purposefully not taken a
24 position on it.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: What about the commission, the

1 military commission, how did that play into it?

2 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: They are just an advisory
3 commission. That's all they do is they advise the
4 Governor on military issues, so that was advice to him.
5 But to my understanding, the Governor has not taken a
6 position on it.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Anything else? So we can't do
8 anything. We can write individual letters.

9 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: There are plenty of
10 things that we could do. The reasons that they haven't
11 taken place thus far are many. So they're at a
12 particular point in this decision-making process that
13 if we are going to influence it, it has to be by a
14 higher power. And those decisions haven't been done
15 for other reasons. So we can continue to influence as
16 much as possible individually. But at this point, I
17 don't know how much that's going to weigh in.

18 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: So what -- our recourse
19 right now is to individually attempt to influence
20 what -- the bill that Congress is going to eventually
21 pass?

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: Wait a minute. This is on
23 the agenda. I don't understand your position on this,
24 madam. Because personally I'd like to send Diana to
25 Washington, you know, and have her testify before the

1 committee.

2 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Right, that would be an
3 option.

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: Do you want to tell me why
5 we can't do that? It's on the agenda here. It says,
6 "Twentynine Palms Expansion."

7 I mean I think it's within our -- we could
8 declare an urgent matter, sort of emergency. If it's
9 an emergency and something is going to happen before
10 our next meeting, there are provisions in the law for
11 us to take actions.

12 COUNSEL TOBIAS: You can notice another meeting.
13 You can notice an emergency meeting. The emergency
14 meeting has certain criteria which probably are not met
15 here because it's basically in a situation where a
16 governor has designated an emergency.

17 Bagley-Keene requires that if you want to take a
18 vote, that the items be identified as something where
19 the public knows ahead of time that you're going to
20 take an action.

21 So we can certainly notice another meeting. It
22 requires ten days' notice. And there is a way for --
23 we can basically have that meeting by telephone across
24 the state where if people want to appear in a different
25 place, they have to make a place available for the

1 public.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: And the reason we can't vote on
3 this right now or take action on this right now is
4 because it's Item VI under program reports, it's not a
5 business item?

6 COUNSEL TOBIAS: Correct.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: And that's the legality of it.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: But we have a letter already
9 that basically states the position.

10 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: You have a Commission
11 position that is here.

12 COMMISSIONER KERR: And that was voted on. And
13 then is there any reason why the -- if Diana, for
14 example, submitted a reimbursement request to testify
15 before Congress, would there be anything standing in
16 the way of that being honored?

17 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: The only issue we would
18 probably have with that is out-of-state travel
19 approval.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: How does that work?

21 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Not well. So far we can't
22 even get the Director on an out-of-state travel
23 authorization.

24 CHIEF JENKINS: That's controlled outside of the
25 Department. The State only gets so many -- the

1 Governor has to fight hard to get out-of-state travel
2 approval. So we get dribs and drabs through the
3 Department. We have to tell them years in advance
4 before we want to go.

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Thank you for attempting to
6 send me on a vacation.

7 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: It's up to Washington, I'm
8 not sure that's a vacation.

9 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I would like to go back to
10 the comment I made about as far as maybe having some
11 other areas designated as national OHV management-type
12 areas. So with that is that something at that stage in
13 the game that can be added to what's been at, or is it
14 just simply back there, and that's the way it is?

15 Do you guys have any input, or is there a way we
16 can have some input to be able to try to get other
17 BLM-type lands put into an off-highway vehicle type
18 designation by the Federal Government?

19 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: Actually, the Marine Corps
20 does not have the capability to do that. We would
21 certainly advocate and work with BLM to try and have
22 them identify other areas that could be done that way.

23 As part of this project, no, we cannot do that.
24 That's well outside of our purview. We are about
25 military training, preparing the force to support the

1 nation's crisis coming up, so.

2 But it has been looked at. I know the BLM
3 office out of Barstow has done a lot of work looking at
4 this. As part of this particular project, no, that
5 would not go forward in that manner, at least from the
6 Marine Corps perspective.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. Thank you.

8 COLONEL PROUDFOOT: I do want to thank you all
9 for having us down again, and I realize it's
10 contentious. It's a lot of business for everybody.
11 But at the end of the day, it's about people. I would
12 thank you for bumping us in the schedule. We've got a
13 bunch going on in the Marine Corps right now so we're
14 all kind of running around.

15 I thank you for your time. And if there are any
16 questions, we can try and answer for you. We're happy
17 to funnel to you whatever information we've got.
18 There's no attempt on anyone's part to hold any
19 information back. That is -- this is all public
20 record, so everything you've seen today is a matter of
21 public record over the last five, six years. We're
22 happy to provide any information that will get you
23 through you that mass of paper that's sitting in the
24 Federal Register, I think.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

1 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thanks, Chris. We
2 appreciate it, Patrick.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: We need to take a lunch break
4 probably at this point. We do need to hold public
5 comment on this.

6 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We can do public comment.
7 Did you want to do that?

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay.

9 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Then we will do lunch after
10 that?

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Do want to invite them to stay?

12 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: If you guys can stay a
13 couple of minutes, we're going to do public comment.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Just to hear what the public has
15 to say about this particular agenda item.

16 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners.
17 John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel
18 Drive Clubs.

19 I've been following this Twentynine Palms
20 military expansion issue for a number of years. There
21 are some extenuating circumstances, a lot of it has
22 been brought up here, that makes this a bad public
23 policy idea.

24 Since World War II when General Patton was
25 training troops out in the Southern California desert,

1 the military has developed a history of not being good
2 stewards of the land. They have a tendency to begin
3 live fire exercises and leave behind a mess that other
4 people are forced to clean up. This has been shown out
5 time and time again with the various base closures
6 through the BRAC 95 or the Base Realignment Closure
7 Commission issues over the years.

8 I'd also like to point out during the tour
9 yesterday, some of where we went through in Ocotillo
10 Wells SVRA is a former military training area where
11 live fire was conducted. What was not really brought
12 out and articulated is that just north of S 22 against
13 the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains is an area what is
14 now state wilderness in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park,
15 which is on the Army Corps of Engineers' Superfund
16 cleanup site because of unexploded ordnance.

17 There are numerous other examples of this type
18 of disregard for the general safety of the public that
19 have occurred throughout the desert area. And, in
20 fact, the Army Corps of Engineers have several other
21 identified sites throughout the Southern California
22 desert that are Superfund cleanup sites because the
23 military has left behind unexploded live ordnance as an
24 endangerment to the public.

25 Now, the fact that the Marine Corps has

1 currently refused or omitted in its operations even
2 fencing the existing Twentynine Palms and its live fire
3 exercise areas shows that there is a continuing
4 disregard for public safety for someone unintentionally
5 wandering into that area. They have -- and this is a
6 problem that's found at military bases throughout the
7 west where the military has moved, whether it be Air
8 Force bombing ranges in Southern Idaho or areas in
9 Colorado around Fort Collins. The military has not
10 taken the proper precautions to protect the public from
11 their use of live fire areas.

12 So, yes, I agree that this is a bad policy idea,
13 and the one thing that the military has not done is
14 looked at a viable option which has been put forth in
15 the Cook objective which has been passed by the House
16 of Representatives to move the training movements with
17 its three BEB activities to go from the west to east
18 and ending with their live fire exercise in what is now
19 current live fire exercise within Twentynine Palms.
20 Thank you.

21 MEG PALAZZOLO: I'm Meg Palozzolo. I'm here as
22 an individual.

23 I wanted to talk about the Marine expansion. I
24 think it's commendable that you guys want to do
25 something now. I want you to know that the OHV

1 community has been working on this for years, and I
2 personally am thankful that the Marines came and talked
3 to us, and I know they do have to -- we do have to
4 train our military properly. But I really do think
5 kind of the horse has left the barn on this issue.

6 I think if you guys want to do something that
7 might be productive, call James Peterson in Dianne
8 Feinstein's office. He's the one that's been heading
9 up this issue for her, and ask her -- ask him if we can
10 get some land, redesignate BLM land to open land, okay?

11 While Patrick -- the area in the green that I so
12 rudely interrupted -- I'm very sorry, so sorry -- that
13 he showed in there is currently designated as
14 limited-use area only. So we can't hold races there.

15 So a give to us that maybe they could do is to
16 designate that area as open because all of the red and
17 the yellow areas, that area was designated open. We
18 don't have to stay on trails, and we can race. So
19 there are certain things that happened in the
20 management land-use plan there that allow us to hold
21 races and events. The green area, we can't hold
22 events, and we can't race. In fact, I think D 37 had
23 to pay \$40,000 for a desert tourist study or something
24 to hold one event there I think in 1992.

25 So if there's anything you guys can do, call

1 James Peterson of Feinstein's office. Give us
2 something. The military should train their soldiers.
3 I don't know what the world is going to be like in ten
4 years, but I know I want those Marines that fight for
5 me to be well trained, but give us something,
6 mitigation. We deserve mitigation. That's it. Thank
7 you.

8 JIM BRAMHAM: Just to follow up on some of John
9 Stewart's comments, there is still evidence of
10 World War II training within the Johnson Valley area.
11 Some of the bomb craters still exist right by where you
12 start the Hammers, so the history is long and deep
13 there.

14 Find it somewhat disingenuous that the military
15 claims that that green area is part of Johnson Valley.
16 It's not. It's a limited-use area. So to try to sell
17 the idea that the expansion is not as hurtful as it
18 might be otherwise, the designation is open in that
19 area that they intend to close, and they're not
20 replacing it or even evaluating areas to consider
21 another area that would be open use. And so to add
22 that to make it look a little more shiny is fairly
23 disingenuous because it's not like for like.

24 And, third, I'd ask the legal opinion that if
25 one of you Commissioners does indeed attend a meeting

1 with some congressional staff at some point, what are
2 the limitations of conversation that you can have with
3 them as a Commissioner? Is it limited to the letter
4 that you have already done? Is it a current
5 understanding based on this meeting otherwise? And so
6 where is the limit to which you can represent this
7 Commission and the State of California at a delegation
8 if indeed you were to either do that on your own nickel
9 or you were supplied the ability to do that?

10 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36.

11 I, too, mirror Mr. Stewart's comments. This is
12 a really, really tough one. I listen to my folks up in
13 Northern California, and they are just as passionate
14 about this area as the Southern California recreation
15 community is.

16 What I didn't hear today is one word about the
17 socioeconomic impact this is going to have on this form
18 of recreation to the communities, counties, grants
19 programs, BLM, everybody that's involved.

20 Early on in this process, I heard a couple of
21 suggestions about it's going to be limited-use out
22 there, six weeks at a time, twice a year is what I
23 remember reading. One of the suggestions that went out
24 is the military to take out a BLM special use permit
25 just like everybody else and then go home, all right?

1 I still think that's viable.

2 But the monster question that's always been on
3 the back of my mind is the last statement that John
4 made. Why not go east? Why did it have to be this
5 specific direction? And this would probably destroy
6 the District 37 special event racing community. That's
7 not acceptable to me.

8 I would encourage the Commission tomorrow to put
9 a public notice out and do a teleconference, as legal
10 counsel has suggested, and set it up for the 27th and
11 get the feedback, and then you can discuss it openly,
12 meet the requirements of the law, and write that
13 supporting letter on behalf of the millions and
14 millions of families in this state that don't want
15 this.

16 It's just -- I heard sacrificial land. I think
17 it was you that said that from S 21. I remember that
18 whole process, and we just got stomped on. The
19 Commission at that time did the best it could, but it
20 did not have the finesse, education and
21 forward-thinking such as this Commission has.

22 I encourage you to do everything humanly
23 possible that you guys can, including a letter to the
24 Governor's Office requesting he stand up and stand
25 behind this form of recreation. Thank you.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's the end of public comment
2 on this agenda item. I'm sure our stenographer,
3 recorder would like to have a break. So lunchtime
4 is -- 12:30, go to 1:30 for lunch. Give us time to get
5 out of here, I guess.

6 Meeting adjourned until 1:30.

7 (Returned at 1:39 from lunch starting at 12:30 p.m.)

8 **AGENDA ITEM VI (4) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**

9 **OCOTILLO WELLS DISTRICT**

10 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think we have Ocotillo
11 Wells and then we go into the budget.

12 DIST. SUPT. AITCHISON: Good afternoon,
13 Commissioners, Division leaders, members of the public.
14 My name is Garratt Aitchison. I am the still fairly
15 new district superintendent for Ocotillo Wells and
16 Heber Dunes SVRAs.

17 I want to thank you for the opportunity to host
18 the November meeting, and it sounds like everyone
19 enjoyed the tour yesterday, which is really designed as
20 a glimpse into several of the core program areas, some
21 of our successes and some of our challenges moving
22 forward.

23 The report I have for you today, it's not
24 focussing on a specific project or a bunch of
25 statistics and figures but rather as a new Division

1 employee. I wanted to summarize my perception as a new
2 Division employee and new manager. I've had the luxury
3 of working throughout the state, redwood forests,
4 Southern California beaches, redwood forests and even a
5 wilderness area.

6 When I came to Ocotillo Wells, like the other
7 positions, I came in with eyes wide open, prepared to
8 take notes, and have my list of changes that I was sure
9 I would need to fix. It didn't take long to realize
10 that a solid foundation was already in place, a
11 mission-based vision was well established, special
12 thanks to the former staff as well as current staff.

13 The military staff you met yesterday is not
14 unlike any of the other assignments I've had. They are
15 fairly specialized in their individual disciplines,
16 public safety, resources, maintenance, interpretation,
17 facilities. But what's refreshing, what I've seen is
18 the ability for them to come together and collaborate,
19 base their information that they give to me on policy
20 and law, sound research, and I feel like I'm given
21 enough information to make a well-informed decision,
22 not just on a day-to-day basis but the long-term.

23 The other thing that's impressed me, and I've
24 heard talked about already in the meeting, is the
25 user-based fee trust fund. I think that that system is

1 a direct correlation and a success of not just Ocotillo
2 Wells but the Division as a whole, and I'm frankly
3 impressed.

4 Speaking of our user groups, at one of our stops
5 there -- I don't know if you recall at the resource
6 protection at the second stop, right following
7 interpretation, off adjacent to us was a family of
8 campers, three generations of families in that group.
9 And I think it's important -- it's been impressive to
10 me as the tradition that's taken place on those lands,
11 not just with the families but the more organized
12 larger user groups. Some of those are here today, and
13 I'd like to mention them, San Diego Off-Road Coalition,
14 Tierra Del Sol, and the other four-wheel drive clubs.
15 They've become a fixture in the park. In fact, Tierra
16 Del Sol is celebrating their 52nd annual event in the
17 park this year. Pretty impressive.

18 Just as passionate about that park as the users
19 are, are those that are calling for attention to
20 conservation and resource protection. It's part of our
21 mission. It's not something we take lightly. You
22 witnessed that yesterday, some of the positive things
23 that are happening in that park. And you know you have
24 my assurance that we will continue to base our
25 decisions on law and policy, planning documents and

1 again sound research.

2 One of the documents I feel fortunate -- and
3 sometimes I get a strange look when I say this -- to be
4 in the middle of is a general plan. It's an ominous
5 project. It's a complex park, and it's taken us some
6 time. And jumping into the middle of this and to see
7 the work that's been done so far, the public comments,
8 I think the fact that it's taken this long speaks to
9 the fact that we want to get this right. This is a
10 potentially 30-year document that we'll be relying on,
11 so I'm impressed on the work that's been done so far.

12 Just in closing, I want you to know, Division
13 leaders and Commissioners and public, that our
14 Department strategic initiatives that our General Major
15 Jackson recently initiated call out for transparency,
16 consistency, integrity. Those will be my marching
17 orders, not just for me but for my staff. And I think
18 using those principles on a day-to-day basis will build
19 relationships with our staff, my State Park colleagues
20 in Anza-Borrego, that's going to be very important,
21 stakeholders, interest groups. And together we will --
22 you know, I'm excited about the things that we're
23 looking forward to.

24 If you have any questions, I would be happy to
25 answer them. If not, I'll introduce Sector

1 Superintendent Kirk Shea.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Once again,
3 congratulations. You guys did a wonderful job
4 yesterday. It's obvious your staff is very dedicated
5 to their job.

6 DIST. SUPT. AITCHISON: Thank you, sir. I'll
7 pass that on.

8 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: Good afternoon,
9 Commissioners, Division staff, visitors.

10 Today what I'd like to do is give you an update
11 on Heber Dunes. It's been two years since you've been
12 there, and I thought you might like to hear a little
13 bit of some stuff that's been going on.

14 Back in 2011, the OHV Commission met at Heber
15 Dunes. We did a tour there, just as you did Ocotillo
16 Wells, and then the following day you met and approved
17 the general plan. And since then, we haven't been
18 idle.

19 Construction on new facilities began in
20 November of 2012 for a new ranger station and
21 maintenance and day-use area, and we're anticipating
22 those facilities to be completed in January of 2014.
23 The construction project includes a ranger station, a
24 maintenance yard, day-use facilities including a fire
25 pit, shade structures, water fountains, a viewing area

1 for the public to go. Some of the additional
2 infrastructure for the maintenance will be fuel tanks,
3 water tanks and secure parking areas.

4 What I'd like to do, though, is walk you through
5 some of the old facilities first. Some of you have
6 seen these, and some of you have not. The old ranger
7 station that was there was a doublewide trailer. It
8 was not a great eye catcher when you entered the park,
9 so we kind of had to focus the visitors' attention
10 sometimes when they had a question or whatnot.

11 The original facilities included not only the
12 ranger station but some old housing. It was a 20-year
13 old modular. The yellow building you see there was the
14 old original restroom, and also in that picture,
15 although you can barely see it, is the maintenance
16 shop. The only day-use facility at the time was an old
17 baseball field that had not been used in quite some
18 time.

19 The old maintenance yards, as I pointed out in a
20 previous picture, was also part of the maintenance or
21 the residence area. So you can see that the heavy
22 equipment, state vehicles, and private vehicles were
23 nestled together. That small little roof you see
24 peeking out on the right was that old maintenance shop.

25 As you know, we've talked about it a little bit,

1 volunteering in State Parks is very important at
2 Ocotillo Wells, and at Heber Dunes it's no different.
3 At Heber Dunes we rely on volunteer camp hosts to help
4 us with our maintenance duties. Unfortunately, they've
5 had the struggle of dry camping only. So when they
6 would come and stay with us for six months, they had no
7 electricity, no running water, no sewer systems. So
8 they would have to go and refill those a couple of
9 times a week. We were lucky in that we had a few
10 ardent camp hosts that came back year after year after
11 year because they love that park.

12 And we also know that it's important to have the
13 right tool for the job, and the old maintenance shop
14 was a sea container that until 2010 did not even have
15 air conditioning. And those of you who have been out
16 in the desert know that gets up to about 120 out there.
17 So the maintenance staff had an extra challenge of
18 having to work in those temperatures and not being able
19 to get out of them fairly often.

20 What I'd like to do, though, is show you and
21 bring you up to speed on some of the things that have
22 been happening in the last year. A new ranger station
23 is being built. When the visitors come in, they will
24 now have a very noticeable centerpiece for them to
25 come. So when they have a question or want to get

1 information, they will know exactly where to go.

2 In front of the ranger station will be some of
3 those new facilities I talked about earlier, some of
4 the picnic tables, the water fountain. The posts you
5 see sticking up in the background are going to be shade
6 ramadas so that families and large groups can all be in
7 one spot instead of having to intersperse throughout
8 the park as they sometimes do now.

9 Visitors will also be able to enjoy a fire pit
10 and other day-use areas. The trees that are being
11 planted are palm trees that when they grow up will
12 provide enough shade that visitors will be able to
13 stick around a little bit longer when the temperatures
14 get warmer.

15 The area of the unused baseball diamond has been
16 transformed. It's much more pleasant to look at. It
17 also helps guide the visitors into the day-use area and
18 into the new ranger station.

19 An area that used to include the housing and
20 maintenance shop will now be strictly a work area. The
21 heavy equipment that we use in the park to work on the
22 trails will now fit in the appropriate area, and it
23 will be covered and protected from the sun that we have
24 and the heat.

25 In Heber's remote area, having an on-duty ranger

1 or an onsite ranger at all times is important. We have
2 good relationships with our partners, the Imperial
3 County Sheriffs and some of the others, but the fact is
4 that sometimes when we have small law enforcement
5 issues in the park after-hours, they're not so quick to
6 respond. Having a ranger onsite to take care of that
7 in minutes as opposed to hours, as sometimes happens,
8 is critical.

9 What we've also done is also improved the
10 facilities. So instead of having a few ardent camp
11 hosts that have decided to tough it out, we can now
12 provide water, electrical and sewer connections. This
13 is going to make finding the job of additional
14 volunteers much easier. We've also expanded it to
15 three camp host sites, instead of the one you saw there
16 before, so that we can get additional help to our
17 maintenance staff.

18 Do you remember that old sea container that was
19 their maintenance shop? Now, they're going to have an
20 appropriate facility where not only can they work in
21 air conditioning, they can park the vehicle inside,
22 load it as they need, and also store the materials as
23 they need.

24 By moving the storage from those sea containers
25 to an indoor facility, not only are you giving them

1 increased room to do that, we're also going to be able
2 to protect those things that we have. Unfortunately,
3 with the high heat, sometimes the things that we would
4 like to store we can't because now they just won't
5 last.

6 By the time the project is completed, which is
7 only two short months away, the visitors will be very
8 happy to see the changes. We've already heard some
9 comments from them. They're excited to see the day-use
10 facilities where they can go spend an entire day. As
11 is often with a lot of our visitors, they will come in
12 the late mornings, spend the whole afternoon and into
13 the evening. And they're very much looking forward to
14 the completed project. And this is the rendering of
15 what the final project will look like when the trees
16 come to fruition.

17 That's the end my presentation if there are any
18 questions.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Pretty impressive from what it
20 was in the beginning.

21 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: The new building, is it
23 LEED certified?

24 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: It is not LEED certified.
25 It's the one below that. I'm sorry, it escapes my

1 mind -- low impact development. We are having the --

2 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I just saw the build-out
3 for additional sunlight, and so I --

4 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: We do have some PV panels
5 going in. We did the landscaping as best we could with
6 those, as well.

7 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: And palm trees, are
8 those native?

9 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: Those trees are not native
10 to the area, but they were selected to use less water.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

12 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Good job.

14 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Okay. I'm going to ask if
15 we can flip to section nine and do the grants right
16 now.

17 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: My apologies, Commissioners,
18 next up is Kevin Ponce, he's the environmental
19 scientist at Ocotillo Wells, and he's going to talk
20 about his program a little bit.

21 THE REPORTER: Could you also identify yourself
22 for the record?

23 SECTOR SUPT. SHEA: Kirk Shea, Sector
24 Superintendent, Heber Dunes.

25 SCIENTIST KEVIN PONCE: Good afternoon,

1 Commissioners. My name is Kevin Ponce, Environmental
2 Scientist at Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation
3 Area. I met some of you yesterday, and I think --

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: We didn't recognize you with the
5 suit on.

6 SCIENTIST KEVIN PONCE: I clean up pretty nice,
7 right?

8 Well, and I wanted to talk a little bit more
9 about our resources program that we have out there
10 because it's not just rehabilitation. We are also
11 mandated to conduct a habitat monitoring system out
12 there like all SVRAs are in the state.

13 At Ocotillo Wells, our resources department
14 conducts plant and animal surveys, and the information
15 that we gather from these surveys helps us to find
16 sensitive habitats and also prioritize protection and
17 rehabilitation efforts throughout the park.

18 As part of our yearly monitoring efforts, we
19 also use remote trail cameras, and these help us to
20 monitor and identify wildlife species throughout the
21 park. These trail cameras use motion and infrared
22 sensors, and they can take pictures during the day and
23 the nighttime. This helps us because a lot of these
24 deserts species are wary of human interaction, and so
25 they're not typically seen in the daytime by a lot of

1 members of the public or people who might come out
2 there to specifically watch for wildlife species such
3 as the badger. This is a ringtail cat. This was
4 actually very exciting for us because this was the
5 first confirmed photograph of a ringtail cat in the
6 park. The burrowing owl was another very exciting
7 picture for us, and, of course, the loveable coyote
8 that everybody knows about. This is at Barrel Springs
9 right here where we stopped yesterday. This is a
10 mother and two pups. I had to throw this one in. How
11 can you not love that face, right?

12 So, again, these animals are very secretive.
13 And a lot of times we wouldn't come across them in the
14 course of our normal habitat monitoring surveys. So
15 these cameras definitely help us to further our
16 inventory process.

17 These trail cameras are positioned at five
18 different permanent water sources or springs located
19 throughout the park. These water sources are extremely
20 important for these desert animals who have chosen to
21 live in some of the most inhospitable terrain on earth.
22 Some of these animals in the photographs are actually
23 designated California species of special concern. We
24 don't have any listed threatened or endangered animals
25 out there, but the designation of species of special

1 concern helps us to justify the measures that we take
2 to protect these water sources such as using fencing or
3 barricades to prevent any sort of transgression through
4 the area.

5 I'm going to show you a short film right now,
6 and this film was put together by the OW Interpretive
7 Program, and what they did was they used a week's worth
8 of our photos out at Barrel Springs. It was one of our
9 very active cameras out there, a week worth's of our
10 photos that they condensed and combined down into about
11 two minutes. Some of you may have already seen this
12 video.

13 The Interpretative Program, after they created
14 it, they uploaded it up onto the Ocotillo Wells
15 Facebook page, where it received a lot of attention, I
16 think 45,000 views is what it was. It got a lot of
17 attention. People loved it. And actually a local
18 San Diego news station got wind of it. They came out
19 and gave us a very positive interview based on the
20 video. So that was some real great publicly there.
21 I'll point out some of the interesting species.

22 (Viewed video.)

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: So when the coyote show up, do
24 all of the rabbits leave?

25 SCIENTIST KEVIN PONCE: Very interesting point.

1 We saw yesterday -- this place is called Barrel Springs
2 for a reason because there's a natural spring down
3 there as well. What looks like a hole -- there is the
4 coyotes. What they will do, they will dig down into
5 the sand until they hit groundwater, which subsequently
6 fills the hole. This phenomenon is called a coyote
7 well. Not just coyotes use it, but in an area like the
8 desert where water is such a precious commodity,
9 everything uses it. So that's what you'll see in the
10 center there where they're kind of fighting over it.

11 A real interesting thing, at least from my point
12 of view, is what would be called a resource
13 partitioning. Everything seems to -- it's not such a
14 rosy picture, but everything kind of takes a turn to
15 get a drink of water out there. Because it's such a
16 rough lifestyle, they tend to -- if you look at the
17 cameras, there's a time stamp at the bottom. At some
18 point you'll see a coyote at one o'clock in the
19 morning, and then at 1:10 you'll see a rabbit. So
20 they're just missing each other by minutes, sometimes
21 even seconds. And even the badgers there, they're not
22 in a drag-out, knockdown fight to kill each other.
23 They're just kind of asserting their dominance trying
24 to say I'm drinking at the hole right now, so wait your
25 turn in the back there until I'm done. Very

1 interesting stuff.

2 Being a wildlife biologist, before I came to the
3 park -- I'm kind a newbie down here, and I never would
4 have expected this kind of animal diversity, and it's
5 really interesting to behold.

6 So any questions?

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Ocotillo Wells, is
8 that it?

9 **AGENDA ITEM VI (1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - GRANTS**
10 **PROGRAM**

11 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Now, I would suggest that
12 we turn to Section 9, and we will hear from Kelly Long
13 about grants.

14 OHMVR STAFF LONG: Good afternoon,
15 Commissioners. Kelly Long with the Grants Program here
16 at the Division. And thank you for taking me out of
17 turn. I may make that flight after all. Poor planning
18 perhaps on my part.

19 I will provide a brief update on some ongoing
20 items with the Grants Program. There are basically
21 three items to discuss. First off would be -- you may
22 recall, gosh, I want to say back in June when we met in
23 Folsom, maybe even earlier, we had just started -- we
24 were trying to get some information about proposals to
25 change some of the regulations.

1 I am happy to announce as of Thursday those
2 regulations, which we finally submitted to the Office
3 of Administrative Law in July, have now been approved
4 and will be in effect for next year's grant cycle.
5 It's a very lengthy, time-consuming undertaking, and
6 even realistically for the small amount of changes that
7 we made, we just have to go through it, but those
8 regulations have been approved. We're pretty happy
9 with that. That will be in place for the next grants
10 cycle, which leads me to the next point.

11 The next grants cycle is shockingly right around
12 the corner. For our purposes, the grants cycle will
13 kick off January 13. The 13th and 14th, we will be
14 conducting our workshops in Ontario. Later that same
15 week, 16th and 17th, we will be in Sacramento. And we
16 will be looking forward to the preliminary applications
17 showing up on our Online Grant Application system on
18 the 3rd of March. And we will go through the whole
19 process again, so we're looking forward with that.

20 And the last item regarding the grants, the
21 Recreational Trails Program, which you may recall over
22 the past year has actually been in danger of
23 disappearing entirely, first at the national level and
24 then even later at the state level. It took a lot of
25 work by interested parties laboring and lobbying on

1 behalf of trails and the Recreational Trails Program at
2 the state and federal level to keep this program in
3 existence.

4 I am happy to report that the Recreational
5 Trails Program motorized component has approximately
6 \$1.5 million available, and we are actually conducting
7 a workshop for the RTP program. That's going to take
8 place next week in Fresno County in the town of Clovis,
9 actually. And we're going to be making a presentation
10 during the workshop with a number of interested
11 parties.

12 We're also conducting some outreach via phone
13 and personal interaction with a lot of our other
14 grantees, potential applicants, just making sure as
15 many people are aware of this funding as possible.
16 Because we were quite frankly lucky to have this money
17 available at all.

18 Our counterpart on the non-motorized side, their
19 funding through the process was actually reduced. So
20 in this year, the non-motorized RTP and motorized RTP
21 have essentially the same amount of funding available
22 to them, which is different from how it's been in the
23 past. That difference has now been targeted into a
24 separate additional program that will be administered
25 by the Department of Transportation.

1 That essentially concludes my report.

2 COMMISSIONER KERR: Thank you. I've been
3 waiting all day for the RTP. I guess the Division
4 administers this; however, it's kind of a specialized
5 kind of a program, the trail but it's motorized.

6 So what about this project from Mexico to
7 Canada, figuring out what that route really is and
8 delineating it and improving it, connecting it and
9 marking it?

10 OHMVR STAFF LONG: In that regard, the Back
11 Country, the Discovery Trail, if it got to the point
12 that you were trying to piece it together and put up
13 your interpretive signing, that sort of thing, that
14 would be an appropriate Recreational Trails Program
15 project.

16 The RTP is set up where it doesn't allow for a
17 planning project. Essentially you have to be sort of
18 shovel ready, or in some instances an educational
19 program is allowable. But via the planning of that,
20 stringing it all together, it would not qualify.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: So how is that trail ever
22 going to get planned so that it would be shovel ready
23 so that when RTP funds became available, we can say,
24 hey, we've got a connector down in San Diego County?

25 OHMVR STAFF LONG: If I may, I believe at least

1 one portion of it -- the forest escapes me. In the
2 past, I'm 99 percent certain that one forest did come
3 in for some interpretive signage, and some repairs to
4 that portion of the trail as it exists right now. But
5 obviously it does not stretch from border to border.

6 CHIEF JENKINS: So the full build-out of what
7 it's going to require is the first thing that needs to
8 happen, once we get some more work done as far as how
9 much support is there out in the larger public to put
10 money into it, the Division then would do the initial
11 overarching planning, because what we have lacked in
12 the past is that programmatic EIR similar to what we
13 just did on the winter recreation program for the
14 snowmobile trails. We had to look at the entire state
15 on a statewide systematic level and get a programmatic
16 EIR done.

17 In the past -- this all happened before I came
18 into the headquarters level of Division -- as the State
19 was working on the trail, that was the concern that was
20 raised was that we were doing individual CEQA packages
21 on portions of the trail forest by forest and that that
22 was equivalent to piecemealing the project.

23 So once we ascertained that there is indeed
24 enough support that we can commit funds to that, then
25 we would spend the money out of our headquarters

1 funding to do a statewide programmatic EIR. When
2 that's done, then individual landowners, forests,
3 counties, BLM areas could then come in for specific
4 pieces of the trail and get local planning money
5 through our Grants Program to plan those and then
6 eventually construct them.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: I thought we identified this
8 as a goal about a year ago.

9 CHIEF JENKINS: We have identified it as a goal.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: What more is needed to
11 determine support for it?

12 CHIEF JENKINS: Well, what we haven't heard --
13 one of the things that we've been trying to arrange --
14 as you were mentioning earlier, it's one thing for us
15 to say, yes, this is a great goal, but it's going to be
16 a very expensive proposal.

17 The winter EIR took a tremendous amount of staff
18 and time and legal defense money on the subsequent
19 lawsuits to get passed, and so it's going to be a huge
20 financial undertaking.

21 With the loss of the \$10 million to the program
22 two years ago, the Grants Program has been underfunded
23 at times. We're still struggling with the operations
24 portion of the program being underfunded. So we're in
25 the hole. Our budget every year -- you know, right now

1 as we're going forward, we're going in the red every
2 year.

3 So the question is how much money will we be
4 willing as a large community of interest in the state
5 to commit towards this program recognizing that we're
6 already spending in the red and need some of that loan
7 money repaid just to maintain our current level of
8 activities.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I would say the additional
10 roadblock is the individual forests have to make that
11 decision themselves, too; isn't that right?

12 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That's correct.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: We can't just dictate we're
14 coming through.

15 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We have a couple of forests
16 that have already taken a lot of good work and put it
17 towards it, but it's not consistent across all of the
18 forests. So that's part of it, is the lobbying with
19 the other forests' superintendents and getting them on
20 board and see if we can link this whole thing together.

21 So it's absolutely not forgotten. We're still
22 working it. It's just not the top of the priority list
23 right now as we try to discern public support and try
24 to get more support out of the Forest Service.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: So who is going to get this

1 money? I'm having a hard time conceiving this. Ed
2 Waldheim?

3 OHMVR STAFF LONG: Myself personally I have had
4 discussions with three forests that have projects that
5 are --

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: The U.S. Forest Service
7 typically.

8 OHMVR STAFF LONG: U.S. Forests, and I have had
9 discussions with four nonprofits from all the way up in
10 Lassen County and then down -- including Friends of
11 Jawbone. And there are a number of other folks that
12 we're still trying to contact to make sure they know
13 it's available to them.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: So the situation that we were
15 looking at last year where Department of Transportation
16 was going to absorb this program, that's no longer
17 viable?

18 OHMVR STAFF LONG: That is off the table. They
19 absorbed a portion of it that came out of the
20 non-motorized side.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's amazing actually some good
22 things happen. I think the folks out there in the
23 community, OHV community, I know they're really pushing
24 hard for that, so apparently it made some --

25 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: This was absolutely a

1 success story on the OHV community coming to the
2 forefront and hitting up their representatives, yes,
3 absolutely.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Great.

5 OHMVR STAFF LONG: Thank you.

6 **AGENDA ITEM VI (1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - EASTERN**

7 **KERN COUNTY ACQUISITION**

8 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Okay. If we could turn
9 back to Section 7, we'll hear from Dan Canfield, and
10 this will be on the Eastern Kern County Acquisition.

11 OHMVR MGR. CANFIELD: Thank you, Deputy
12 Director. Hello, Commissioners, Dan Canfield, OHMVR
13 Division Planning Manager, presenting a report on the
14 Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition.

15 The report is provided in your binders behind
16 Tab No. 7, as the Deputy Director mentioned, also
17 available to the public on the back table.

18 As previously reported, the Division is
19 proposing to acquire approximately 25,000 acres of land
20 in Eastern Kern County, which is currently owned under
21 private ownership. There's a map attachment to your
22 report, which is also being projected, and on this map
23 the proposed parcels for acquisition are indicated in a
24 rose or a pink color.

25 The OHMVR Division has made substantial progress

1 towards this acquisition, as illustrated by this next
2 slide which shows the items that have been completed
3 with a checkmark. And notably since the last
4 Commission meeting, I can report that we have a couple
5 of additional accomplishments.

6 First of all, the CEQA Environmental Impact
7 Report for the acquisition was certified by the OHMVR
8 Division and published on October 4th, 2013. The
9 Notice of Determination for this environmental impact
10 report is included as an attachment to your report.

11 Also, the acquisition was approved by
12 California's Public Works Board for site selection.
13 This site selection approval is very important as it
14 allows the State to enter formal negotiations with the
15 landowner. That is indicated by a yellow star on the
16 slide. What we're trying to show on this slide is that
17 we've made great progress, and we're getting very, very
18 near the end of this acquisition process.

19 That's the end of my report.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: And the beginning of the next
21 process.

22 OHMVR MGR. CANFIELD: There's always something
23 else.

24 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That's exactly right, and
25 that's why in answer to the question on the Back

1 Country Trails thing, we've got a couple of other
2 things in the mix, so it's not that that slid off the
3 table, but this is going to be a big issue. And we're
4 probably talking at the current rate that this purchase
5 will happen this year, this fiscal year.

6 So impacts will be felt as we try -- you know,
7 as soon as we own it, now we're the dog that's caught
8 the car, and now it's ours. We've got to start doing
9 something with it, so that will require some
10 investiture. It will be a great opportunity. This
11 will be the first state vehicle area I think in 20
12 years, we were saying, first new one.

13 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Something like that, yes.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: What are we looking at as the
15 timeline for maybe actually opening the door on this
16 thing?

17 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Well, it's not as if we're
18 closing the doors on it since it's already an active
19 OHV site. It's a matter of putting our imprint on it
20 as an SVRA. So Jeff Gaffney's team will be the first
21 ones to kind of touch it.

22 But obviously we've got Friends of Jawbone down
23 there that we're already working with. We've already
24 got a good relationship with the BLM that currently
25 manages it. So this will be more of an iterative

1 process, and it will be closed and then all of a sudden
2 open one day.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: So I was looking at the map
4 earlier, and this Jawbone station, is that the one
5 where you buy gas and there's an interpretive center?

6 OHMVR MGR. CANFIELD: There's two facilities
7 very close to each other. One is the Jawbone Store,
8 which is a gasoline station and a market and a cantina.
9 And about a quarter of a mile north on Highway 14 is
10 the BLM facility, which is the Jawbone Visitor Center
11 that includes the interpretive facility and a large
12 maintenance facility, and that's the Friend of
13 Jawbone's base.

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: Are we taking that over or
15 are they going to keep -- it's a dual maintenance
16 agreement?

17 OHMVR MGR. CANFIELD: The existing Jawbone
18 visitor facility is on a BLM chunk of land. We're
19 working on an agreement to co-manage the properties
20 with the BLM and the Friends of Jawbone cooperatively.
21 We're going to be sharing.

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Good.

23 CHIEF JENKINS: It's more of a value-added
24 situation where right now BLM and Friends of Jawbone
25 are doing a great job on their own lands, but there are

1 also these private lands in between. Since they're
2 private, for instance, if they come in for grant money
3 to do any repair on those private land, it's just one
4 of those odd situations of how do you deal with private
5 lands. By bringing them all into ownership with State
6 Parks, now BLM and State Parks can both work with the
7 Friends of Jawbone and run the area in a more holistic
8 way.

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: Are we going to sign a
10 joint -- what do you call those operating agreement?

11 CHIEF JENKINS: We're working with BLM on an
12 MOU.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: Will our officers be the
14 ones out there? You're not going to have both of them
15 out there, are you?

16 CHIEF JENKINS: Well, right now our anticipation
17 is that -- because we cannot out of the blue come up
18 with a large staff out there. So we would take staff
19 from some of Mr. Gaffney's here -- Superintendent
20 Gaffney has staff over nearby at Hungry Valley, send
21 them over to assist with the current volunteers and BLM
22 staff that are over there.

23 So that's why we're saying it's an iterative
24 process. Right now we're just going to come over there
25 and help out the existing program. They've got boots

1 on the ground. They're doing the job. We'll come in
2 and help where we can, and then we'll work together
3 looking at how do we develop that towards the future.

4 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: Jeff Gaffney, Hollister
5 Hills/Hungry Valley District -- Hungry Valley, Eastern
6 Kern County.

7 If you look to the western edge, which is the
8 left-hand side, there has been less law enforcement
9 presence over on that side. So this is a place where
10 we can really work cooperatively with BLM. We probably
11 will be able to fairly easily put in a modular-type
12 facility over there and put a resident law enforcement
13 officer out there who is on that side of the territory.
14 And BLM might be able to represent the other side of
15 the territory and they share responsibility.

16 It's a very simple example of some of the things
17 we've talked about with the field office manager. I've
18 been working with Carl Simmons developing an MOU. It
19 seems like a pretty straightforward --

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: Don't you have to have an
21 entrance gate and pay a fee? It's not going to be that
22 kind of an SVRA?

23 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: Not at all. Ocotillo
24 Wells has no entrance fee.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: I see, right, just like

1 Ocotillo Wells.

2 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: In the EIR process we've
3 recognized all of the existing attributes of the area,
4 one of which is actually hunting came up. And we
5 recognize that hunting probably will need to continue
6 to exist out. There's not a traditional activity in a
7 SVRA, but regionally speaking, without going into the
8 public planning process -- because it is a public
9 planning process -- there is probably some
10 opportunities to allow hunting in certain areas of
11 state land mixed with federal lands.

12 There will be some other opportunities where
13 we're going to need to protect some very valuable
14 resources out there. We feel like we can come in right
15 away the first day with law enforcement and resources
16 to manage some of the natural resources and cultural
17 resources. There are a lot of cultural resources out
18 there that need to be inventoried and examined.

19 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Jeff, I have a question for
20 you. I recall there were some concerns about Valley
21 Fever and some of those. Is that still not -- is that
22 an issue?

23 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: That is not an issue on
24 this property. That was on the other side of the hill,
25 more into the Central Valley itself. We're away from

1 the actual Central Valley side.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: The MOU thing with the BLM, I
3 know it's probably the way we do business, but as we've
4 seen in Ocotillo Wells, when it really comes down to it
5 and the Federal Government still owns those other
6 chunks of land and they decide to do something else
7 with them, we're done. You know, it can drastically
8 change our operation.

9 Are we pursuing any kind of ownership where
10 we're buying that land back piece by piece? Is there
11 some kind of a process that we can --

12 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: I think you have raised
13 some very volatile political issues. If you look at
14 how Red Rock was acquired and the process it went
15 through with Desert Protection Act, and a lot of people
16 are still very unhappy in that region about how things
17 went down.

18 So any decision making we do, we need to involve
19 the public. There is a very vocal community out there,
20 very strong values and thoughts about how things should
21 be planned for. And I think engaging them -- the next
22 three years, as I see it, is going to be all about
23 engaging the public out there and planning.

24 We've already been engaging them. We usually
25 have a presence out there every weekend. I've had

1 staff out there during the busy season, and they're
2 just out talking to people, gathering information,
3 exchanging information. I see that being ramped up
4 even more as we move into the future.

5 Starting day one when we own the property,
6 nothing is going to change as far as how people have
7 been recreating out there unless there is a critical
8 resource issue or there's a public safety issue. We
9 will have enforcement. We'll have staff, and then we
10 will take the planning process and move forward. And
11 that's where Dan and I have been working very closely,
12 so he can keep me out of trouble.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm not sure you answered my
14 question. Can we own that property, or do we have to
15 always operate under an MOU?

16 CHIEF JENKINS: So that's a much bigger question
17 than Superintendent Gaffney can really address.

18 So what we have is a situation here in Ocotillo
19 Wells and a situation there where we have checkerboard
20 properties. Something we've just kind of batted around
21 is a what if -- and neither agency has gone into any
22 kind of detail looking at, which would be at some point
23 in the future it may make sense to do some land
24 swapping and consolidation. That's for the future.

25 Right now we're just trying to address the

1 immediate needs, which is to ensure that those private
2 parcels don't get developed or sold to an owner that
3 would close down and make it much harder for BLM to
4 continue their current operations.

5 One step at a time. We're going to secure that
6 property. Whatever happens in the future, all up for
7 discussion between our respective agencies.

8 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: The interesting thing about
9 this particular property is that there is a coalition
10 of people that you would not normally see, and it's
11 both us, State Parks, we have a lot of support from
12 BLM, Fish and Wildlife, DOD, several environmental
13 groups. The reason why is the patchwork nature of this
14 land. People are very concerned that it's going to be
15 utilized for purposes that they don't want it used for,
16 everything from power generation to potential
17 development in other ways.

18 So they're actually very interested in us making
19 this into a park. There are some people that are not.
20 They're jaded by some of the issues that happened when
21 Red Rock was turned into a park. They feel like you're
22 going to take it over and shut things down. That's not
23 our intent.

24 Our intent is to make the OHV recreation better.
25 It's good now. We can make it even better. We can

1 provide the law enforcement out there that will keep
2 people doing it responsibly and make some of those
3 partners very happy such as Fish and Wildlife and some
4 of the environmentalists that don't necessarily see
5 that happening out there.

6 So this is actually a good coalition of people
7 that want us to get this. And in the long run, as the
8 Chief said, if we own it, then there's motivation to do
9 land swapping potentially with the federal agencies for
10 us to take charge of that land. If we don't own it,
11 there is no motivation whatsoever for that to ever
12 happen and then bad things could happen in that land.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: I had to ask the question.

14 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I just wanted to say that
15 the thought of some day having a ninth SVRA is quite
16 exciting. Thank you for your work.

17 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: My questions are more
18 concerning budget. After we own it, how are we going
19 to operate and maintain it? Considering that you're
20 going to go into an MOU for -- right now it's X number
21 of years, we don't know. And I see that under program
22 reports, budget is going to be discussed.

23 But part of that strategy is how do we get
24 repayment for some of the funding that was taken away
25 from the Department. So it's probably multiple

1 questions there, but that's dependent on how we're
2 getting money in return for operating these types of
3 projects.

4 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Right. And this is part of
5 our future five-year planning.

6 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I think it also
7 dovetails on Breene's interest in doing the Back
8 Country Trails, not having enough to be able to do
9 something like that as well.

10 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That's part of our
11 argument, and that's been made very clear to us by
12 Finance and the Legislature that as we go in and ask
13 for this money, we have to identify our needs.

14 I mean, yes, in fact, they do have to repay
15 loans. But there has to be a rationale for why we
16 needs those loans repaired, as well. We can't just
17 simply say, well, we just want our money back.

18 So we're going in with that level of planning,
19 what we need it for. This is one example. Back
20 Country Trails is another example. A lot of our other
21 work that we're doing on the other SVRAs and throughout
22 the state on our grants, personnel needs, all of those
23 get identified and put into the mix when we go up and
24 we talk to them.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: So the more projects we have on

1 the table, the better opportunity we have to get our
2 money back?

3 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: In some sense, that's
4 right.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Generally speaking.

6 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: In this particular project,
7 too, DOD is a partner, and DOD is putting money into
8 the mix as well. So that will help pay some of the
9 sustainment costs.

10 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: Thank you. And I just
11 wanted to say this is a spectacular, amazing project to
12 be part of. I feel fortunate that in my career I had
13 the chance to be part of it. It's amazing. I hope we
14 all get to get out there. It's surrounded by just
15 amazing places in California. This is what our
16 Department is about, protecting places like this.

17 **AGENDA ITEM VI (4) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - SVRA**

18 **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

19 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Okay. Next up is again
20 Dan.

21 OHMVR MGR. CANFIELD: Thank you, Deputy
22 Director. Hello, Commissioners. Dan Canfield, OHMVR
23 Division Planning Manager presenting the report on the
24 status of the SVRA general plans.

25 The report is provided in your binders behind

1 Tab No. 8. It's also available to the public on the
2 back table. The report does include an attachment that
3 shows the status of the SVRA general plans. On the
4 slide we have color-coded them for you so we can
5 illustrate some of our general plan accomplishments.

6 The two that are indicated in blue are SVRAs
7 that have no immediate need for general plan work. The
8 two identified in green have been recently approved by
9 the OHMVR Commission. And the projects in yellow are
10 the SVRAs that need general plan work done.

11 I want to highlight some of the recent
12 accomplishments for the active SVRA general plans, and
13 I'll start first with Ocotillo Wells since they're
14 hosting us for this meeting.

15 The Ocotillo Wells SVRA general plan team
16 recently posted Working Paper 2 on the project website.
17 Working Paper 2 describes the existing conditions of
18 the SVRA, and this document will actually become
19 Chapter 2 of the General Plan. So that's up on the
20 project website right now, and that's
21 planOcotilloWells.com is the website.

22 Now, for Ocotillo Wells SVRA, public workshops
23 are tentatively planned for next month, December 2013,
24 and these workshops will be an opportunity for the
25 public to provide input on the draft planning concepts

1 that have been developed. The idea is to have a
2 meeting at the SVRA during the holiday season when
3 they're very busy. Apparently the time between the
4 December holidays, the park is very active. So they're
5 going to take that opportunity to get some public input
6 on these draft planning alternatives, in addition to a
7 formal public workshop that will be closer into town
8 probably after the first of the year. So those are
9 very imminent. And in our first Commission meeting in
10 2014, I'll be able to report to you on the
11 accomplishments from those workshops.

12 Moving north for Carnegie SVRA, the planning
13 team hosted a public workshop just this past Tuesday in
14 Pleasanton, California. Commissioner Cabral attended.
15 Thank you, Commissioner Cabral. This workshop in
16 Pleasanton was very well attended. It was at the
17 Amador High School, and we had over 300 people in
18 attendance, so very impressive.

19 There was great discussion at the meeting
20 regarding the preferred planning concept that was
21 presented. This morning I provided the Commissioners
22 with samples of the materials that were provided.
23 There is an information booklet and a comment card. I
24 also put some on the back table for the public to
25 review.

1 The folks that attended the workshop received
2 these materials and were able to discuss the preferred
3 concept with members of the planning team, and there
4 was also a presentation from our general plan
5 contractor, AECOM on the process.

6 But just because we had great attendance at the
7 workshop doesn't mean that -- we want even more input.
8 So the same materials that were provided to the
9 workshop attendees are now available on the project
10 website. And that's CarnegieGeneralPlan.Com. So folks
11 who weren't able to go to the workshop or were at the
12 workshop and still had some more great ideas can go
13 onto the project website, review the materials and
14 provide input on the preferred concept. And that's
15 going to be through mid December folks can do that.

16 And then the planning team is going to take all
17 of that great input we received, fine tune the
18 preferred concept, and that will become our draft
19 general plan, and then there will be an associated
20 draft environmental impact report associated with that.
21 That will be the next big opportunity for folks to give
22 input, and that's for Carnegie.

23 And those are the major highlights I wanted to
24 talk about, and that's the end of my report.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Comments?

1 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Actually, I do have a
2 comment. I attended that workshop, and I thought you
3 guys did an excellent job as far as the presentation to
4 the public. A lot of people had a very clear
5 understanding of where the situation was at currently,
6 and they were excited that they were going to be able
7 to have the opportunity to comment and be able to move
8 forward from there.

9 Unfortunately, there was a lot of disinformation
10 that was distributed at the door to the workshop by the
11 neighbor of the property who has been causing a bit of
12 problems there. And I had the opportunity after the
13 event was over to engage him and the group, and he was
14 painting a very bleak picture of how things were. And
15 I tried to make more of a positive impact on everybody,
16 and I think it was a message that was well received.

17 So with that, I just wanted to give that
18 feedback because not only was it well received by the
19 people that were for the expansion but also by the
20 people that were looking for like just a standard park
21 like an experience at that Tesla property.

22 So I think the message that you have been doing
23 is very positive, straightforward informative. To keep
24 on that path and keep going that direction is going to
25 be real beneficial for everybody. And hopefully it

1 will outweigh the negative information that was
2 distributed that was a lot, some of it false. I just
3 wanted to provide the feedback. I didn't have a chance
4 to talk to you about that.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: My understanding was there was
6 going to be a field trip of that group to Hollister.
7 Did that take place?

8 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Sure did, actually went
9 very well. Jeff's team did a great job of talking them
10 through everything we've done out there. The focus was
11 primarily on the Renz properties, how that was set up
12 from the ground up to put OHV in there with the least
13 amount of impact on the natural resources, how the
14 trails were carved out.

15 We also brought in some of the resident experts
16 that we had. Dr. Smith came on in, gave a great
17 dissertation on the water out there. He had a couple
18 of good brand new interns that were Smith trained that
19 did a phenomenal job discussing how the resources are
20 being protected. And we had our friend, Joe Morris,
21 come out and give a great dissertation on the grazing
22 that's being done out there and how they're using it as
23 a land management technique.

24 I will tell you that the impression that team
25 made on that group of environmentalists was

1 significant. They all walked away with a much better
2 understanding of what we did. I'm not telling you
3 they're all ready to slap the "I believe" button and
4 put SVRAs all over the state, but they have a much
5 greater, deeper appreciation of what we're doing. And
6 I feel like we're more of a partnership group now than
7 we are fighting each other. I think they really are
8 looking for opportunities now where they can work with
9 us on some of those things, and that's great.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is that before or after the
11 public meeting?

12 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That was before the public
13 meeting. So the group that I think that Ted saw there,
14 that's not representative of the group that actually
15 went to Hollister.

16 Some the more vocal members of the group that
17 went to Carnegie/Tesla decided not to go to Hollister,
18 but that's okay. Those aren't the people that we're
19 really targeting. We're targeting the more reasonable
20 folks in the group that we want to be able to cooperate
21 with who are going to be good partners with us.

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: If I may ask, did the
23 Conleys attend the tour in Hollister?

24 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: No.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any further comments?

1 Thank you, very good.

2 **AGENDA ITEM VI (1) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - BUDGET**

3 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I suggest we flip to
4 Section 6, and we can let Kenney come on up. He's been
5 chomping at the bit to talk about the budget, Kenney
6 Glaspie.

7 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: Good afternoon,
8 Commissioners, members of the public, fellow staff. I
9 do not ever chomp to speak publicly.

10 I'm not going to go into full budget
11 presentation. I'm only going to discuss the capital
12 outlay portion of the budget, so that's kind of what I
13 am. I'm a maintenance guy, construction guy. I'm
14 going to begin by describing what capital outlay is and
15 how it works to begin with.

16 Capital outlay is any acquisitions, new
17 construction or alteration to an existing facility that
18 changes the design purpose of the building. A major
19 capital outlay must cost more than \$750,000 and take
20 longer than one year. Minor capital outlay typically
21 is under \$750,000 and has to be completed in one year.
22 Some projects will become majors just because of the
23 study period, the design phase all take more than a
24 year, so it may cost significantly less than the
25 \$750,000, but it will take more time.

1 I'm going to describe the lifecycle of it a
2 little bit first. Someone has a great idea, but they
3 have to come up with a way to present it to the
4 Department of Finance. They'll come up with a concept
5 paper, and that is just concept. That's to get
6 funding, to get Department of Finance used to the idea
7 of what we want.

8 The next step in this is the capital outlay
9 budget change proposal. This is due to the Department
10 of Finance roughly a year and a half before funding is
11 needed for the project. About nine months before,
12 they're going to need to come up with -- this gets into
13 a little more detail on it. Like I said, roughly nine
14 months before funding is needed.

15 If there's a study phase for things like more
16 complex environmental impact reports, things like that,
17 that can add another year to it. By the time you get
18 to year three, then you're in the preliminary plan
19 design phase. This is a major capital outlay, and
20 minors can take the same time period, too. Year four
21 would be the working drawing phase. Year five is
22 construction, and year six would be more fixtures,
23 museum exhibits, that type of thing.

24 The reason I'm going into this is because
25 there's always questions as we get along on some of

1 these projects why is it taking so long. This is just
2 the process it takes to do government business, and
3 it's not much different for private sector. I was a
4 private sector contractor for 20 years, and people
5 don't realize what all went into it before that
6 shopping mall happened, so it's just the process.

7 We'll talk a little bit about the majors now. I
8 won't go into the Heber Dunes project since Kirk Shea
9 did such a good job on that. I would like to thank the
10 District for letting me be part of their operation for
11 a while. These guys do such a nice job with their
12 stuff, and Kirk really did a good presentation on Heber
13 Dunes. It's going to be a really nice project when he
14 gets done.

15 Other three majors that we are in I'm not going
16 to have pictures on because they're in the working
17 drawing phase. That's kind of boring to look at
18 blueprints.

19 We will jump onto the minor capital outlay
20 projects now. We have seven minors that are active
21 right now. Carnegie, we're under a court order to
22 prevent pollution to the waterways. So we're working
23 on sedimentation ponds, expanding the ones we have.
24 We're working on hardening parking areas, mainly at the
25 motocross track area, the staging areas right now.

1 We're looking at a new restroom, because what was
2 there -- or what is there is basically a pit toilet in
3 a floodplain. So we're looking at how to get it out of
4 a floodplain so we can comply with the Clean Water Act.
5 We also have had some infrastructure deficiencies
6 there, so that's another reason for some of these
7 projects.

8 We'll go into the Hollister Hills Windmill
9 Day-Use Area project. This one is pretty near and dear
10 to my heart. It was mostly done with in-house staff.
11 One of my other duties is I teach most of the
12 construction in the Department, not just the Division,
13 but I teach those, and it's kind of a waste of time if
14 we don't actually put it into practice.

15 And this is a really good example of a really
16 nicely done project. And when the park staff does the
17 work themselves, they're way more invested in it than
18 if a contractor comes and builds it, plus we do it a
19 lot cheaper as well.

20 Hungry Valley --

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: Could we stop at Hollister?
22 What about the other big retrofit to the sewer and
23 water; is that all done now?

24 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: Not yet.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: Because I remember sitting

1 with Joe Simitian and saying we need to keep that money
2 in the budget. It was like three, four, five million
3 dollars or something. What happened?

4 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: It's due to start up
5 May 1st.

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: Next May?

7 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: So we've already got the
9 money earmarked for it, or is that money that now we
10 have to go fight for it again?

11 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: Jeff Gaffney again.

12 That money did come out of the year when you
13 guys sat down with Senator Simitian and some of the
14 other legislators, and it was then put into that
15 budget. And all of the planning and design has
16 continued from that point so we could spend money out
17 of that to do the planning and design.

18 And now we have to wait for red sticker season.
19 Unfortunately, we didn't get anything started before
20 red sticker season opened. We are going to wait until
21 red sticker season ends when it's slower to start the
22 project.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: But the money is going -- it
24 won't expire on us?

25 DIST. SUPT. GAFFNEY: No.

1 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: It is due to start
2 May 1st. We can actually start it now, but it would
3 interfere with the parks operations.

4 So Hungry Valley, they just completed this at
5 Middle Camp. It's nice a shade structure, nice place
6 to get out of the dirt and the mud and have your
7 picnic, have your barbecues. There's some nice
8 barbecue pits, fire pits, picnic tables.

9 Moving to Ocotillo Wells, this is a picture of
10 some of the ADA retrofit. This is Americans with
11 Disability Act recently changed their regulations and
12 requirements. And what we had before met the old
13 regulations, but we had to comply with the new ones.
14 So we've had to change the entry to the district
15 office. We've had to make some of the shower buildings
16 and restrooms -- give them more access there.

17 If you look at the upper picture, people really
18 didn't have room to get around and get into the
19 different buildings, so it's going to be fully
20 compliant. Within about a month's time, it should be
21 completed with this project.

22 The Ocotillo Wells solar project for this
23 district, we have a huge solar array. You might have
24 seen it on the tour yesterday. That's going to
25 basically provide all of the electricity for the

1 district. One of the issues, though, it's behind
2 schedule because that secure process to get a project
3 going, the National Electrical Code was changed midway
4 through. So we finished it, but then it no longer
5 complied with the new National Electrical Code. So
6 we're upgrading that.

7 We're right now in the process of working with
8 Imperial Irrigation District. The work has been
9 upgraded. They just have to sign off on it and throw
10 the switch. That should be coming very soon.

11 The Round Valley Snow Park, this was a joint
12 partnership with the Forest Service. It's in a snow
13 park area. It gives a new parking lot, a paved staging
14 area, restroom facilities and signage.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Where is that located at?

16 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: Highway 89.

17 OHMVR MGR. CANFIELD: Dan Canfield, OHMVR
18 Planning Manager. It's located in Stanislaus County
19 off of Highway 4 near the Bear Valley Ski Resort.

20 OHMVR STAFF GLASPIE: And the last project we
21 are going to discuss, it's due to kick off here at any
22 time, it's the day-use special event project on Main
23 Street in Ocotillo Wells. It's ready to start except
24 for the Clean Water Act requires us to have a storm
25 water pollution prevention plan, and that's in the

1 final stages of approval. It should be within a week
2 or two that that project will kick off as well.

3 That is the end of the capital outlay report, if
4 you have any other questions.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sounds like no questions.

6 **AGENDA ITEM VI (2) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -**

7 **LEGISLATION UPDATE**

8 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Tina Williams,
9 Superintendent for Public Relations and Communications.

10 SUPT. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Tina Williams.
11 I am told that I could be creating static electricity
12 because I've had too much caffeine, so bear with me.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: I thought you were going to say
14 blink.

15 SUPT. WILLIAMS: Good point.

16 My report is located behind Tab No. 10. My
17 presentation will focus on legislative activity, bills
18 that have passed since our last meeting in September, I
19 believe it was.

20 Before I get to that, I'd like to mention that
21 on November 11th this country recognized and celebrated
22 Veterans Day. The public and the Division staff
23 participated in ceremonies and parades honoring our
24 military personnel past and present all over the
25 country.

1 The Division staff recently made some posts on
2 the Facebook page for the Department. I believe
3 Natalie Lohi will be giving you more in-depth
4 information about that. But if you go to that Facebook
5 post, you can see some of our Division military
6 personnel. That gave me a great segue and theme for my
7 legislative report.

8 I'd like to point out to you that Assembly Bill
9 150 was passed and signed by the Governor on
10 October 10th of this year. This bill allows for the
11 Department to reduce or waive day-use fees. This bill
12 was a part of a suite of other bills that you might
13 have seen a press release by the Governor which would
14 support our military personnel.

15 Next, I would like to highlight a scheduling
16 note and that would be that the next legislative
17 session will begin January 6th, 2014 next year.

18 Unless there are any questions, I would like to
19 turn it back to the Chairperson.

20 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I just want to make a
21 comment. Phil, you were quite a stud muffin there.

22 CHIEF JENKINS: Was?

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Turning off my mic.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Very good. Thank you, Tina.

25 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thank you, Tina.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Comment?

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I just wanted to kind of
3 dovetail into the Armed Services fee waiver. This
4 really doesn't have anything to do with the update. I
5 would like to make a little reminder to everybody that
6 there are some returning -- some different armed
7 service members returning from action that may be --
8 unfortunately have been -- have lost a limb or in some
9 form or way have been disabled.

10 And one thing that motorized recreation does is
11 it allows a person that is disabled to be able to get
12 out in the back country and be able to do things they
13 normally can't do. And I don't know if a lot of you
14 people -- some of you know, I myself have MS. So I
15 have to deal with issues on how far I can push myself
16 and what I can do. So like hiking up the Pacific Crest
17 Trail really is not an option for me. Being able to
18 ride my motorcycle up into an area to be able to get
19 into the same type of experience is an option for me.

20 So I myself am a big proponent of anyone that's
21 been in the Armed Services and us allowing them to be
22 able to access into these public lands. So I just kind
23 of wanted to make that in the record and make a comment
24 on it because these people deserve our support after
25 what they've done for us, so thank you.

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(Audience applause.)

AGENDA ITEM VI (3) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT -
OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE

OHMVR MGR. LOHI: Good afternoon, Commissioners and members of the public. My name is a Natalie Lohi. I'm the Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager for the Division. And I'm here to provide you with an Outreach program update. You can find the written report in your binders behind Tab 11.

The Division oversees an established and robust public outreach program, public outreach being the practice of conducting awareness activities through targeted community interaction. You saw an example yesterday if you were on the tour of some our very talented and dedicated outreach team members. Our statewide outreach team consists of State Park interpreters, park rangers, seasonal park aides, volunteers and nonprofit partners.

This program was developed to support all six goals of the OHMVR Strategic Plan but focuses directly on Goal 4, which is to create an informed and educated community. We work on accomplishing this goal by utilizing all of the traditional interpretive methods, but in 2013 we really focused on trying to incorporate some very new and exciting additions.

1 For example, our outreach team worked all year
2 on creating an interactive ATV safety computer game.
3 This bright touch screen interactive kiosk invites
4 today's very tech-savvy youth to play four games, all
5 teaching them lessons about ATVs, responsible
6 recreation and safety. We unveiled this game in
7 September at the Sand Sports Super Show with rave
8 reviews from the children who played it as well as
9 their parents.

10 In 2013, we also established a partnership with
11 Axial Racing and Jeep and developed a radio-controlled
12 four-by-four course. Using the Tread Lightly
13 principles, this activity teaches children, teens and
14 adults -- and, yes, they all want to play it -- about
15 the principles of trail etiquette, safety and
16 recreational responsibility.

17 Another new development is the expansion of our
18 hands-on safety program. Let me just quickly review
19 that program before I go into the additions to it. The
20 Division contracts with the Specialty Vehicle Institute
21 of America to provide OHV training for employees and
22 the public. State Park employees and volunteers are
23 trained as instructors, and then through this contract
24 we can provide free ATV training to the public. We can
25 also provide free and reduced-cost dirt bike training

1 to the public with financial support from some of our
2 corroborating associations.

3 With recreational off-highway vehicles or
4 side-by-sides being the most popular OHV types trending
5 today, we've incorporated ROV training into our
6 hands-on program. We've trained a ROV master
7 instructor for the Division. This is a person who is
8 certified to train public instructors. And we've also
9 trained first-level public instructors in each district
10 within our Division. Right now, we're focusing on
11 training Department employees and some outside agency
12 employees, and soon we will be providing public
13 classes, and we will also be expanding the
14 opportunities available for ATV and dirt bike training.

15 A final program I'd like to discuss is our
16 social media program. We all know that social media is
17 the fastest form of communication today. Through
18 social media, we have a massive potential to reach an
19 audience with both targeted and broad-scope messaging.
20 And there were comments today regarding the need to
21 reach our OHV community and others regarding
22 information such as these Commission meetings, and this
23 is a perfect way to be able to do that.

24 In 2013, the Division designated the first ever
25 social media specialist. This person coordinates and

1 assists the social media staff with their campaigns at
2 the SVRAs; provides guidance, training and technical
3 assistance; and also tracks trends, data and
4 statistics.

5 Even though it's in its infancy, we had an
6 outside agency provide a basic analysis of our social
7 media program, and this company concluded that of all
8 of the State agencies that have a social media program,
9 ours was a step above. And they came to this
10 conclusion through analyzing several factors such as
11 page design, activity, page visitation and most
12 importantly engagement.

13 So we're really excited about where this program
14 is headed and even more excited about the potential to
15 reach such a broad audience with information and
16 education.

17 Outreach events in 2013 were varied and
18 numerous, so I'm only going to touch on the largest and
19 the smallest. Many of you were at the Sand Sports
20 Super Show. This was easily our largest outreach event
21 not judged by event attendance but by our own public
22 contact totals.

23 We joined two of our SVRAs, Ocotillo Wells and
24 Oceano Dunes, and had a total of three booths
25 throughout this event. This allowed us to really

1 provide a variety of displays and activities from
2 high-tech to very traditional and served the public
3 very well. Each booth reported a total of over 4,000
4 contacts at this event. So we had a total of actually
5 nearly 13,000 contacts at the Sand Sports Super Show.

6 In contrast, our smallest outreach effort, at
7 least the Division's headquarter's outreach effort, was
8 a tiny elementary school in Placer County. We were
9 able to educate 29 elementary students about resource
10 protection and ATV safety.

11 I just want to point out that these very
12 small-scale venues are actually some of our most
13 important because it really allows us that time for a
14 deep meaningful engagement and a lot of one-on-one
15 interaction.

16 Looking ahead to 2014, we plan to increase and
17 further diversify our outreach venues. We recognize
18 that we have been pretty successful in reaching the OHV
19 community, and we acknowledge that we have room for
20 growth in reaching other groups and the general public.
21 By doing this, we will be able to hopefully help
22 individuals to reverse or even avoid in the first place
23 any misconceptions they may have about OHV recreation,
24 about our Division, who we are and what we do.

25 I want to take this time to thank each and every

1 one of you who have come together for the time that you
2 took to be here. This is a very important part of the
3 program. It permeates every thread of our Division,
4 educating and informing the public, both OHV
5 enthusiasts and non-OHV enthusiasts. So looking to the
6 future, we intend to only increase what we're doing and
7 get better at it. Thank you very much.

8 If you have any questions, I'll be happy to
9 answer them.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: I assume you're going to be the
11 person that we're going to talk to about the PAL
12 program in educating all of these inner city kids.

13 OHMVR MGR. LOHI: Yes.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're going to give you a big
15 job.

16 OHMVR MGR. LOHI: I'm prepared for it.

17 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: She is ready for it. She's
18 one of our superstars, so we'll be good.

19 I would suggest we take a break because I see
20 some fingers getting tired.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Come back 15 after the
22 hour.

23 (Returned at 3:13 from a break starting at 3:02 p.m.)

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Getting down to the end here,
25 we'd like to take public comment on all of the items

1 that were discussed under Item 6, Program Reports, so
2 that included Twentynine Palms.

3 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think you did Twentynine
4 Palms already, because we did a separate comment on
5 that. It should be all of the other items.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: All the other items. All right.

7 CHRIS SPROFERA: Chris Sprofera, San Diego
8 Off-Road Coalition.

9 And what I wanted to comment on is a couple of
10 items in particularly towards the legislative side of
11 things. The Director here had mentioned about getting
12 the loans back. We need the money to stay within the
13 system in order to fund all of the work that needs to
14 be done on the ground, the water mitigations, all of
15 the environmental issues. If each park has the
16 appropriate resources to do the work, then we're not
17 looked upon unfavorably when things start to go awry.

18 So I would urge on your sides of things -- and
19 we do our best on our side -- to push for that money to
20 come back to the system so they can be used for what it
21 was really designed to do, keep the parks in great
22 shape.

23 One other question, I'm not sure if Garratt is
24 still here as far as the -- we heard a little bit about
25 the Main Street project. I was hoping to get a little

1 bit better of an update on the totality of it. Are we
2 going to shrink the project down a little? Are we
3 going to stay with the original design?

4 And I think that's pretty much it for what I've
5 got right here.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. Thank you.

7 DIST. SUPT. AITCHISON: Garratt Aitchison,
8 Ocotillo Wells, District Superintendent.

9 There's a couple of modifications. One, I think
10 on the original design, we were calling for electric
11 and water hookup -- at least electric. That's not
12 going to happen. The rest of it is the way it's
13 planned. Does that help?

14 MEG PALAZZOLO: First, I want to thank you guys
15 for all coming out to Ocotillo Wells. I believe it's
16 the jewel of the State Parks system. I know some
17 people think it's another park, but I believe it's this
18 one, so thank you. I hope you guys all enjoy it.

19 I wanted to make a comment about the general
20 plan. We started this probably 2009, 2010. I really
21 hope it starts moving forward at a little quicker pace.
22 It is very important to my club, and I'm also the
23 land-use director for Tierra Del Sol, and we are having
24 our 52nd Desert Safari this year. So this is very
25 important to us.

1 I wanted to mention the things that were
2 probably most important to us in the general plan so
3 hopefully maybe you guys could keep an eye on it. We
4 would really like something written to the general plan
5 that allows us to expand. There are many
6 checkerboarded parcels, whether it be the BLM or
7 private parcels, parcels south of 78, parcels north of
8 S 22, that are private or State Parks land that we
9 would like to incorporate into our Ocotillo Wells. And
10 we've been told before that we're not able to do that
11 because it's not in our general plan.

12 And at some point I think my club would like to
13 use the proceeds of our Desert Safaris instead of on
14 attorneys helping to defend lawsuits but on buying
15 property and gifting it to the park.

16 Of course, another priority for us is to keep it
17 an open riding area. And then the other thing that is
18 very, very special to my club is the training area you
19 guys all went out to, keeping it maintained and
20 improving it. I know there have been some improvements
21 planned, and they're probably going a little bit more
22 slowly than Bo would like. So keeping Bo happy is
23 always important to all of us.

24 I think that's about it, besides thank you,
25 appreciate it. My name is Meg Palozzolo.

1 NICOLE NICHOLAS GILLES: Nicole Nicholas Gilles
2 with the American Sand Association.

3 I just had a comment regarding the legislative
4 update. We just want to commend State Parks for all of
5 the help that they provided with the SB 234 that dealt
6 with the back seat issue with side-by-side vehicles.
7 We've had several people come up and thank us for
8 making that included in grandfathering in the back
9 seats, and we've been seeing people with their helmets
10 on and obeying the laws.

11 And another thing that Parks did that was very
12 helpful was to put together a sheet of information that
13 would be easily available to hand out to people that
14 discussed all of the new rules and regulations, and so
15 that was really well received. We had those available
16 at Camp Rasor out at the Glamis Sand Dunes over
17 Halloween. We just wanted to thank you. We appreciate
18 all of your support.

19 TOM TAMMONE: Tom Tammone speaking as an
20 individual.

21 First of all, some of guys over lunch were
22 picking on me that I didn't comment on Johnson Valley.
23 My mind hasn't changed. I'm just going to say about my
24 previous comments times ten. I haven't changed my
25 mind. I'm just tired of talking about it over and

1 other again.

2 I will say something new about what a lot of
3 people have been referring to us as a theft of our
4 funds. I feel the same way. The Deputy Director's
5 report March 13th, 2008, I believe it was -- it was a
6 long presentation, and the catch-22 situation was put
7 out there against being responsible and not spending
8 money that the Legislature isn't giving us. At the
9 same time the money is taken because we haven't put
10 projects forward, and we're not really expanding.

11 Ed Waldheim's name came up earlier, too, at one
12 of the DAC meetings. He brought a series of maps,
13 enough to fill the whole wall behind the Commissioners,
14 basically a before and after over the last ten years of
15 all of the trails that we have lost.

16 During the classification and routes process,
17 designation processes, whatever you want to call them,
18 all of that user trails, volunteer trails, unclassified
19 trails, hundreds of miles from them have been
20 disappearing every year. And we're running out of
21 space to put any new stuff. And at the same time as
22 we're losing this unclassified land, we need to expand
23 the legal riding areas because legal riding areas are
24 going to get overran, if it already hasn't happened in
25 some areas. So we're really not expanding. If you

1 look at the big picture as far as OHV opportunity, it's
2 actually shrinking every year.

3 We need to provide enough legal riding to absorb
4 people that are getting ran off of all of the
5 opportunity that we're losing all over the country to
6 the point of thousands of miles every year. We're not
7 expanding.

8 Decades ago when we started doing all of this
9 designating, the reason why the money was put there was
10 because we had that understanding that as we shut down
11 the unclassified riding, we're going to need to have
12 more legal authorized classified areas to ride, whether
13 it be Forest Service, BLM, county, state, you know,
14 whatever agency or even private land. We need more
15 legal opportunities.

16 But if you look at the big picture, we're not
17 expanding. We're actually downsizing, and we're just
18 trying to stay in existence. But everything is
19 structured -- all of the laws are structured for that
20 money to be there, so we need the money. And, no,
21 we're not expanding. We're just trying to exist.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

24 JIM BRAMHAM: Just wanted to say I went to the
25 Carnegie meeting on Tuesday night, and I applaud the

1 Division for working in a good direction on that
2 project. I'm still personally somewhat underwhelmed
3 with the direction that that's headed, and I think the
4 sense of the room from the OHV community was that they
5 were excited to see the process back on track at some
6 point, that there was actually some progress attempting
7 to be made, but I didn't sense a great amount of
8 support for what they were seeing. I know there was a
9 newspaper article that basically said the off-roaders
10 were excited about it. I didn't get that sense from a
11 meeting that they were overwhelmed by the goodness of
12 what was being proposed.

13 So I think there's a lot of space in there for
14 improvement, and I'm certain that the public with the
15 emphasis that was there at that meeting will give some
16 great input to Division as well as the organized OHV
17 folks as a path forward in that.

18 And I just wanted to say thank you to the
19 outreach presentation that was just done. It was
20 excellent. We saw a lot of places there that I think
21 we can try to partner and dovetail with that, so thank
22 you.

23 JOHN STEWART: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
24 The reports are very informative, and I appreciate the
25 staff time to prepare them and deliver them.

1 They do bring to mind two points here. Within
2 the Grants Program, what was really not mentioned was
3 how much money was left on the table with the
4 restoration grants, and it seems like there was over
5 \$5 million left behind of grants unapplied for.

6 We've been talking to some of the federal
7 agencies and representatives. They're planning and
8 struggling to come up with this 25 percent match. So
9 put to the Division to see if there is some way that
10 either an administrative fix or legislative fix can be
11 looked at to perhaps lessen that 25 percent match, and
12 let's get the restoration funding that we have out
13 there. I'd like to see that committed to and put to
14 use to help the agencies out, especially seeing how
15 they are facing a lot of struggles, and we do have a
16 lot of federally-managed trails that are in jeopardy
17 because of lack of restoration work that can be done to
18 maintain the areas around them.

19 With respect to the Kern County Acquisition, all
20 I can say is that's a fantastic opportunity to move
21 ahead. I would love to see that move on to fruition.
22 I'd also like to point out that the eastern boundary of
23 some of the Kern County Acquisition project area
24 encompasses Red Rock Canyon State Park. Now between
25 that shared boundary it creates management issues with

1 the non-street-legal vehicles being eliminated or not
2 permitted within Red Rock Canyon.

3 I think there's another -- like at Ocotillo
4 Wells and Anza-Borrego, there is a perfect opportunity
5 for this new management area under the OHMVR flag in
6 order to work with State Parks in an area where it is
7 entirely appropriate to come up with some kind of a
8 designated trail, some kind of an opportunity that will
9 improve the recreation experience for everyone
10 regardless of administrative boundaries. So thank you.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

12 **AGENDA ITEM VI (E) - BLM REPORT**

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: That brings us to our federal
14 partners. I'm going to ask to rotate those two and
15 have the BLM come up first. If you guys don't mind,
16 they need to get on a plane. I guess you guys are in a
17 car or truck.

18 Jane, if you would come to the podium.

19 BLM ARTEAGA: Good afternoon, Commissioners,
20 staff and public. I want to thank you for this
21 opportunity.

22 I just want to start off really quick with a
23 correction with the Johnson Valley. So that map that
24 they're showing up there, the green area -- go ahead
25 and point that out. That green area up on top, pretty

1 much I believe what we have on our maps is that does
2 follow our open area. And the portion -- you'll see
3 the dotted line on the bottom of the yellow area,
4 that's also open OHV area. And, of course, the
5 majority of the red is all currently designated as open
6 OHV.

7 Even though that is green and open to OHV
8 currently, as some of you know, especially in that
9 north half of that green area, it's fairly steep and is
10 not conducive to a lot of motorcycle riding and
11 everything related. Because of topography you pretty
12 much stay on the trail. I haven't gone into that
13 section. I've always gone into lower sections. And
14 pretty much the race covers the whole area. And we
15 have quite a few races also in the Dry Lakes in the
16 green area, too.

17 BLM SCHIFFER BURDETT: So Pole Line Road is the
18 boundary, Camp Rock Road, Anderson Dry Lake and a
19 couple OHV staging areas in this area.

20 (Simultaneously speaking, Reporter interrupted.)

21 BLM SCHIFFER BURDETT: This is a military map.
22 This is not a BLM boundary map, so this is where there
23 is some confusion, I'm sure.

24 BLM ARTEAGA: And that was JoAnn Schiffer
25 Burdett from California Desert District. She is

1 recreation.

2 And so just north of the green area is our
3 limited designation. So just so you know.

4 Then also just recently on November 4th, just a
5 few days ago, the Senate passed a bill, S 1309, the
6 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. You could
7 go ahead and Google-Senate-committee-energy-natural-
8 resources and be able to download the hearing and also
9 the bill that they forwarded over to the House for
10 negotiations.

11 As far as I know, as long as it hasn't passed in
12 the Senate or the House yet, all this is up to change.
13 As you recently saw with the negotiations with our
14 budget, it ran until midnight. So all of these things
15 can be adjusted. And like they've been saying, you've
16 got to contact your congressmen and your
17 representatives. We only respond when we're asked
18 specific questions from the House or the Senate, so
19 that's the only time we respond. And I'm sure the
20 military is the same way. Any questions on that?

21 I really don't have much to report. What we're
22 going to do is go ahead and have JoAnn give a
23 presentation on the Desert District.

24 But really quickly, Clear Creek, we still have
25 not received all of the complete feedback from national

1 office. We're still waiting for that. And
2 sequestration put a huge delay on things, and we're
3 hoping to get final resolution and what decisions were
4 made at the national office related to Clear Creek.

5 And also related to the study, the field office
6 is working with contractors on that, so we are aware of
7 that. The one thing I did want to mention, which was
8 not a part of the report because it came out after I
9 turned in my documentation, the U.S. Forest Service and
10 the BLM is seeking nominations to fill 11 positions on
11 the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, and we also
12 call it the RRAC.

13 The RRAC consists of members that provide
14 recommendations to BLM and the Forest Service on
15 recreation fees which include implementation of those
16 fees and/or expansion of those fees. So if we want to
17 make any adjustments whatsoever -- even though we may
18 not be raising the fees, but if we are making any
19 adjustments to how we implement them, we have to go in
20 front of the RRAC for recommendations.

21 So that announcement closes December 8th. You
22 can go to the Forest Service website and/or BLM's
23 California website, and you'll be able to see the
24 announcement, plus I also have it in the back there for
25 those people who are interested in applying.

1 One of the areas where we tend not to have good
2 representation in for applications, which is very
3 crucial, is under the state tourism, Indian tribes and
4 local government. So we're needing representation,
5 three people -- one from each of those areas. And we
6 tend not to have very many applications, if any
7 applications at all. So it really hurts us in that
8 way. So I advise you, anyone in the public here, if
9 you're interested in our recreation fee program, both
10 on the Forest Service and BLM site, please apply.

11 Last off, I want to capitalize -- this is a spur
12 of the moment thing here -- capitalize on your
13 opportunities with the PAL program. Recently we just
14 had a youth symposium with the U.S. Forest Service out
15 of Sacramento. We had over 150 youth attend, and thank
16 you for the Division for sending representatives to
17 represent the State Parks. We want to encourage youth
18 to come to the outdoors and enjoy the outdoors and also
19 to think about careers within the federal government
20 and natural resources.

21 One of the programs that the Forest Service has
22 is called Generation Green California Consortium. This
23 program starts from elementary works through high
24 school and then continues on through college age. Some
25 of the students have graduated -- we want to say

1 graduated from the consortium, now work for the
2 agencies and also work for state agencies, so it's been
3 a 20-year program on the Forest Service's end that's
4 been in existence.

5 Right now, we're working on a current MOU with
6 the Forest Service to be partners with them, and we are
7 going to get into a program called Service First. A
8 Service First agreement allows, say, for instance, a
9 BLM employee being paid by the Forest Service or Forest
10 Service employee being paid by BLM, and they represent
11 both agencies. So we're utilizing -- this is a good
12 example of lowering budgets. We're utilizing each
13 other's skills where we're located.

14 So one of those areas that's located is here in
15 Southern California just based out of the Angeles
16 National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service has a
17 Generation Green program down there. They have a
18 person that works there at the high school, down in
19 L.A. Unified, and they provide opportunities for the
20 students to go into the forests. They also have an
21 opportunity where the students work for a few weeks for
22 the Forest Service out on the ground. We've also
23 brought them up to Camp Smoky. If you've ever been to
24 Camp Smoky, they work at Camp Smoky also.

25 With that, so if you're looking for students for

1 your PAL program, we have outreach programs that
2 already exist, and we could continue building on them
3 out of Central California. We have a program in Lake
4 Tahoe, and also BLM is starting a program with Grant
5 High School there out of Sacramento, so.

6 That's about all I have to report before I hand
7 it over to JoAnn. Are there any questions for me?

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I was wondering with
9 the budget situation where the government got shut down
10 if there were any BLM properties in California that
11 have OHV use that are still currently closed because
12 of -- there was a couple of government properties up in
13 Northern California that didn't get funded when
14 everything reopened, so they still have public
15 facilities, non-OHV stuff, it was Army Corps. I was
16 wondering if BLM has anything like that.

17 BLM ARTEAGA: We had to shut down some of our
18 facilities. It took us a little over a week to open
19 them back up to make them safe for the public again.
20 And a few places got vandalized and/or destroyed also.
21 So unfortunately that happened, and those were areas
22 where we could not actually shut down. We just didn't
23 have enough people for enforcement. Even though our
24 law enforcement staff was working, but especially in
25 Northern California it's a very small staff, and our

1 recreation and/or other resource staff provide that
2 watchdog, if you want to say, when they're out
3 patrolling, if they see any problem or they see
4 anything that they could educate the public on, they
5 stop and do that.

6 So that's our militia actually to be able to
7 protect our natural resources, and unfortunately that's
8 some of the impact that happened. I can't give you all
9 of the numbers. I haven't gotten them myself. We're
10 kind of still accumulating that data.

11 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: One last question I would have.
13 You were all excited about El Mirage and what was going
14 on with the new training tractor there. Can you tell
15 us a little bit about that?

16 BLM ARTEAGA: Hopefully JoAnn can. I can't tell
17 you actually. Hopefully JoAnn can say a little more
18 about that.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, Jane.

20 BLM ARTEAGA: I'm looking at you. I know you
21 want to ask me a question there.

22 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'll pass for now.

23 BLM ARTEAGA: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: What was the Senate
25 bill again?

1 BLM ARTEAGA: 1309.

2 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Thank you.

3 BLM ARTEAGA: There were actually three bills
4 that passed during that related to the acquisitions,
5 and within 1309, I believe there was five different
6 bases that were being looked at.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

8 JoAnn.

9 BLM SCHIFFER BURDETT: Mr. Chairman,
10 Commissioners, staffers, members of the public, JoAnn
11 Schiffer Burdett, Bureau of Land Management, California
12 Desert District Office.

13 We're just going to do a little overview of the
14 California Desert District field offices and some of
15 our work that's been done with OHV funds over the past
16 year.

17 So California Desert District manages about
18 12.3 million acres or one-third of the State of
19 California. Though the graphic is small, those in red
20 indicate our open areas. So Ridgecrest has Spangler
21 Hills, Dove Springs, Jawbone Canyon. And then the
22 question on Jawbone, our visitor center, two years ago
23 they rededicated the visitor center. And ground
24 operation grants staff, the visitor center, our crews
25 are doing trail tread reservation, kiosk management,

1 route and regulatory signing, trash collection,
2 sensitive area fencing. And outside this area,
3 Butterbredt, you have to stay on assigned trail.
4 That's the management of the area, so signing is
5 imperative.

6 So funded personnel again were Jawbone trail
7 maintenance crews, heavy equipment operators, park
8 rangers, volunteer coordinators, and then the
9 contracts, Friends of Jawbone staff, those are the ones
10 that are at the visitor center, trail and site
11 maintenance crews, and then they purchased a UTV,
12 signs, hand tools peeler posts and wire. So there are
13 crews, and they're getting work done on the ground.

14 So I want to speak to partnerships, and Neil
15 Hamada reminded me to say our strongest partner is the
16 OHV Division. They're our partners. They're our
17 strongest partners, and we just want to give you
18 recognition of our ability to work with projects.

19 So those of you who know, Friends of Jawbone is
20 a very strong partnership. Last year they had their
21 16th Annual Moose Anderson Days. 150 people show up at
22 Jawbone Station. They have food and events, and they
23 go out and do trail rides, and they have a wonderful
24 friends group.

25 Back to the restoration projects, the crew in

1 Jawbone-Butterbreedt ACEC, they restored 7.5 acres of
2 closed routes using vertical and horizontal mulching
3 techniques. They installed closed routes fence and
4 boulders, signed designated and closed routes, and
5 ongoing sign monitoring and out maintenance.

6 Again, when the management on the land is that
7 you have to stay on signed routes, it's very important
8 that your routes are signed, and that they're
9 monitored. And if they're missing that, they go out
10 and are replaced.

11 Future work, they have four restoration crews
12 that have started work this month, ongoing trail
13 restoration and maintenance in the Rands, Jawbone and
14 on along the Pacific Crest Trail.

15 Moving on to Barstow Field Office, does anyone
16 recognize where this is at? Johnson Valley. So we
17 have our open areas Johnson Valley, Stoddard Valley
18 El Mirage, Rasor, Dumont Dunes, a very busy office.

19 So with their operations grounds grants, they
20 staff their visitor center, their sanitation roads and
21 facility maintenance. Dumont Dunes, they have a
22 contract that supports their Friends of Dumont Dunes
23 volunteer cleanup -- not a contract. They support
24 their friends group. They have their site staffing and
25 trash collection.

1 To the question, the ATV technical course at
2 El Mirage, they designed this in partnership with the
3 National OHV Conservation Council and Great Outdoor
4 consultants. We were going to visit the site
5 Wednesday, and Rose was out buying materials and
6 workers were on the ground. So it's very exciting, 53
7 acres. It's right adjacent to El Mirage.

8 At this time they've got -- on the right is an
9 image of their pit toilet facility and on the left are
10 ramps for loading and unloading vehicles. And so we
11 saw the graphic of the State Parks little mini course
12 where there are radio-controlled cars. That's what
13 it's looking out there but for ATVs. It's going to be
14 very exciting.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: JoAnn, before you go away from
16 El Mirage, can you just give the other Commissioners a
17 little snapshot of what goes on out there? I think a
18 lot of these folks have been there.

19 BLM SCHIFFER BURDETT: All right. El Mirage Dry
20 Lake Bed is an open area. They get extremely high use.
21 They are home to SCTA, Southern California Trails
22 Association. So right adjacent to their facility, they
23 have their own great big shed and barn, and they are --
24 they do their trials out there. They're strong
25 partners of El Mirage.

1 Recently they had OHV funds, and they built a
2 visitor center that is a mecca. You're out there, and
3 people start showing up at the door, and they have
4 visitor information, naturalist sites. And I think the
5 icing on the cake is going to be this ATV trainer
6 course.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: How much land and what's your
8 visitorship, approximately?

9 BLM SCHIFFER BURDETT: I'm afraid I can't speak
10 to that.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's several thousand acres,
12 isn't it?

13 BLM SCHIFFER BURDETT: Yes, it's extremely
14 large. I can get back to you with that, though.

15 So we took the idea from Arizona, and Rose
16 Beardshear in Barstow started the OHV Ambassador
17 Program. They wear skins on their helmets, OHV
18 Ambassadors. They have shirts that identify
19 themselves, but they've donated over 24,000 hours of
20 volunteer time. They repair fence. They monitor
21 resources. They do public outreach. They're ASI,
22 American Safety Institute, certified. They'll be
23 teaching our courses. They do search and rescue.
24 They're just the strongest partner that El Mirage has
25 out there.

1 They have a Junior Ranger Program. For 2013
2 they held 19 programs with over 1700 participants.
3 This group, they're getting across the OHV safety
4 message. They also have a Dumont Dunes Junior Ranger
5 Activity Guides, and again, as everyone has echoed, we
6 have to reach our young folks with our message.
7 They're the ones that are going up. They're starting
8 out with the parents, but they're the ones buying the
9 motor homes. They're the ones coming out with their
10 families. It used to be two guys in their truck, but
11 now it's families and extended family and their motor
12 home and all of their toys.

13 So, again, partners, for Barstow they have
14 Friends of Dumont Dunes, Friends of El Mirage. And
15 Friends of El Mirage acquired their own OHV grants for
16 operations and maintenance of El Mirage. So that helps
17 with the visitor center and their maintenance staff.
18 They acquired two water trucks and a side-by-side, an
19 auger truck and maintenance trucks. They do an
20 El Mirage cleanup. It's an annual cleanup. It's their
21 volunteer force that are getting the work done on the
22 ground. They're painting the tables, the ramadas.
23 They're signing the trails. They're clearing the
24 campfire rings. And in this cleanup they filled two
25 40-yard dumpsters with trash.

1 So BLM couldn't do the job they're doing out
2 there without their friends, and they know who their
3 friends are, and that's why a lot of their programs are
4 outreach and trying to reach their users.

5 Friends of Razor Road in 2013 completed their
6 third annual cleanup, cleaned up six miles of trash,
7 shooting debris and litter on Razor Road. And many of
8 these members are in the OHV Ambassador Program.
9 They're just our visitors out there that take ownership
10 of the land and how can we give back, we want to be
11 part of the solution here.

12 So a law enforcement grant provided patrol,
13 visitor assistance and EMS during our major holidays,
14 New Year's, Presidents Day, Thanksgiving.

15 So on to Palm Springs South Coast Field Office,
16 their grants were planning, restoration and education.
17 Their planning grant identified 50 restoration sites,
18 98 monitoring sites, and they partnered with the Great
19 Basin Institute and funded two interns to get this work
20 done. An example of the hill climbs that they're going
21 to be identifying to restore is in the Oro Copio
22 Mountains.

23 So, again, they did their restoration of 7.5
24 acres, installed fence and boulders and closed routes,
25 and, again, it's signing, monitoring and route

1 maintenance. So part of the planning is what routes
2 need to be restored. An example of a fast rock barrier
3 is on the left, hay bale vertical mulching on the
4 right.

5 Though part of this planning process identified
6 how effective was past restoration, and they're finding
7 that some of it has worked and some hasn't. But with a
8 planning grant, they can find out where they are with
9 their restoration.

10 So for 2013, they completed phase three of the
11 Dos Palmas fence, 2.7 miles of fencing. So now the Dos
12 Palmas ACEC, all 725 acres, is surrounded with a fence.
13 And, Jane, if you don't mind pointing with -- you're
14 going over there. The center of the slide is Dos
15 Palmas and to the right is Bradshaw Trail.

16 So the Bradshaw Trail goes along the south end
17 of the Oro Copio Mountains and gets a fair amount of
18 use, and some of that use was going into the Dos Palmas
19 ACEC, and that's why they fenced it. So some of the
20 disturbance that they were seeing inside this ACEC were
21 hill climbs, and the fence on the right is part of that
22 2.7 acres of finishing the fencing.

23 They have an education grant in Palm Springs and
24 also have a junior ranger program and reached over
25 2,000 students, youth and family with the OHV safety

1 and Tread Lightly message. They went to six events in
2 the Palm Springs area. So when we talk about
3 partnerships, they are just not attending these.
4 They're partners in these events.

5 So the Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival is
6 held at their visitor center on the monument. The
7 Citizen Science Week is at the Riverside Metropolitan
8 Museum, and Gilman Historic Ranch Earth Day event is
9 where schools bring in their kids, and they go through
10 it and they reach their folks.

11 One of their law enforcement rangers, Javier
12 Cortazar, joined with them and brings his ATV. I was
13 at this event. When he starts with that ATV, no one is
14 listening to anyone else, just everybody surrounds the
15 ATV. But interesting enough, that when you start
16 talking to these kids who live in Indio and they live
17 in the Coachella Valley and a lot of them are: Yeah,
18 we ride with our parents; we have quads.

19 And a lot of those little kids are riding. And
20 so when they come to our events, they get maps of where
21 they can ride. They take it home. We're not sure if
22 they know what those maps are, but we're trying to get
23 information into the parents' hands of where they can
24 ride, and that's the beauty of these outreach events.

25 So our law enforcement, in 2013 they issued 215

1 state and federal OHV citation violations and 2,037 OHV
2 warnings, handed out maps and brochures, and attended
3 outreach events.

4 Needles Field Office does not have any open
5 areas, but their niche is off-road adventures. And
6 they have some very exciting places, whether it's
7 technical or just flat. Their law enforcement is
8 trying to get ahold of their vandalism, and they
9 started putting decals on their posts and their
10 high-use areas to report crime.

11 With OHV dollars, they purchased two rangers for
12 patrol. And then for their safety and education,
13 they've started partnering with the Needles Rodeo
14 Roundup, and they're offering ATV courses. And so the
15 partnership is for the instructors to teach the
16 courses, and their partners are the California Trail
17 Users Coalition. And why it's so important for them is
18 that they're right at the tri-state area. So they're
19 reaching Laughlin, Kingman and Needles visitors. And
20 they're the ones that are coming into California
21 riding. So they're trying to go to the site where the
22 visitors are coming from.

23 A question you had asked with the furlough, did
24 we have any impacts. This course occurred right after
25 the furlough was completed, so they weren't able to do

1 their advertising for the course, so it wasn't that
2 well attended. But there was so much interest, they're
3 doing another course in January, and they've already
4 had like 60 people sign up for this. So they're
5 excited to continue with this safety and education
6 program.

7 More dollars were used to reprint their
8 off-highway vehicle brochures. They've done a very
9 robust job of creating off-highway vehicle maps
10 in-house that they provide to the public. And these
11 are on the web, so they can pick them up on their
12 office or can just download them from their computer.

13 They contract with the California Trail Users
14 Coalition, and they have created the Amboy and Needles
15 map, and to be printed this December is the CLEG map.
16 When those three maps are all completed, it will cover
17 3.2 million acres of the Needles Field Office.

18 The ground operations work, they completed route
19 signing, maintenance and repairs to OHV routes, and
20 then work on their campgrounds and kiosks and signing.
21 And they have route signing, especially around Ivanpah
22 Dry Lake directing people away from the areas that
23 aren't available for use.

24 It's hard for me to speak for Neil Hamada,
25 especially since he does such a good job for himself,

1 however, for the El Centro Field Office, we can see the
2 Imperial Sand Dunes, which is that red slough on the
3 right. For those of you that aren't familiar with the
4 surface management map, the yellow, which kind of looks
5 green, indicates BLM lands. And a lot of people don't
6 know we do have OHV use in eastern San Diego County and
7 in the Lark Canyon OHV area, and then we have
8 Superstition Mountains and Placer City east and west.
9 Imperial Sand Dunes uses OHV grant money for ground
10 ops, education and law enforcement.

11 During those five major holidays, they can have
12 an incident command with up to -- how many officers
13 would you say? Over the largest and they could have --
14 depending on the incident, they could have 20 -- over
15 20 officers, 20 to 30 officers working the event. And
16 then they provide emergency medical services and search
17 and rescue, of course, trash collection and then
18 sanitation of facilities.

19 I'd be happy to try to answer any questions if
20 you have them.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: That was very comprehensive.
22 Thank you. Anybody?

23 All right. Thank you. Thank you guys for being
24 patient.

25 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thanks very much.

1 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Actually, Jane, I have a
2 question for you. Jane, I heard you made a comment
3 earlier when we were talking about the schedule for
4 next year for the meetings up at Fort Sage, that you
5 can host a snowmobile event up there in that ranger
6 district?

7 BLM ARTEAGA: Well, we do have snow up in that
8 area, and I also thought of Bishop/Inyo National
9 Forest. That's a service first area, and our forest
10 office and field office are joint up there, and a lot
11 of management is joint, so that's another area of
12 opportunity during the wintertime.

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you. I just wanted
14 to clarify that.

15 BLM ARTEAGA: I'm going to get some data
16 together and present it to the OHV Division and see
17 which area would be best.

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you.

19 **AGENDA ITEM VI (E) - USFS REPORT**

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: If we could have the Forest
21 Service and then we will have public comment after
22 that. Thank you guys for being so patient, being the
23 last people on the docket.

24 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Greetings, Commissioners
25 and State Parks, public, and all of our partners.

1 Thank you for having us here today. My name is Jake
2 Rodriguez. I'm the Acting District Ranger on the
3 Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland National
4 Forest. I'm here on behalf of Ramiro Villalvazo and
5 Kathy Mick. And we're going to give the Region Five
6 report, and then we have a PowerPoint presentation for
7 you.

8 One of questions was raised as to whether or not
9 the Forest Service could or was using OHV funds for
10 special-use events. And to answer that question, I
11 guess it varies based on the event or activity. In
12 some cases the Forest Service is using some of those
13 law enforcement funds to fund law enforcement officers
14 and forest protection officers to staff areas where we
15 need heightened enforcement for a special-use type
16 activity.

17 But, again, it's up to the individual forest to
18 make a determination on whether or not the way that
19 they're spending those funds is consistent with their
20 project description and their requested grants. So, as
21 I said, it does happen at times, but the Forest is
22 supposed to be making a decision on consistency. And
23 typically special-use events are commercial events, so
24 there are certain restrictions to us staffing those and
25 what type of funds we're using.

1 Moving on to the motor vehicle use maps and the
2 seasons of use, I believe there's also some questions
3 on that. And the motor vehicle use maps indicates
4 which roads, trails, and areas are designated for use
5 by a particular motor vehicle class and the time of
6 year that this use can occur. The seasons can be
7 affected and can be restricted based on special status
8 species, whether those be wildlife or botanical
9 species, also the weather, for example, rain or snow,
10 trail conditions.

11 Many forests during their analysis determined
12 that their designations need to include the time of the
13 year or season, so they'll be incorporating those as
14 appropriate. And all of the designated seasons can be
15 revised to meet changing conditions, but any of those
16 revisions will be subject to the same process of
17 analysis that was used for the original designation.

18 Weather-related seasons of use were determined
19 using factors like elevation, soil types, annual
20 precipitation and maintenance needs. A lot of
21 historical data was used for weather patterns on
22 identifying those seasons of use. But through a grant,
23 the regional office has contracted a group that will
24 help develop a wet weather strategy for Region Five.

25 Referring to the Ranger Ride in Mendocino

1 National Forest, on October 29th through October 31,
2 Don Amador, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, reintroduced the
3 Ranger Ride. It's in the Fouts Springs Area in the
4 Mendocino National Forest. In the past the Ranger Ride
5 was sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Coalition, aftermarket
6 manufacturers industries and the OHMVR Division and the
7 Forest Service.

8 Traditionally, the ride has been used as a way
9 to bring OHV managers, agency decisionmakers, law
10 enforcement and partners together to get on the ground
11 to get in a field setting to talk things over, to get
12 ideas, to share information, training, education,
13 et cetera. Based on declining budgets, the Ranger Ride
14 was on a hiatus or a pause.

15 Determined to continue to make positive changes
16 in the OHV program, Don Amador resurrected this
17 valuable tool in collaboration with the Forest Service.
18 We were thankful that that happened, that through the
19 partnership that was able to occur.

20 The turnout was low. A major part of that had
21 to do with the government shutdown and furlough. As
22 the ride occurred, we were just kind of getting back up
23 and running after being off for approximately three
24 weeks. So there was a lot of catchup that needed to be
25 done within the agency, and just people were not as

1 freed up as were expected. But the turnout was still
2 good. There were still representatives from the BLM,
3 the OHV Division, the Forest Service, the CCCs and the
4 OHV communities.

5 We cannot emphasize enough the importance of
6 regaining the collaborative spirit and the cooperation
7 and the willingness to work together with all of our
8 OHV partners, be they federal agencies, state agencies,
9 the Commission, volunteers, partnership groups. So
10 that's going to continue to be our focus in Region Five
11 is to continue to develop and nurture those
12 partnerships.

13 I'd like to introduce one of my colleagues,
14 Spencer Bleadorn. He's a recreational lands officer
15 down in the Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland
16 National Forest. We've prepared a PowerPoint
17 presentation that's going to briefly touch on OHV use
18 on the Descanso Ranger District and Corral Canyon area
19 and then also on the Trabuco Ranger District in the
20 Wildomar area.

21 USFS OFFICER BLEADORN: Good afternoon, I'm
22 Spencer Bleadorn, the recreational land officer on the
23 Descanso Ranger District.

24 Corral Canyon is within my district, and as Jake
25 check pointed out, we have a short PowerPoint

1 describing those two.

2 So just some background on the Cleveland
3 National Forest, the Cleveland National Forest covers
4 San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties. It consists
5 of three ranger districts, the Trabuco, the Palomar and
6 the Descanso Ranger Districts. Of those three, two of
7 them have OHV opportunities, the Trabuco and the
8 Descanso. Combined we have nearly 70 miles of trail
9 riding available. And I said trails, but that is 70
10 miles between trails and roads, so it's all vehicles.
11 And it ranges in degrees of difficulty from extreme to
12 not so extreme. Annually, we request about \$200,000 in
13 operation and maintenance funds, and we do receive
14 grant funding for law enforcement.

15 Continuing on, this is a screen shot of the
16 Cleveland National Forest Descanso Ranger District OHV
17 web page for Corral Canyon. A lot of good information
18 there. We've revamped our website to try to get more
19 information to the public so they have an idea of what
20 they're getting into before they head out. On the top
21 right, it's kind of hard to see, but there are hot
22 links to two different maps to two different areas
23 there. Right here is one of those hot links. That is
24 a blowup of basically the southern part of the Descanso
25 Ranger District, and the insert on the top left is --

1 the bigger picture, the Cleveland National Forest.

2 Specifically for the Descanso Ranger District,
3 Interstate 8 runs right in the middle of us, which
4 provides us with a lot of different opportunities for
5 OHVs. We get a lot of day use because, what we saw
6 yesterday, a lot of people from San Diego want to go to
7 the great opportunities out in the desert. So we have
8 lower use than what we saw yesterday; however, we do
9 have a lot of day use, and we have a lot of short
10 weekend, three-day use where people don't want to drive
11 all the way to the desert. So it provides us a lot of
12 different opportunities.

13 And on this map, there is the Bear Valley
14 trailhead, and so you can see the singular route
15 running through the Corral Canyon OHV Area. That is a
16 combination of Bear Valley Road and the Kernan Cycle
17 Trail. That exit is right off of Interstate 8 and
18 about 40 to 45 miles from downtown San Diego, so it
19 provides an excellent day-use opportunity for somebody
20 who wants to bring their motorcycle up to do some great
21 single-day riding.

22 Continuing on, this is a screen shot of the
23 Trabuco Ranger District's Wildomar OHV web page. As
24 Jake just mentioned, with some of the seasonal
25 closures, we have it presented in big red letters right

1 at the start talking about the weather restrictions for
2 potentially up to 72 hours after a rain event.

3 So specific to Corral Canyon, it is a national
4 forest so it is multiple use. The top left picture
5 there is mountain bikers. It is actually becoming very
6 popular for mountain bikers, and we have very good
7 relations between OHV users and mountain bike users.
8 It's a very positive thing you see. Oftentimes, you
9 don't see very different user groups interacting well.
10 They interact very well. And then we have all of the
11 other motorized use from quads to four-bys to dirt
12 bikes. There's two campgrounds. There is the Bobcat
13 Meadows Campground in the top of left and Corral Canyon
14 Campground in the bottom right.

15 We have different problems. As we all know,
16 whenever we have campgrounds, we're going to have
17 trash. Top left picture is a -- that's what happens.
18 With the OHV grant funds, we were able to -- this is
19 several years ago, mind you -- put in basically a much
20 smaller version of a trash cage than from what we saw
21 yesterday, but it still is effective.

22 Other problems -- and these are limited
23 thankfully. We do have some abandoned vehicles every
24 once in a while, and we do have graffiti. That
25 graffiti that you see in the bottom left was removed in

1 about a 36-hour time frame. So our OHV techs through
2 the grant funding were able to get out and resolve that
3 pretty quickly. And that is just one example, but that
4 same tag was pretty much all over the OHV area, and we
5 were able to deal with all of that within that time
6 frame.

7 Another thing that we have is the Corral Canyon
8 Young Riders Area, which is right adjacent to the
9 Corral Canyon Campground. It's for vehicles 70 cc's
10 and under approximately, and basically you just can't
11 get a big bike through there, but it's a great
12 opportunity for children to get out and ride in a very
13 controlled and safe environment with their parents very
14 close.

15 And a success story here, the Gunslinger
16 Challenge Loop was completed in early 2013 and pretty
17 much we wouldn't have been able to do it without the
18 help of Tierra Del Sol. They were the key partner in
19 this, and we were able to get it through.

20 So we started with the NEPA process. This is
21 several years ago. This is Forest Supervisor Will Metz
22 in that picture, and we went through the NEPA process.
23 Again, Forest Supervisor Will Metz out there taking a
24 look at that. This is a couple of pictures. There are
25 other pictures that have different user groups with

1 him.

2 Then we went into flagging the route, where it
3 would go. That website up there is an online version
4 of an article that was written about the success story.
5 And I have my card, afterward I can get you that
6 website if anybody needed it.

7 And then, of course, we continue on with the
8 construction of it, our users group out there helping
9 out with the construction. Like I said, we could not
10 have done it without them.

11 And then finally the unveiling and the finished
12 product. So that is basically the unveiling in the
13 Corral Campground. The top right picture is on the
14 trail where my pavement vehicle could still make it.
15 And the bottom right -- it's hard to see -- but those
16 are the vehicles on the Challenge Loop, so that trail
17 is finished. It's up and running. And talking with Bo
18 yesterday, they're hoping to get some additional
19 signage up there this coming weekend, I guess it would
20 be next weekend now.

21 So with that, I'll switch it back over to Jake,
22 and he can discuss Wildomar.

23 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: So Wildomar OHV area
24 it's sort off of Ortega Highway, Highway 74, in between
25 Riverside and Orange County. Technically it's in

1 Riverside County, but a lot of people out of Orange
2 County come to have their OHV experience there because
3 from my understanding there's nothing like Wildomar OHV
4 Park in Orange County.

5 We get approximately 10,000 users a year, so the
6 use is nothing near what we're seeing in some of these
7 SVRAs. But, nonetheless, it's definitely something
8 that the public wants to experience on the national
9 forest, and it's a different type of riding as you all
10 know.

11 Currently, Wildomar is lacking a formal
12 management plan, and there's never been a formal
13 management plan for Wildomar OHV area. So through a
14 planning grant that we applied for in the 2009/2010
15 cycle, we received that planning grant.

16 We are currently undergoing an environmental
17 analysis process through NEPA. We're currently in the
18 comment period. We have a draft EA that's out right
19 now, and that EA is working to establish the
20 Off-Highway Vehicle Management Plan as well as to
21 review the operations and maintenance strategies and
22 refresh the NEPA for those things.

23 The draft EA and the OHV Management Plan cover
24 things such as desired future conditions. So under the
25 desired future conditions, some of the things that

1 we've identified are trails and areas that are safe,
2 affordable and environmentally sound and efficient to
3 manage. We want a range of recreation opportunities
4 and challenges for OHV enthusiasts. We want the
5 quality and experience to be high and sustainable
6 without user or resource conflicts. We want site
7 management that e responds to public needs and
8 infrastructure in good working condition.

9 OHV use is only occurring on designated routes
10 and areas. Again, this is our desired future
11 condition. We are not saying that's the case, but
12 that's where we want to be. Unnecessary trails have
13 been removed, and the landscape is restored -- again,
14 desired future condition. So we're establishing that
15 through the EA and the management plan.

16 Also, the management plan will include things
17 such as assigned plan and difficulty rating, trail
18 management objectives, trail maintenance plan, natural
19 resource protection plan, and a soil management plan
20 with best management practices incorporated.

21 So as I said, Wildomar has been around for about
22 20 years, I believe, 25 years, something in that range,
23 but we've never had this operating plan. It's open.
24 It's 360 acres. It's eight miles of riding
25 opportunities of varying difficulty levels, but we felt

1 that it was time to get an actual management plan in
2 place. That way as we continue on into the future, the
3 way we're managing it is consistent, it's not just
4 based on word of mouth, but we actually have a plan
5 that dictates how we should manage it for
6 sustainability purposes.

7 One of the things that I failed to mention is
8 that through that management plan, we've identified
9 that we want to add just a very small additional loop
10 to Wildomar. Right now we have a section known as
11 Bloody Jersey. It's called that for a reason. It has
12 a most difficult rating on it, and in general it's just
13 not passable to the typical using public.

14 So we want to find an alternate route, make a
15 workaroud where most riders can still ride that main
16 loop that goes around Wildomar safely and effectively.
17 And we don't have the funds for that route right now,
18 but we know that once we get the NEPA completed, we can
19 put in for a grant request. So that's where we're
20 heading with this.

21 As far as public involvement, as I said, we're
22 in the public comment process for the draft EA right
23 now. Public comments have to be received or sent off
24 no later than November 22nd. They will be coming in
25 either to me or to our Cleveland National Forest

1 clearinghouse for projects like this. The information
2 is on the PowerPoint presentation here on the screen.
3 But if anyone is interested in commenting on that draft
4 EA, let me know. I'll give you a card. You can get a
5 copy of that, and you can get access to the website,
6 and we can submit your comments.

7 At this time are there any questions for us?

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes. I'd like to ask a
9 question as far as the season-of-use map you were
10 speaking of. I was looking on your printout here. You
11 have different methodology that you've used for
12 determining the seasons. And I do not see soil
13 moisture content. And the motorcycle club that I've
14 been involved with for a long time has a procedure
15 where we measure our soil moisture, and that's how we
16 determine how we open and close. Now, we're a private
17 deal, so it's a little different. I notice that's not
18 here.

19 And then with that, some technology that's come
20 forth from the agricultural community is remote weather
21 stations that have soil moisture content measurement
22 capabilities. They're battery powered with a solar
23 recharge system, so they can be used remotely.
24 Technology advances, and I think that that can be more
25 accurate than what you're looking at with the system

1 you have currently, because weather patterns change.
2 I'm at Northern California right now. We're in a
3 drought situation really.

4 So different winters require different opens and
5 closures. If you're just going off of the amount of
6 rain, there's two different things that can happen.
7 One is you can end up with if you have consecutive
8 storms, it kind of gets to be a guessing game of when
9 you open. So if you open too early, you get damage.
10 And if you open too late, obviously you have people
11 that could have been recreating that weren't able to,
12 where if you have a precise measurement with an
13 instrument, and with that it doesn't really need to be
14 inspected, other than to see if there are things like
15 trees down and stuff like that after a storm event.

16 So I was just hoping that as you guys move
17 forward with this type of stuff, that's a possibility
18 to start looking at that technology, maybe applying for
19 grants and being able to use that type of stuff
20 remotely and make it so we can have more days open and
21 also so we can do less damage in the long run. So I
22 wanted to discuss that because you guys are using just
23 basically --

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: 72 hours, right?

25 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: You're using methods that

1 are kind of stuff that we used 20 years ago.

2 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: I appreciate you saying
3 that. I can't answer that directly.

4 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I just wanted to make you
5 more aware.

6 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I appreciate that.
7 And we did identify that we're working with a
8 consulting firm to help us development a weather
9 strategy, and possibly part of that strategy will be
10 incorporating some of these methods, but I can't speak
11 to that for sure because I'm talking off the notes that
12 I was given from the regional office, and I haven't
13 been directly involved with this, but I can definitely
14 elevate that.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: What I can do, I actually
16 have the information on my phone. Maybe after this, I
17 can get your information, I can e-mail it to you, and
18 then that's something you could forward to the
19 necessary people but.

20 But I see an opportunity here to kind of make it
21 an easier management practice for you guys, because
22 really what you just do is you can have this --
23 monitoring stations, and they go to your website, and
24 there can be preset parameters for when it opens and
25 closes, so it's all automated. So it's really simple

1 to do. I just wanted to point that out.

2 And then the other thing -- and this is more of
3 a comment than a question. But this is the second
4 meeting I've had down here in Southern California, and
5 I'm really impressed with the level of participation
6 from the volunteers. You guys have some really
7 wonderful clubs down here that step up big time to make
8 the opportunity for off-highway vehicle recreation just
9 a very quality and high-level program.

10 I mean we all know there's holes in the budgets
11 with the Federal Government. I know we've had our
12 issues on the State side also. But just stepping up,
13 doing all of this work, you see these hours some of
14 these people have put in, and the different things,
15 it's just incredible.

16 And I know a lot of times the volunteers don't
17 really get the pat on the back, but I just wanted to
18 acknowledge that and say thank you very much. I'm a
19 volunteer, along with these folks up here, but you guys
20 are putting in more hours than we are, and really
21 appreciate it. So I'm sure you folks from the other
22 agencies do, too. So thank you very much. That's it.

23 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Jake, I'm a resident of Orange
25 County, and Wildomar is one of those places where I

1 probably would never go, to tell you the truth. I'm
2 sure you're well aware it's pretty much a sacrifice
3 area. And I appreciate you going through this planning
4 process after all of these years, it's really about
5 time.

6 Has there been any thought to possibly some kind
7 of track-type environment there built into that
8 landscape? And the reason I'm saying that, it's been
9 years since I've been there, so correct me if I'm
10 wrong, it's kind of just a play area from what I
11 remember.

12 If there was a more significant track-type
13 environment where Motocross guys and all of these
14 people in Orange County that have really no place to go
15 unless they travel two hours, some place where they can
16 go and really get some steam built up and let off in an
17 afternoon or something like that. They used to at
18 Saddleback Park 30 years ago.

19 Has there been any thought process around
20 building something like that, a more intensive use of
21 area?

22 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Through our travel
23 management process a couple of years ago, nothing
24 significant came up for Wildomar. There were questions
25 about opening up more of the Level II roads that were

1 closed to non-street-legal vehicles, opening them up
2 for public use. But there wasn't a whole lot of
3 concern or question about opening up Wildomar or
4 expanding it.

5 Quite honestly, no, we don't get a whole lot of
6 those questions. I think historically people have
7 taken it for what it is.

8 I'm not really sure what you meant when you said
9 it was a sacrifice area.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: No place else to ride anywhere
11 around there.

12 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: I think people either go
13 there or they go to the track in Lake Elsinore if they
14 want a track riding experience. But, no, we haven't
15 had a whole lot of those questions come up. Every now
16 and then somebody might say it's a little small or
17 whatever. It's only eight miles of route. It's only
18 360 acres. It provides a variety of riding experience,
19 but it is a small riding experience.

20 We do have a tot lot, as we're calling it. It's
21 just an open area surrounded by hay bales and barrier
22 pipe that we're trying to encourage young riders to
23 learn to ride there and be safe there.

24 But I don't know if I answered your question
25 very well, but there hasn't been a whole lot of push

1 from the users to expand.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would venture to say there
3 hasn't been a whole lot of push because there isn't
4 probably a real dedicated user base there. There's
5 probably odds and ends of people that come and go
6 because they just want to unload their bike and ride
7 around the dirt for a little bit. You're not going to
8 get the kind of people that come to Cow Mountain or
9 Ocotillo Wells or something like that, real dedicated
10 visitorship.

11 I would be happy to meet you up there at some
12 point in time and take a look at the possibilities, if
13 you will. There's a huge pent-up recreational demand
14 in Orange County for something like that.

15 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely, we're always
16 willing to entertain those discussions. Obviously, if
17 we do some sort of expansion, it's going to put
18 additional burdens onto the Forest Service.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: That's what we're here for.

20 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Right now, we're pretty
21 short staffed, but we are always welcome to entertain
22 those discussions.

23 And possibly through the environmental
24 assessment process that we're in right now, it might be
25 a good opportunity for you to formally make some of

1 those comments. We are looking at a management plan.

2 If we decided on some sort of small-scale
3 expansion, now could possibly be the time to include
4 that into the EA. It's always easier to include
5 something in the environmental document when you're
6 going through the process than it is to start that
7 whole process over again. And so we want to capture as
8 much as possible, as much as is appropriate in this one
9 document that we're doing right now.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'd like to carry this
11 conversation on offline, if you will then.

12 USFS RANGER RODRIGUEZ: Absolutely, thank you.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any comments?

14 We have public comment here, and then we're
15 done. Thank you very much.

16 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36.

17 Have you guys seen these, Smokey Bear Children?
18 I grabbed a bunch of these at the Sand Sport Show from
19 a little booth that was down there. And every kid that
20 I gave this to was absolutely excited, including three
21 screaming young children on an airplane that was a
22 seven-hour flight, and they had more fun with these
23 little things, and they were quiet. Anyways, I love
24 this kind of outreach.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: What do they do?

1 DAVE PICKETT: Most of them shoot their heads
2 off.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Oh, it's a bookmark.

4 DAVE PICKETT: Time is short, so we will move
5 fast. District 36 was really excited in the
6 improvements up near the Fort Sage area. It's a small
7 area, not many people talk about it, but it's still a
8 blast.

9 Jane touched on Johnson Valley which touched on
10 something I was thinking about, and I'll just throw
11 this out. One of the big issues is protecting the ESA
12 applications across the gamut. And live fire will
13 really play heck with all of that stuff, so I will spit
14 that out.

15 The report on the volunteers in the Southern
16 California area, 24,000 hours of volunteer time. I'm
17 not sure how the volunteer hours work toward a match on
18 a grant. Is that still active?

19 And it seems to me there was a report done, and
20 it was discussed at a Commission meeting years ago that
21 it was \$16, \$18 an hour value. Well, at 18 bucks,
22 that's \$432,000. So for some of these folks that can't
23 make match, can we use that as a possibility? I wanted
24 to toss that out for an idea.

25 On the Forest Service report, I appreciate the

1 Forest Service coming back with more discussion on
2 potential law enforcement for special events being used
3 with the green sticker funds through the grants
4 program.

5 I'm still not comfortable with the response that
6 we got here, because there's no speed contests on
7 Forest Service land. They're primarily Enduro,
8 rally-type events, poker runs, at least on the
9 motorcycle side. And law enforcement is already on
10 hand on the weekends. And I still say it's not right
11 that a club has to pay supplemental cost recovery on
12 law enforcement when they're already there.

13 So I don't like this reasoning, and I want
14 Division to continue to push forward with Kathy Mick on
15 this. Double dipping on cost recovery, it's getting a
16 little bit old.

17 We've also talked about seasonal use in the
18 forest. We all know in the higher alpine counties
19 Mother Nature takes care of it. But as Ted indicated,
20 what do we do in a situation like this year and it's
21 bone dry at 7,000 feet, and we're bumping up in two
22 weeks against a trail closure? It doesn't make sense,
23 so we need to do more work on that.

24 And I'll finish with that. Thanks, great job,
25 you guys, today.

1 JIM BRAMHAM: What I didn't hear from the BLM is
2 their fees. They raised the fees, and at the Sand Show
3 they had an absolutely dismal sale on their annual
4 pass, over 50 percent reduction in the sales of passes.
5 So this is going to put an emphasis on the sale of the
6 weekly pass.

7 There's going to be a subgroup meeting this next
8 week, and we should have a first view of how that has
9 come about, whether people are going ahead and buying
10 the weekly pass, or whether they've elected to flee
11 from fee. So we shall see how that goes. But they
12 priced the annual pass at such a high rate that people
13 were just unwilling to pay that, based on the fact that
14 it took more trips to pay that off, the economics, and
15 they changed the pass.

16 It used to be a hanging pass, so if you took a
17 pickup one week and a motor home the next week or
18 rental motor home or whatever, you could just take the
19 pass with you. Now, it's a single pass that sticks to
20 the window of one vehicle.

21 So there are a lot of people that were
22 disenfranchised or at least not feeling that they
23 should spend the money for that. That revenue is going
24 to have to be made up on the weekly pass sales.

25 And the other issue with Wildomar, when I was on

1 the Commission, Jan McGarvey -- this was one her
2 issues -- was trying to get a planning document done
3 for that. This is 15 years ago now probably, and I'm
4 just thinking that the future is going to become the
5 past before they get that done for you. Thank you.

6 TOM TAMMONE: (Audio malfunction.) You're going
7 to have to get that fixed or somebody is going to start
8 keeping their guns in their cars.

9 As far as Wildomar goes, I remember there was a
10 lot of talk in the past as far as special-use permits.
11 One of the dealerships in the area wanted to use it for
12 sort of four-by-four training. As far as I'm
13 concerned, they can just pay the Adventure Pass fees.
14 ASA was trying to use it at one point, and that fell
15 through.

16 And there is a shortage of lands to do ATV
17 training on. You know, they don't even really have to
18 do this in an OHV area. It can be done on a permit-use
19 basis. They just need a little patch of land. What
20 goes for the Forest, goes for our county, too. A
21 little more cooperation as far as getting some lands
22 set aside where we can get the kids trained. They're
23 supposed to get training by state law, and there's a
24 shortage of places for them to do it.

25 Other than that, as far as the law enforcement

1 money, I have issues with it getting spread -- with
2 them bleeding it and using it for other things. You
3 know, I've always said that we need to work to keep the
4 law enforcement money tailored towards what they need
5 to do, to provide opportunity, management.

6 As far as them doing things that the club should
7 be paying for, well, the clubs pay their money, anyway.
8 They pay their user fees. If it's a private event like
9 a racing event or something like that where they're
10 charging people admission, it's a for-profit event,
11 they should be providing the money for that.

12 And on that, I don't have anything else to say.
13 Thank you.

14 JOHN STEWART: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
15 John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel
16 Drive Clubs.

17 I want to commend the Forest Service for a very
18 informative report, and it's nice to see them back
19 providing good reports and with attendance at the
20 meetings. It's refreshing to hear what the federal
21 partners are doing to provide for and protect the
22 off-road recreation opportunity.

23 Couple of comments about the Forest Service
24 report. They mentioned Corral Canyon. Corral Canyon
25 is near and dear to my heart because I live in

1 San Diego, and it's right outside, and it's a great
2 area. Yes, it's small, but I would like to point out
3 that where he talked about Gunslinger and these extra
4 trails and the challenge areas, about ten years ago
5 there was a major fire that blew through the area and
6 took out -- covered about 85 percent of that park.

7 Well, rather than close the park, the user
8 community got together, helped to procure and install
9 fencing to delineate the trails, and then out of that
10 work came some opportunities to improve the trail
11 network there. And to that, thanks to the efforts of
12 like the gentleman from the Forest Service said, Tierra
13 Del Sol Four-Wheel Drive Club of San Diego was
14 instrumental, along with San Diego Four-Wheelers and a
15 couple of other groups provided all of the -- a lot of
16 manpower, a lot of labor to make things happen. So
17 it's something that's finally come to fruition. It's a
18 great opportunity, great involvement and provides a
19 good close-in opportunity.

20 When you look at close-in opportunities,
21 Wildomar provides another one. Yes, it's a small area,
22 and geographically it's limited by what can be
23 accomplished. Ten to twelve years ago, I was in on
24 some discussions about how it could be expanded, how
25 the trail system could be redesigned. The concept of a

1 track was brought up then.

2 Some of the motorcycle experts at that time
3 indicated that, well, the areas and the terrain is just
4 not conducive to laying any track without some
5 problems, plus there is some attendant noise issues
6 with surrounding residential areas. But for a small
7 ATV-centric park, something where parents can bring
8 their children to have them a place to ride a little
9 bit more than bounce between hay bales lanes, it's an
10 excellent opportunity for that. And it is an urban
11 park option that should be looked at and should be
12 maintained and possibly expanded.

13 And overall volunteer efforts within the south,
14 like Commissioner Cabral noted, yes, there are plenty
15 of dedicated volunteers down here. As being part of
16 the south now, we have a lot of volunteer opportunities
17 and, you know, working and improving them with Ocotillo
18 Wells SVRA, with the Forest Service, still a bit in the
19 growing stages with the Bureau of Land Management, but
20 those are areas where it doesn't get as much attention,
21 as much recognition as it deserves.

22 And, finally, I would like to say that all of
23 the reports have indicated they have a lot of youth
24 programs going on. Some of them have indicated working
25 with the OHMVR Division in order to come up with

1 something. I would like to see in the future that all
2 of the youth programs, whether it be Forest Service,
3 the CalPALS that was mentioned with the sheriff's
4 department or the Bureau of Land Management or the
5 State OHMVR Division, is that we begin to come up with
6 a cohesive program where people are sharing
7 information, not duplicating resources, and making sure
8 we get a consistent message about safe, responsible
9 riding and land-use ethics out there. Thank you.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I have a question on --
12 I'd like some clarification on the point that Dave
13 Pickett brought up regarding the volunteer hours as far
14 as if they are eligible. He said -- I think his number
15 was \$16 to \$18 an hour, if that could be used towards
16 matching funds toward a grant.

17 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We're going to research
18 that with our grants folks. That's kind of a new one,
19 but we will research that and see if that's a
20 possibility.

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: That could be a way out
22 for some of these strapped federally agencies to be
23 able to -- because obviously they have the volunteers
24 hours. They can maybe get some of those restoration
25 grants going.

1 CHIEF JENKINS: Specifically, what we want to
2 research -- because we do allow in-kind. So we already
3 do allow that, but I think the wider question is: Is
4 it going to be project specific?

5 So that's what we want to sit down with the
6 grants team and say if they're doing a lot -- because a
7 lot of these forests have hundreds of hours in one
8 area, but not necessarily on the project that we're
9 funding.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yes, I think banking it
11 would be a little bit off axis. If you had volunteers
12 working on the actual project the grant was about, I
13 think that there's a nexus there.

14 CHIEF JENKINS: So we can sit down and look at
15 how do we put the parameters on that and make maximum
16 use of that without abusing it.

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: If you guys can come up
18 with a workaround for them that's real, something that
19 benefits the project and the area and the people
20 involved, that would be great. Thank you.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any closing statements from the
22 Commissioners?

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'd like to ask Dave a
24 question. Do these come with little outfits like a
25 park ranger outfit?

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Deputy Director Conlin, do you
2 have any of closing statements for us?

3 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Just appreciate everybody's
4 participation in this. Thank you very much to the
5 Commission and particularly to the staff that had to
6 work some long hours to get all of this running. And,
7 of course, we appreciate your taking our notes for us.
8 Thank you for everyone's participation.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'd like to have a motion to
10 close the meeting.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Second.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: And vote.

14 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: So the motion passes. Meeting
16 adjourned.

17 (Meeting concluded at 4:41 p.m.)

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