

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

March 23, 2013

Start time at 9:03 a.m.

Holiday Inn  
1900 Hilltop Drive  
Redding, CA 96002

IN ATTENDANCE:

**OHMVR COMMISSIONERS:**

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

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS:**

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, Director  
Aaron Robertson, Chief Deputy Director  
Claire LeFlore, Chief Counsel

**OHMVR DIVISION STAFF:**

Phil Jenkins, Chief

1 Maria Mowrey, Acting Administrative Chief

2 Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

3

4 **OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS**

5

6 **AGENDA ITEM I - CALL TO ORDER** at 9:03 a.m.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: We have a lot of new faces going,  
8 to have a lot of discussions today about some things  
9 that have really piqued the interest of the folks. We  
10 have new commissioners. We have a new director. We  
11 have a deputy director that's relatively new, and we  
12 have a brand new deputy director for OHV, who won't be  
13 with us today because he's still got business to take  
14 care of.

15 We're going to do the pledge of allegiance.  
16 Kevin is going to lead us.

17 **AGENDA ITEM I(A) - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18 Commissioner Murphy led.

19 **AGENDA ITEM I(B) - ROLL CALL**

20 All seven Commission Members present.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: I can't tell you how pleased I am  
22 to have a bunch of commissioners up here with us. It  
23 was looking pretty sad here about a month ago.

24 And I can't tell I how pleased we are to have  
25 General Jackson here with us, the Director of

1 California State Parks. He's relatively new. Most of  
2 you I think all know his background. We're really  
3 excited, General, that you can be with us, and  
4 Aaron Robertson is going to be with us, the deputy  
5 director.

6 We see a new direction. We've had a chance to  
7 talk to these folks. We've had a chance to meet with  
8 them, and I think most of us up here that have had that  
9 opportunity are really excited about the future of OHV  
10 and State Parks of California.

11 I'd like to start off with the introduction of  
12 the new commissioners. You want to get a start, Ted?

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, my name is  
14 Ted Cabral, and originally I was born and raised in  
15 Petaluma, California, a little town called Pengrove,  
16 just a little north of there nowadays. My family has  
17 been in the motorcycle business since 1969, and up  
18 until 2009 I was the general manager of the dealership.  
19 So I have a very extensive motorcycle background; done  
20 a lot of racing and worked for race teams and things  
21 like that.

22 The other side of me is that I've been involved  
23 in politics on the motorcycle club level with doing  
24 environment cleanups such as the SuperFund mercury  
25 cleanup site. Up in Technique Creek we had private

1 property. And also I've been named by the Sonoma  
2 County Supervisors to be the chairman of the Zone 2A  
3 Flood Advisory Committee that deals with watershed  
4 issues throughout the Petaluma River basin.

5 So I have experience with both motorcycles and  
6 environmental issues, and hopefully I can bring that  
7 experience to the Commission. I like to be very fair.  
8 I like to hear what everyone has to say. I don't  
9 really tolerate myself -- I'm just going to talk  
10 personally here, not as far as the Commission, but I  
11 just think it's real important as a group that we be  
12 civil and be respectful of other people's opinions.  
13 And if we can do that, I know we can get some  
14 consensus, and we can move forward together and do the  
15 things necessary to make this an outstanding program.  
16 So thank you.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, welcome to the  
18 Commission.

19 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Good morning,  
20 everybody. My name is Ed Patrovsky. I'm a retired BLM  
21 law enforcement ranger, and I live in Apple Valley,  
22 California. And I'm a member of environmental groups,  
23 but I also like to ride. And I hope to bring my  
24 experience and viewpoints to the Commission. And I  
25 very much appreciated Ted's remarks about being civil

1 and working together. I think there is a lot of common  
2 ground that we can establish win/win situations. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Commissioner Murphy.

5 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: My name is Kevin Murphy.  
6 I'm from Morgan Hill, California. I just want to thank  
7 the Governor and the General and the Division for my  
8 appointment to the OHV Division. I'm a professional  
9 flyer captain. I'm also a business owner. I'm a  
10 lifelong OHV user. I'm just excited to be here and be  
11 able to serve the people of California.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

13 Now, we're going to have the Commissioners'  
14 reports in a little bit later, but we need to do the  
15 approval of the agenda.

16 **AGENDA ITEM II - APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: So we have a couple of agendas  
18 here that we have to talk about. September 15th  
19 agenda, do we need to have a motion for approval? I'm  
20 sorry, the minutes, let me back up. I'm getting ahead  
21 of myself.

22 Approval of the agenda, today's agenda. Anybody  
23 have any questions about today's agenda? We don't need  
24 to vote on that, correct? Everybody likes today's  
25 agenda.

1 **AGENDA ITEM III (A) 9-15-12 MINUTES**

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. Then we'll move to  
3 the approval of the minutes for September 15th. The  
4 reason we didn't approve those minutes because we had a  
5 cancellation of a meeting, correct? We didn't get a  
6 chance to do that.

7 CHIEF JENKINS: Correct. There were various  
8 issues, but you should have a full set now.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Right. May we have a motion to  
10 approve the minutes for September 15th?

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: So moved. They're a lovely  
12 set of minutes.

13 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'd like to second.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Vote.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'll have to abstain since  
16 I wasn't at that meeting.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: All abstaining besides?

18 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I'll abstain.

19 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I abstain.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Mr. Patrovsky abstains.

21 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: We have a vote, so we approve the  
23 minutes. Commissioner Perez, she is nodding her head  
24 aye, so the minutes pass.

25 **AGENDA ITEM III (B) 12-1-12 MINUTES**

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Then we have the December 1st  
2 minutes. And I believe you guys, you're still on the  
3 same situation. Get a chance, weren't there.

4 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Abstain.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: So we have three Commissioners  
6 that have abstained.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: Move approval.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Second?

9 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Second.

10 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: And it carries. That probably  
12 didn't sound like --

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'm voting yes on that.

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

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Moving to Item 4, Informational  
17 Reports of the Commissioners. If you have anything to  
18 report, Commissioners, this would be the time to do it.  
19 And if Teresa Villegas would like to start.

20 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Just have one item to  
21 report. On January 30th, both Commissioner Perez and  
22 myself had a conference call with State Parks  
23 Commissioner Carol Hart just discussing ongoing issues  
24 with both agencies in trying to share information about  
25 our commissions and related with budget as that moves

1 forward. We have a pending meeting for April 5th with  
2 Senator Lara, trying to get him to be a co-author on a  
3 piece of legislation, and I'll be reporting the details  
4 on that once it's done.

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'm going to let you discuss  
6 our meeting with the Forest Service, and then we had a  
7 meeting where we tried to facilitate communication with  
8 them.

9 We also met with General Jackson, and thank you  
10 for coming again today. I'll thank you personally for  
11 coming yesterday and today. It's very much  
12 appreciated, and thank you for appointing our new  
13 Division assistant director.

14 So the only thing that I have to add to that is  
15 that I did tour Hungry Valley recently. There's been  
16 some issues we've been discussing kind of peripherally  
17 about potential land swap with the Forest Service. So  
18 my general impression of the Hungry Valley facility is  
19 that it's much improved from my last visit several  
20 years ago. The facilities are quite large, 25,000  
21 acres, and I think it's important that we continue to  
22 talk with the Forest Service about better integration  
23 with their properties, but we do have a lot of property  
24 there already.

25 Last comment I have, I would like to see better

1 employee training, particularly getting more of the  
2 executives at that facility out on the trails, and I  
3 have mentioned that to Jeff. A couple of the senior  
4 managers down there don't actually ride motorcycles,  
5 but I guess we can get them out, drive them around in a  
6 side-by-side or something.

7 But I would like to compliment the staff on the  
8 newly-constructed single track trails, and again that  
9 facility continues to improve. It's an important  
10 resource to the citizens of Los Angeles. And that  
11 concludes my report.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'll go last here. But  
13 Commissioner Patrovsky, his first actual official  
14 assignment was last Saturday at the Onyx acquisition  
15 scoping meeting. Would you like to mention something  
16 about that?

17 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Well, I enjoyed the  
18 tour Dan Canfield and Peter put on for Paul and myself.  
19 And we toured not only the acquisition area but the  
20 Jawbone/Dove Springs area, which I used to patrol as a  
21 BLM ranger out on the Ridgecrest. And I hadn't been in  
22 this area for about ten years, and I got to see  
23 firsthand some of the vehicle controls and the route  
24 restoration that the Friends of Jawbone have been  
25 doing. And I was really pleasantly surprised by the

1 quality of the work and just an example of how with  
2 good management and cooperation, that things can  
3 improve over time. So I enjoyed the visit to the  
4 acquisition area, the proposed acquisition, and it was  
5 very informative and appreciate it. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Thank you. I'm going to  
7 try to keep this in order. I do have a number of items  
8 that I would like to share. I was on the telephone  
9 conference with Commissioner Villegas and  
10 Commissioner Hart. I also had a conversation with Matt  
11 Webb from Boating Waterways on January 9th. I attended  
12 a Coastal Commission meeting in Pismo Beach on  
13 January 9th, 10th, and 11th, and I had the pleasure of  
14 seeing the General Jackson there and other staff, so I  
15 attended that. There was also a meeting mixer where I  
16 participated and met with the Coastal Commissioners.

17 On January 15th, I met with Oceano Dunes staff  
18 and got an update on the park.

19 January 16th, I attended a presentation by the  
20 Air Commission Control District from San Luis Obispo.

21 On January 17th, I met with a supervisor from  
22 San Luis Obispo, Paul Teixeira.

23 On January 22nd, I had lunch with a resident  
24 from the Nipomo Mesa area.

25 And on January 23rd, I took a tour with

1 Chief Jenkins at Oceano, and that was a great tour. We  
2 got to see the dunes again.

3 February 7th, I had a follow-up tour with Will  
4 Harris, and I don't know if he's here, but I want to  
5 thank Will Harris for a more in-depth tour of Oceano  
6 Dunes.

7 February 8th, I met with the mayor of Grover  
8 Beach, Debbie Peterson.

9 On February 14th, I have a reoccurring meeting  
10 with a supervisor from San Luis Obispo County sheriff,  
11 I met with him again.

12 February 27th, I met with another  
13 San Luis Obispo supervisor, Bruce Gibson.

14 On March 7th, I met with City Council Member  
15 from Atascadero, Roberta Fonzi.

16 On March 8th -- I didn't have an opportunity to  
17 attend the Kern County acquisition meeting on  
18 March 16th, but I want to thank Superintendent Jeff  
19 Gaffney because he did provide me with a tour of the  
20 area, probably a shorter tour, but I did get an  
21 opportunity to see it, so I went out there.

22 And hang in there with me, I'm almost done, five  
23 more pages -- not five, one more.

24 On March 14th, I once again met with Supervisor  
25 Paul Teixeira.

1           And on March 15th, I coordinated a  
2           teleconference with Chief Jenkins and a few of the  
3           supervisors from San Luis Obispo, Debbie Arnold,  
4           Paul Teixeira and the Mayor from Grover Beach,  
5           Debbie Peterson.

6           And, let's see, and the last piece is I do live  
7           in the area, as you can tell. And I did have an  
8           opportunity to speak with many of my colleagues who  
9           live in the Nipomo Mesa area or nearby, so I had the  
10          opportunity to speak to local residents, to business  
11          owners in the area, and folks that live in the Nipomo  
12          Mesa area. And I think that the quickest way that I  
13          can conclude this -- and this is my quick summary -- is  
14          that I was quite pleased that after meeting with  
15          various leaders from the area, the residents and  
16          business owners, that there is great support for  
17          California State Parks and the Oceano SVRA from what I  
18          call the silent majority.

19          So certainly I'm obviously interested and  
20          willing to listen, as the Commissioner said here, and  
21          there's a couple of things that I would like to see in  
22          my process of learning. I would like to see the  
23          opportunity to purchase the La Grande tract in that  
24          area. I know that's been on the table, and I'd like to  
25          see maybe if we can make that happen. I think the

1 sense that I received from the community is that the  
2 community is ready to move forward and hopefully get  
3 some things done and resolved. And I think there is  
4 excitement about having General Jackson on board.

5 And I'd also like to see if we can -- there's a  
6 project, Pismo Beach Visitor Center, I don't think  
7 that's the official name, but I think that I'd like to  
8 see that be completed and the permits approved by the  
9 Coastal Commission and moving forward with that  
10 project. I think everyone is ready for that, and I  
11 think it's coming to the Coastal Commission this fall.

12 And hopefully a resolution at some point on the  
13 dust rule, I know that's somewhat of a complicated  
14 issue, but in the last couple of months, that's what I  
15 learned and been able to get me to this point, and so  
16 it's been a great learning experience.

17 And I do want to send a message to my fellow  
18 Commissioners, there is great value in getting to know  
19 the local area and meeting with folks. I think they  
20 get a sense that we're listening and participating, and  
21 so I would encourage my fellow Commissioners that if  
22 you're near OHV recreation, I think it is important to  
23 show them what we're working toward as a team to move  
24 forward. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: Chief, that was a topic that

1 was part of that presentation, which was the issue of  
2 the county ownership of a great deal of our SVRA down  
3 there, I think we lease it for a dollar per year or  
4 whatever we do. I know the county doesn't want it.  
5 They want us to fully operate it, maintain it, and  
6 police it. But where are we on this potential  
7 acquisition of this property that everybody thinks we  
8 own but we actually don't?

9 CHIEF JENKINS: We have been operating it for  
10 decades, and we've had money set aside, so we  
11 appropriated money originally to buy the property. The  
12 property values went up. It was during the whole  
13 boom/bust cycle, so we had a second appropriation.  
14 There were two separate appropriations of funding for  
15 that. The funding ran out because after we  
16 appropriated it, some serious questions were raised  
17 about consistency with the local coastal plan.

18 So we've been working with county since then to  
19 try to resolve those issues. There was a lawsuit  
20 involved in that. We resolved the lawsuit to the  
21 90 percent level. It's one of those where there were  
22 some hanging questions that may pop up if we were to  
23 move forward again.

24 The long and short of it is, the money we  
25 appropriated to purchase it expires at the end of this

1 fiscal year. And so it's one of those ironic timing  
2 things that now the county with the recent change in  
3 some of the members of the board of supervisors is very  
4 eager to engage with us again and complete the  
5 acquisition.

6 It would require some really fast moving in the  
7 last week. So since Diana has set up this meeting,  
8 I've been trying to figure out is it at all possible.  
9 And what we're hearing is that in order to get through  
10 all of the steps with appraisals, because we would have  
11 to update the appraisal, we have to get before the  
12 Public Works board and get scheduled for sight  
13 selection and acquisition, I just don't see that that's  
14 physically possible at this point to accomplish by the  
15 end of the fiscal year.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Commissioner Perez, first of all,  
17 let me thank you for that report. And I would say  
18 you're a poster child for an engaged commissioner, and  
19 I hope all of the rest of us can emulate that. Thank  
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I guess my question would  
22 be can those funds be re-appropriated?

23 CHIEF JENKINS: There is a mechanism where funds  
24 can be re-appropriated. Typically, if that were going  
25 to be in the process, that's something that the

1 Administration would begin working on early in their  
2 budget cycle, and so that is something that happens  
3 outside of our purview. That's something that happens  
4 at the higher level of administration. So that is  
5 really nothing I can comment with any authority on  
6 because that is a process that would happen higher up.

7 They can come to us and ask us questions. We  
8 can provide technical advice, but we cannot promote.  
9 That sort of thing has to happen at the level where the  
10 decision makers are at about how those budgets work  
11 together.

12 COMMISSIONER KERR: So is that an Assembly  
13 committee like Rich Gordon's committee or?

14 CHIEF JENKINS: I want to defer to Deputy  
15 Director Robertson.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: Just tell me what we can do,  
17 and then we'll move on.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROBERTSON: Right now, we're  
19 working with the Department of Finance and the  
20 Administration with the re-appropriation of the  
21 dollars, so we're in the process with a number of  
22 folks. We have sent letters of support for this, and  
23 we're working with the Administration right now in  
24 terms of prioritizing where this fits with the larger  
25 budget picture.

1           COMMISSIONER KERR:  If there is anything to be  
2           gained on the legislative side, will you guys let me  
3           know if I can help?

4           CHIEF JENKINS:  Thank you.

5           CHAIR SLAVIK:  I haven't been quite as busy as  
6           Commissioner Perez, let me run down my list here.

7           On the 18th of January, I met with the then  
8           chair of the Boating Waterways Commission, Matt Webb.  
9           We had a nice discussion.  It turns out he didn't get  
10          renominated, so we're start all over again there.

11          But I was talking to Mr. Robertson this morning,  
12          and we're very much inclined to try to get all the  
13          commissions together to talk about our commonalities,  
14          what we can do to further the goals and missions of  
15          General Jackson for the new future of State Parks in  
16          California.

17          After that, Commissioner Kerr and myself had a  
18          chance to meet with the new director.  At the time he  
19          was brand new, and we went up to Sacramento; had a nice  
20          visit.  Aaron Robertson was in that meeting, as well as  
21          Phil Jenkins.  And we got a chance I think to talk  
22          about our priorities and learn his background.  He got  
23          a chance to hear little bit about our background.  We  
24          thank you for that opportunity and that open-door  
25          policy.

1 Right after that, Commissioner Kerr mentioned  
2 that we had a talk with the Forest Service, Ramiro  
3 Villalvazo, a very nice man, very engaging man, but  
4 typical Forest Service he can't really do a lot of the  
5 things that we would like them to do. But he listened.  
6 He was very gracious, and I think we got our point  
7 across that the OHV community would like to hear more  
8 from the Forest Service. There's a lot of folks out  
9 there in our community that ride on Forest Service  
10 land, and they're affected by their policies  
11 continually. They go to meetings. They hold events  
12 and things go on continually that they have an effect  
13 on. We need to at least have a representative here to  
14 be able to talk about that.

15 After that, I had an opportunity to go to the  
16 King of Hammers, and we're going to have a little  
17 presentation on that little bit later in the program.  
18 But an incredible event, and I think we've got some  
19 good video. It's kind of exciting. And we hope next  
20 year, General and Mr. Robertson, that you're going to  
21 be able to attend that. I think you'll get a big kick  
22 out of it. Awesome event.

23 I did get an e-mail from Karen Schambach, and it  
24 turns out her brother was killed in a motorcycle  
25 accident, of all things. It turns out that the funeral

1 was in the church that my family and I go to in  
2 Huntington Beach. What a small world it is. I ended  
3 up attending the funeral, the grave site service on a  
4 an very rainy day in Southern California. I don't see  
5 Karen here. I thought she was going to attend. So  
6 that was a sad thing.

7 And then just recently, last Saturday, Ed  
8 Patrovsky and myself had an opportunity to tour the  
9 Onyx acquisition. Ed talked about it. I'll have to  
10 say that it was just an incredible opportunity that we  
11 have here for the future of OHV and State Parks in  
12 general, which is to acquire land and property that has  
13 been ridden on for 40, 50 years, a lot of it illegally  
14 because it was private land. But we now have an  
15 opportunity to throw a lasso around this place and  
16 manage it under one consistent management policy. And  
17 I'll have to say thank you, Dan Canfield and Peter  
18 Jones, both for an amazing tour and all of the work the  
19 whole staff went into with the public scoping meeting,  
20 as well.

21 And then lastly, Thursday night, the reason I  
22 wasn't able to attend the tour yesterday because I  
23 attended a celebration dinner for the San Bernardino  
24 National Forest Association, which is one of our  
25 grantees. They're recipients of our grants. And just

1 a real quick thing about that, when I worked for the  
2 America Honda Motor Company, we were approached by the  
3 Forest Service, and this was San Bernardino, which is  
4 right at the heart of the L.A. Basin, and they were  
5 looking for some help because they literally  
6 overwhelmed with visitors. It was a forest that was  
7 being loved to death. Especially in the summertime,  
8 the motorcyclists, ATVers, four-wheel drive people,  
9 that's where they went because the desert was too hot.  
10 So, anyway, they decided to start kind of a  
11 ground-breaking association of volunteers. And they  
12 needed startup money. Honda was very generous, got  
13 started with that. Rick Lavello is here right now,  
14 their OHV program manager, and he's going to talk a  
15 little bit more about it later. But I'll have to say  
16 it was just an awesome event, over 200 people were at  
17 this event celebrating this anniversary, this 20-year  
18 anniversary for what has turned out to be the largest  
19 scale volunteer association, not just OHV, but several  
20 other program parts of that association, largest scale  
21 volunteer association on any national forest in the  
22 United States. So it was just a wonderful event to be  
23 part of, too.

24 So that kind of ends, I think, the  
25 Commissioners' report. And I would say I've been

1 trying to get ahold of Carol Hart, and we need to make  
2 that connection.

3 Now, I would like to ask the General to  
4 introduce himself and give us your vision. We are so  
5 happy you're here.

6 DIRECTOR GENERAL JACKSON: Can you hear me way  
7 over there? Okay. So I'm going to stand up. Unless  
8 you need the mike, I'm going to eschew the mike. You  
9 didn't know Marines knew words like that. He doesn't.  
10 I'll teach him in the car on the way back.

11 First of all, it's a great privilege and thanks  
12 for the invitation to come here. It's a great  
13 privilege to serve you, what I'll call the people of  
14 California, and all of the people who are interested in  
15 State Parks and the off-road vehicle community.

16 I want to really emphasize that when you look at  
17 State Parks, and you all know what the headlines have  
18 been over the few months before I got to State Parks in  
19 November, and so there's a lot of work to be done. But  
20 let me say first of all foremost there are great people  
21 in State Parks who really want to serve the public  
22 well. I think there was a crisis, what I would call in  
23 short order a crisis of leadership, and so it was both  
24 the Governor and the Secretary of National Resources  
25 figuring that if they landed the Marines, the situation

1 would soon be well at hand.

2 And meanwhile I was out enjoying our State  
3 Parks. I retired in January of 2012 after 36 years,  
4 seven months and one day of service; I didn't count,  
5 and going to many far-off distant lands serving the  
6 American people. And it was an extraordinarily  
7 gratifying 36-plus years, and I was very happy when I  
8 retired. And I had bought an RV, and I got on the road  
9 to see California State Parks.

10 Before I got any further north than Chico, I had  
11 put in about 10,000 miles in the lower two-thirds of  
12 the state, I got a call, and that was when I, again,  
13 put service before self. And loving State Parks and  
14 being married to a native Californian who really loves  
15 the State Parks and getting her permission to come out  
16 of retirement, something that I didn't do in 1975 when  
17 I joined the Marine Corps, and I've been paying the  
18 price for that ever since.

19 But I believe that there are four parts to State  
20 Parks. There is the state historical preservation.  
21 There's the parks and recreation itself, and now  
22 July 1st Boating and Waterways will be under us, and  
23 the off-road vehicle.

24 So I look at those, each and every one of them,  
25 now that I am the director, I love them all. And I'm

1 going to devote the same amount of energy to parks and  
2 recreation, to boating and waterways, as I'm going to  
3 devote to OHV. I'm going to be here for you. I've got  
4 an open-door policy. Many of the Commissioners have  
5 already been up to my office. I'm going to get out to  
6 the parks. I've only been to Ocotillo Wells and  
7 Prairie City, and some little obscure thing over by  
8 Auburn, a little bitty one.

9 CHIEF JENKINS: Mammoth Bar.

10 GENERAL JACKSON: I don't know if we really own  
11 that or not, but the rangers took me there. I've got  
12 to take their word for it.

13 Right now I'm the biggest student in State  
14 Parks. I probably will be during the course of my  
15 whole career, is be a student, listen to you. The one  
16 thing you learn as a general is if you go into a room  
17 and there's more than three or now people in it, it's  
18 highly unlikely you're the smartest person, unless you  
19 stack the deck.

20 And I learned to be a listener before I'm a  
21 talker, and when you talk be decisive and be clear on  
22 what your direction is. And so I'm here as a student  
23 and as a listener to hear your concerns and to be able  
24 to gather information and knowledge about what's going  
25 on to support those things that you all think are best

1 for your community and to build the coalitions to make  
2 those things happen.

3 You are in a challenging position, as you all  
4 know better than I do, because every time we want to do  
5 a land acquisition, we can hear some of the issues.  
6 Every time we want to recreate the way that you want to  
7 recreate, the people have challenge. It's in  
8 California's nature to be active.

9 So what I would suggest -- let me really hit  
10 this. You heard of the activism of our Commissioners.  
11 My suggestion is that you always show up. You always  
12 show up to those meetings where the Coastal Commission  
13 is addressing your issues, or whether the Assembly is  
14 addressing your issues, and you always show up because  
15 your opposition always shows up. You can depend on  
16 that.

17 And so I believe in what you do. The  
18 preservation of California's cultural and natural  
19 resources, educating our public about those things, and  
20 promoting healthy outdoor recreational activities is  
21 something that is our mission. That's my mission to  
22 make sure that it happens in all of its forms.

23 And so I have just put out, and we will give a  
24 copy of it, too, in a miniature form, a strategic  
25 action plan. And it lays out quite frankly in skeletal

1 form, there are a lot of words that are going to go  
2 into a lot of actions, a lot of words. It's going to  
3 flush this thing out. But it gives you an idea of my  
4 direction for all of you people. If we don't have  
5 enough hard copies, you can go to California State  
6 Parks website, click on the link, and it will pop right  
7 up for you.

8 My most fundamental goals, obviously I have to  
9 restore the public trust, your trust in the  
10 leadership -- not the people of State Parks, but in the  
11 leadership of State Parks. So I have to do that, and I  
12 figure I will gain that trust by my actions. And  
13 you're going to hold me accountable. You better hold  
14 my accountable. If you don't hold me accountable,  
15 shame on you, okay?

16 Then the other goals that we have in State Parks  
17 besides that is we're going to protect our resources,  
18 that includes your resources. And we've got to do a  
19 better job of maintaining our facilities. We know that  
20 we have a backlog of some over billion dollars in  
21 facility maintenance, but we have got a step at a time,  
22 we've got to reach out, and we have to improve those.

23 So I always say that one of the strategic goals  
24 of mine is to have the cleanest restrooms of any park  
25 facilities in the world. Many of you know, if we don't

1 have good clean facilities, you're not going to create  
2 a fan there. So I think it's a regeneration project at  
3 the same time that I think it's just good health.

4 I want to make sure that we can connect your  
5 activities to all Californians. I think we have to do  
6 a better job of dragging people out of those big mega  
7 offices like Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco Bay  
8 Area and get them out in our parks. We've got to get  
9 their kids out there.

10 The one things I love when I go out to the OHV  
11 parks, I see these helmeted, armored, elbow pads, knee  
12 pads, ankle pads, and they're about two feet tall and a  
13 blond ponytail coming down their back and they're just  
14 zipping around on a little miniature track, up and down  
15 the moguls, but we've got to get more of that. We have  
16 to reach into a more diverse community. We've got to  
17 drag those Oaklanders out. We've got to drag those  
18 people from the Latino community from Los Angeles,  
19 we've got to get them to our parks because that's the  
20 future. If you look at the demographics of the State  
21 of California, you will see that there is a changeover,  
22 and if we don't get those people out, when they start  
23 voting, they're not going to see the relevancy of OHV  
24 or boating and waterways to them because they don't go  
25 there.

1           And unless we, our generation, drags them out of  
2 their cities, out of their comfort zones, and convince  
3 their parents, we've got the foundations and  
4 associations, get some buses into the inner city and  
5 take them out to our parks. We've got to have the  
6 displays at our parks where parents can sit down in one  
7 of our parks and look at a computer screen and see all  
8 280 parks. They might be at one, but how do they get  
9 to know the other ones.

10           And I want to ask the associations and  
11 foundations to help us finance the kind of program  
12 where people can sit at some of our parks and explore  
13 the other ones and get curious enough to get out to  
14 them, and so that they're going to be the future of  
15 State Parks. So I want to connect more with the people  
16 of California.

17           And, finally, I've got to really fight with our  
18 legislature, the Governor's office. You asked about  
19 funding for this and that. We've got to fight to do  
20 more than have a quarter of our budget come from the  
21 General Fund. It would be very difficult for parks --  
22 every time you raise fees, you also chase people away.  
23 And so we've had declining attendance at our State  
24 Parks. And so we've got to do better.

25           I'm wearing a patch, and you'll see a lot of the

1 folks from State Parks who are wearing a pen that marks  
2 the 150th anniversary of the best and most wonderful  
3 parks system in the United States and one of the best  
4 in the world. In 1864, in the midst of the Civil War,  
5 President Abraham Lincoln gave Yosemite and Mariposa  
6 Grove to the State of California and that was in  
7 June of 1864, the height of the Civil War, but he had  
8 the foresight to know what we should preserve that  
9 property in perpetuity, and we accepted it in  
10 September of 1864, the governor did.

11 Next year, the centennial, every park in the  
12 state, no matter what the nature of that park is,  
13 should have a series of celebrations. That  
14 establishment of our park system is the very foundation  
15 of preserving the natural resources of this country.  
16 It is the very foundation of the environmental  
17 movement, which California leads the world in. It is  
18 the very foundation of the preservation of culture of  
19 various people which we're totally involved in in the  
20 State Parks system. And I want us celebrate that  
21 through a series of events that lasts from the  
22 beginning of next year until the culminating event  
23 hopefully on the Capitol lawns in September.

24 We have a committee that's doing that, and I  
25 want the associations, superintendents of parks to

1 think of ways that they can also celebrate the 150  
2 anniversary. So we have a lot of to do. We have a  
3 blue ribbon panel that is studying ways that we can do  
4 things better that will be -- this strategic action  
5 plan is designed to carry us through the next couple of  
6 years. By October of next year, we should have a  
7 vision that carries us through the next 50 to 100  
8 years, and we have a blue ribbon panel that's being  
9 formed right now regarding that.

10 Finally, I'll just say that today I think in the  
11 newspaper the Hoover Commission, the commission  
12 established by the legislature to make our government  
13 more efficient, they published a 122 page report, which  
14 I got a copy last night and I didn't read it. It's  
15 going to be coming out this week, but I got an advance  
16 copy of it I think last night. And it has ways --  
17 we'll study that to see other ways that we can improve  
18 the processes within State Parks.

19 But it's a real privilege. I've been working,  
20 trying to get to know all of our various park systems.  
21 The worst kind of leadership you can have is from a  
22 desk. So I leave Sacramento on Thursdays, get out on  
23 Fridays and Saturdays and visit various parks all over  
24 the state. I think this is the furthest north I have  
25 been so far, but I've been from the desert to the

1 Mexican border of our State Parks, up the coastline and  
2 back out to Anza Borrego. And then just keep hitting  
3 them until -- I guess there is 280, and we all want to  
4 make them grow. Be careful.

5 But it's been a real education so far, and I  
6 look forward to continuing to serve all of you. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, General. And I think  
9 I speak for the Commission, if you could pass onto the  
10 Governor and Secretary Laird our appreciation for their  
11 recent appointments, and including the new deputy  
12 director, and I think we're all in unison about that.  
13 We're pretty happy campers at this point.

14 GENERAL JACKSON: I say a couple of words about  
15 the new deputy?

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Absolutely, you're in charge.

17 GENERAL JACKSON: Until I go home. You know  
18 that too.

19 Your new deputy Chris Conlin will be the new  
20 deputy for OHV. He and I first served in the Marine  
21 Corps in 1986 together. Chris is an extraordinary  
22 American. When you first look at him, you won't look  
23 at him as a steely eye warrior. You'll look at him as  
24 the guy next door. But let me tell you that he led a  
25 battalion of Marines about 1200 Marines on the March to

1 Baghdad, extraordinarily successful. A lot of Iraqis  
2 will remember his battalion.

3 One of the things that really marks him out as  
4 an extraordinary leader, after the March to Baghdad,  
5 we're talking about 2003, he was given the  
6 responsibility to govern a province, which is a state  
7 in Iraq, which is a rather large one, Najaf. And this  
8 was a very volatile area, and he was the supreme  
9 leader, and it had a lot of conflict between the Sunni  
10 and the Shiite. And he went in there, and they just  
11 told him, you're the governor. And as an infantry  
12 officer that would be a pretty daunting task to lead a  
13 state with millions of people in it who had been at  
14 each other throats for a long time.

15 But he went in and sat with all of the religious  
16 leaders and the political leaders, and for the  
17 six months or so that he ran that state, he brought  
18 absolute peace to it without violence. And it was  
19 pretty incredible when you can still see the headlines  
20 today of what happened once he left. And his  
21 leadership was such that I was certainly -- he's always  
22 been a junior officer to me. He's never worked for  
23 directly for me. I've only observed him from a  
24 distance from a guy that was much senior to him.

25 He's been in charge of the nuclear weapon

1 program within the United States military, and those  
2 programs are very easy to trip up and get fired in.  
3 And he's just held the highest responsibilities that  
4 this nation can give an officer, to lead your children  
5 into combat and, secondly, to guard nuclear weapon  
6 facilities and to make sure other people are doing it  
7 right. So he comes with the highest integrity and the  
8 highest intention. And I think like me, he looks  
9 forward to be educated by you all. And so he knows  
10 that the difficulties with OHV.

11 We can kind of gave him a heads up and talking  
12 to him on April 4th, when he will be sworn in, and I  
13 ask you all to welcome him and be prepared to educate  
14 him. I charged Phil with making sure that he gets all  
15 the right straight scoop, and Phil is going to be his  
16 principal mentor. And he understands that leaders have  
17 to be students before they can do anything. So I think  
18 you'll be very happy working with Chris.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. I think we look  
20 forward to a positive future.

21 We now come to the Division's, the chief's  
22 reports, and what I'd like to do is a little different  
23 than what we have in the past, and that is to contain  
24 our own comments as commissioners until the very end  
25 after the public comment. So there's several items

1 here, and what we're talking about here is the A, B,  
2 and C things.

3 So as the Division chief reports gets started,  
4 you notice that there are several items underneath  
5 that, please refrain from commenting until we end up  
6 hearing the public comment at the end of this whole  
7 thing. And then we've move to the next item, the next  
8 capital letter. Is that agreed upon, sound good? That  
9 way we hopefully will move this whole process and get  
10 out of here in time. We have a lot of work to do  
11 today. Chief Jenkins.

12 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B) - REPORTS - DIVISION**

13 CHIEF JENKINS: Thank you, Chair Slavik.

14 Let me just begin by adding my own welcome to  
15 the new Commissioners, very nice to see a full palette  
16 up there. We've got a couple of more seats we can fill  
17 coming up in the near future. It's very nice to have  
18 the full palette. And I've had a chance to speak with  
19 each of the new Commissioners and am very encouraged.

20 Also, just informally to say from the  
21 perspective of a career Parks professional having the  
22 new leadership come into the Department, so both our  
23 director and chief deputy director, just been very  
24 refreshing. One of the ways you can kind of gauge the  
25 level of morale in any organization is to look at the

1 number of people that are leaving the organization, the  
2 retirements or a transfers or other things like that.  
3 It's not just a numbers game, so this is a deal.

4 I've been watching the number of people retiring  
5 in the Department recently, and in some cases there are  
6 more retirements and in some cases there are less. In  
7 both cases, often it's a good sign, and here is what's  
8 going on. Some Parks professionals were refusing to  
9 retire until they felt like the Department was in good  
10 hands again. Those folks are feeling like we can leave  
11 now. We can turn the reins over to somebody that is  
12 actually going to run things in the right direction.  
13 Some of the other folks that had been saying we're  
14 leaving as soon as we can, have decided, hey, wait,  
15 there's a new program afoot and some of them are  
16 extending their time and not retiring.

17 So we're beginning to see some fresh energy,  
18 some fresh hope in the Department. It has been a dark  
19 year for a number of reasons. And it's just very  
20 refreshing, not just here in the OHV program where  
21 we're feeling a lot more included and as one family of  
22 State Parks, but also a lot of my friends and long-term  
23 acquaintances in the Department are just seeing a lot  
24 of new hope, so I want to thank you for that, General.

25 And Aaron Robertson has been a big part of that

1 change. He came on board earlier than that and has  
2 been working very closely with us at the Division all  
3 throughout all of these changes, so I can't thank you  
4 enough, as well.

5 So it's a fresh start. We have a lot of fresh  
6 faces on the Commission, faces that have been there  
7 even for a long time are kind of new, other than Paul  
8 and myself and Breene, I think it's a fairly new  
9 commission all the way around, new staff in the  
10 Division, new leadership in the Department, there's  
11 just a lot going on. And that is so great.

12 It's nice so have the Commissioners' reports  
13 take so long because I remember days when they would  
14 say commissioner reports, everybody would look around  
15 and say no. And to have that much going on all around  
16 the state is both a blessing and a curse. It's a  
17 blessing because I love it, but as the Division being  
18 staffed to the Commission here, you're really running  
19 us ragged, and we love it. So we'll work all day just  
20 to support you of guys when you're doing the kind of  
21 things that you're doing. So much appreciated by all  
22 of our of staff.

23 Speaking of enough staff in the program, I'll  
24 let Acting Chief Mowrey talk about those new staff.

25 ACTING CHIEF MOWREY: Good morning,

1 Commissioners; Acting Chief, Maria Mowrey.

2 We do have two new employees in the Division,  
3 and we've had a few retirements over the past year.  
4 The first one is Garrett Axelson, he's the new district  
5 superintendent at Ocotillo Wells. He began his new  
6 assignment on February 8th. He does not have OHV  
7 experience, but he has already started, and he has  
8 started rebuilding that district down in the desert.

9 We also have a new interim district  
10 superintendent, Mike Fehling. Bob Williamson burned  
11 down his leave balances, so Mike started two weeks ago.  
12 That's basically it. Also, I wanted to mention that  
13 Claire LeFlore is here. She is our new chief counsel  
14 for the Department.

15 CHIEF JENKINS: Thank you. In both of those  
16 cases, both of those new superintendents are  
17 individuals I've worked with earlier in their careers,  
18 and two individuals that I have been trying to drag  
19 over to the OHV Division for the last eight years that  
20 I've been here. So finally we had a position that was  
21 appropriate to their career ladder, so I think we very  
22 fortunate to get those two new superintendents.

23 Right now, of the four district superintendents  
24 in the OHV program, three of them have less than a year  
25 under their belts as new superintendents, which is in

1 this case good timing because they're coming in,  
2 they're just getting their legs under them, they're  
3 going to have Deputy Director Conlin is going to come  
4 in, and we're going to be able to form up into a fresh  
5 new team. So the timing could not be actually more  
6 fortuitous on some of this.

7 Very difficult to lose Bob Williamson,  
8 Kathy Dolinar, Andy Zilke. Those three individuals  
9 represent some of the most senior superintendents in  
10 the State Parks system, so it's a tremendous loss. I  
11 wish we had more formal way to kind of congratulate  
12 some of those folks as they leave the service because  
13 each of them took their area of responsibility, their  
14 district, and just did amazing things in the last eight  
15 years. So that is very sad to see them go, but at some  
16 point it's time for the next thing, and they all  
17 decided it was that time. In all three cases, I  
18 believe they stayed well beyond their ideal date.  
19 Everybody has a date you plan to retire. Your formula  
20 is maxed out. Those individuals stayed much longer  
21 than that because they loved the work. It's nice to  
22 see new faces coming in, but it's really hard to see  
23 that kind of experience walking out.

24 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(i) - REPORTS - BUDGET**

25 CHIEF JENKINS: Let me give you just a brief

1 update on where we are with the budget. As most of you  
2 saw, the Governor's January 10 budget came out with, I  
3 think most importantly to the people in the audience  
4 \$26 million identified in the Grants Cooperative and  
5 Agreement Program. That's very refreshing given that  
6 last year, not because of the Administration but  
7 because of actions out of their control, our grants  
8 program was reduced to \$10 million. The year before  
9 that it was \$21 million. So it's been three years  
10 since we've had a \$26 million grants program.

11 \$26 million, as we've seen in the last couple of  
12 years with reducing grants program, the effects it's  
13 had on grantees at the city level, county level,  
14 federal government level, all of those folks that  
15 depend on those grants, it becomes very, very difficult  
16 when unexpectedly you start having those monies just  
17 disappear. Some of those grants are projects but much  
18 of that money goes to ongoing operations, so it can be  
19 crippling. So to have that level of support come back  
20 into the budget, \$26 million proposed, it's already  
21 made it through one subcommittee unchallenged over in  
22 the legislature, so we're beginning to see some support  
23 for that, it's very encouraging that we may have some  
24 new life in the budget process.

25 You'll have a grants report here a little bit

1 later on, but we'll still facing the difficulty of what  
2 we do with this year's kind of small budget of only  
3 \$10 million. So the money we were given in the current  
4 fiscal year we are about to finish out was \$10 million.  
5 We're looking at ways to try to prop that up. We're  
6 exploring options. So our hope is we'll be able to get  
7 more money out in the field. But right now on the  
8 books that's what it is. It's \$10 million this year;  
9 \$26 million next year. We'll do the best we can to  
10 support as many operations out in the field as  
11 possible. Just so you know, that's the struggle that  
12 we're dealing with.

13 The rest of the budgets, we're in pretty much  
14 the same boat as the rest of the Department is. Our  
15 operations budget that we use to run the SVRAs, and the  
16 snow parks program, and the statewide law enforcement,  
17 statewide sound, statewide environmental compliance,  
18 all of the other programs that we run, we're still  
19 facing the \$5 million reduction that occurred two  
20 budgets ago when we lost the \$10 million out of the  
21 program.

22 The rest of the Department is in the same boat,  
23 so we're not alone there. It's something that we as an  
24 entire department are struggling with. That's why  
25 General Jackson was mentioning his efforts to try to

1 get more stable better funding source for the  
2 Department. That's for all of those programs in the  
3 Department that are funded out of General Fund, as well  
4 as our program.

5 One of the first places the General Jackson  
6 stopped when he came into the program was over in the  
7 our shop. He came by. We gave him the OHV 101  
8 briefing that we give all of the new commissioners.  
9 For the new commissioners that haven't had it yet,  
10 we've got a little one-day college course for you.  
11 Aaron and the General both got that same course when  
12 they came and are fully aware of where we are with our  
13 budget struggles.

14 Maria, am I missing anything on the budget that  
15 should be mentioned?

16 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(ii) - REPORTS - RECREATIONAL**

17 **TRAILS PROGRAM**

18 CHIEF JENKINS: There is one piece of the budget  
19 that has raised some alarm. There is a section in your  
20 binders. If you if you go back to Tab 3, has the  
21 budget chart in it, behind that is all of the  
22 background information on the budget. Towards the back  
23 of the kind of formal column parts to the budget, there  
24 is an addendum back there on the transportation, the  
25 Governor's Budget Summary Transportation. To find

1 that, go to the second page 99, is the page number,  
2 there's an innocent little piece in there that actually  
3 has some pretty interesting implications.

4 It's under the section of that report called  
5 Department of Transportation, subheading, "Significant  
6 Adjustments", sub, subheading, "Active Transportation  
7 Program." In that section of the Active Transportation  
8 Program, what is being proposed by the Administration  
9 is to take many of the transportation grants that used  
10 to be administered by a variety of entities and  
11 consolidate those into one streamline. This is all  
12 part of the streamlining government operations to make  
13 things more efficient, streamlining those programs  
14 under one roof, in this case Caltrans would be running  
15 those programs.

16 The way it affects potentially our program, the  
17 interests of the OHV community, is this will take the  
18 Recreational Trail Program, RTP grants, and put them  
19 under this consolidated grant application process.  
20 That would be managed by the Department of  
21 Transportation.

22 The reason that some folks have called us with  
23 concern, and I frankly don't have all of the answers on  
24 this. It's one of the things that we're trying to find  
25 out more about, but it's one of the things that's going

1 to have to almost see how it rolls out and how it all  
2 happens in the end. They define active transportation  
3 in here as human powered, such as walking and bicycling  
4 transportation. How that affects the history of having  
5 part of the Recreational Trails Program support  
6 motorized activities isn't really clear at this point.

7 All we know is what was put out in the budget  
8 and that the overall goal is to streamline the program.  
9 And then towards the end of that little section, on  
10 page 100, top of the page, you'll see:

11 "The transportation program will  
12 streamline this process and fund high  
13 priority projects that, number one,  
14 reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
15 consistent with objectives of 728 --"

16 That's one of those orders that came out about reducing  
17 greenhouse gases,

18 "And, two, will provide for  
19 safety benefits."

20 I can see room in that kind of a description to  
21 fit some of our projects into that description. For  
22 instance, when we're promoting -- we'll hear a little  
23 bit later by electric or a renewal energy off-highway  
24 park in San Jose. That would fit this description.  
25 Some of the work, some of the grants that we have out

1 that promote safety, so some of the patrol and safety  
2 stuff that is done by some of the applicants could  
3 potentially be put under this.

4 So we need to do more investigation, need to  
5 find out where this is going, just bringing it to you  
6 as an informational item because we're receiving so  
7 many, many calls on this, you should at least hear that  
8 that's in there.

9 We have a chart in your binder at the beginning  
10 of that section right under Tab 4, that is that bubble  
11 chart with our typical annual budget in there. There  
12 are copies of it on the back table for those that are  
13 interested. As everybody looks at this, we made sure  
14 and put really large font at the top, that's the  
15 Governor's proposed budget. What we've had in the past  
16 years, we will get this proposed budget and put it out,  
17 and people will lose track and come back years later  
18 and think that was the budget.

19 This is still the Governor's proposed budget.  
20 It has a long ways to go before it becomes final, but  
21 this is our projection of how the money will be  
22 provided if this version of the budget were to be  
23 approved at the end of the day. I think that's really  
24 all I need to say about the budget. I'll move along.  
25 If you have any questions in the end, we will come back

1 and address questions on all of the reports.

2 So I've covered budgets. I've covered the  
3 Recreational Trails Program.

4 Paul, did Pam make it, so at the end.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Let me introduce her.

6 We have the distinct pleasure of having  
7 Pam Gluck here, the executive director of American  
8 Trails Coalition. I've known Pam for a long time. She  
9 lives here in Redding. She's a very busy lady.  
10 They're getting ready to put on their national trails  
11 symposium in Tucson, Arizona next month. Come on up,  
12 Pam, we would like to hear you talk about the  
13 Recreational Trails Program, which I know is near and  
14 dear to your heart. Come up to the podium, please.

15 PAM GLUCK: Thank you very much. Good morning,  
16 Chairman Slavik, so nice to see you again and  
17 Commissioners and General, welcome. I look forward to  
18 meeting you and look forward to working with you in the  
19 future and to your dedicated staff, too.

20 I really appreciate the opportunity to be here  
21 today, and thank you so much for talking about the  
22 Recreational Trails Program, which is very, very  
23 important to American Trails and to the trails  
24 community not only in California but throughout the  
25 nation.

1 American Trails is a national nonprofit  
2 organization, and we work for the benefit of all types  
3 of trail users, motorized, non-motorized. And the  
4 Recreational Trails Program is a very important program  
5 for trails throughout the country. So our national  
6 headquarters is right here out of Redding, so thank you  
7 for holding your meeting here. This is wonderful. So  
8 thank you for inviting me as well, Chairman.

9 And I also serve as the vice-chair of the  
10 Coalition for Recreational Trails. And if you're not  
11 familiar, I did provide packet for each of you, as  
12 well. And the coalition has been around since '92  
13 involved in protecting the Recreational Trails Program  
14 and growing it, and it's a coalition of over 30  
15 organizations of which 16 of them are very specifically  
16 about motorized organizations, organizations that  
17 support motorized use. It's one of the greatest  
18 coalitions ever when it comes to trails because it  
19 brings everyone together, all types of trail uses.

20 Well, we are extremely concerns, and thank you  
21 so much for bring this up about the Governor's proposal  
22 to move the Recreational Trails Program to Caltrans.  
23 We completely respect what the Governor we believe is  
24 trying to do to meet the need to consolidate programs.  
25 We really respect that. We love what he's proposing,

1 to have more money for active transportation. That's a  
2 part of what we do, as well. So we're very supportive  
3 of all of that. But we believe that --

4 Well, our understanding of what we would have to  
5 happen in order for the program to go to Caltrans is  
6 that the Governor would essentially opt out of the  
7 program. It would either have to choose to keep the  
8 Rec Trails Program in Caltrans as it is as a distinct  
9 program with a set amount of money, or he would need to  
10 choose to completely opt out of the program, and then  
11 those funds would just go into this larger pot of money  
12 that he is proposing under Caltrans and under his new  
13 Active Transportation Program.

14 So we think California State Parks has been a  
15 model in how this program has run. And, in fact, the  
16 Coalition For Recreational Trails awarded California  
17 State Parks an award in 2011 for best state trails  
18 program for running the Recreational Trails Program.

19 And for it to leave and to go to Caltrans, we've  
20 heard numbers like the 30 percent that goes to OHV,  
21 plus all of the other back country trails that are  
22 funded out of Recreational Trails Program, mountain  
23 biking trails, equestrian trails, they would  
24 potentially be eligible under this new pot under  
25 Caltrans; however, you read the criteria there, and

1 there's going to be tremendous competition for this.  
2 And our projection is that those projects are going to  
3 get very little funding, if any. So we're talking  
4 about 55 percent cut in protection for recreational  
5 trails that are not just active transportation  
6 oriented.

7 So speaking from American Trails and the  
8 Coalition for Recreational Trails, we're here to find  
9 out how we can help with this. We're kind of assuming  
10 that you want it to stay in California State Parks, as  
11 well. We're here. We're ready to help in any way  
12 possible because that's where it belongs.

13 GENERAL JACKSON: What I'd say is although it's  
14 the Governor's budget, and I work for him, so I have to  
15 remember that as I speak here, but earlier I said show  
16 up, okay. And I really think that it is important for  
17 people who may be against a particular thing, when  
18 these Assembly subcommittees and committees meet, you  
19 should show up to those meetings and state your  
20 opinions. It does have influence. They are listening,  
21 and they're a willing audience. So I try to visit  
22 their offices and sometimes they ask me for my opinion  
23 on things. But it's very important that you show up at  
24 those subcommittee meetings where they ask for public  
25 comments to be there. So keep an eye on that schedule,

1 and that's my number one recommendation, to show up.

2 PAM GLUCK: Thank you very much.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: And we'll have public comment  
4 after. I'm sure people will weigh in on that, and then  
5 the Commissioners. If you can stay for a little bit  
6 longer.

7 PAM GLUCK: Certainly, absolutely. Thank you  
8 very much for this opportunity.

9 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(iii) - REPORTS - OCEANO DUNES AIR**  
10 **QUALITY**

11 CHIEF JENKINS: Thank you. Two more items that  
12 I knew you'd probably want to be updated on. One is  
13 where we are at Oceano Dunes with the whole air  
14 compliance with the rule regarding air quality out  
15 there. It's been a number of things. I won't bore you  
16 by going through the details. You have specific  
17 questions, I can address those at the end of the  
18 presentations.

19 But essentially what's been going on since the  
20 last time that we all met, we've been working with both  
21 the California Coastal Commission and the Air Pollution  
22 Control District, both the staff and the board members  
23 there in San Luis Obispo County, trying to continue as  
24 we move forward on addressing the goals and deadlines  
25 in the rule.

1           There were a number of deadlines at the  
2 beginning. When the rule was passed, the State Parks  
3 raised concerns because they required us to get  
4 permits, and we felt at the time that the timelines  
5 required to get those permits and the time frames  
6 outlined in the rule were not compatible. That it was  
7 just by any foreseeable set of circumstances going to  
8 be nearly impossible to meet those time frames to get  
9 the required permits to meet the required rule in the  
10 time frames they had out.

11           At this point, two of those required deadlines  
12 for us to receive permits for dust reduction measures  
13 and monitoring, et cetera, have lapsed, and so we are  
14 technically out of compliance at this point with the  
15 rule.

16           The Air Pollution Control Officer Larry Allen  
17 and I have been in discussions. We, of course, saw  
18 this coming before the date past on both of those  
19 deadlines. He and his staff have been working with our  
20 State Parks staff and our consultants and our  
21 attorneys, quite frankly, as we try to sort through how  
22 we address that.

23           Where we are currently is we have received a  
24 letter from the Air Pollution Control District letting  
25 us know we're out of compliance, we've missed two of

1 the rules. They're not currently charging us any  
2 fines. What they are doing is working with us so that  
3 we can provide them a schedule of activities and  
4 deadlines of when we perceive that we can provide the  
5 necessary information to meet those deadlines that have  
6 passed.

7 So at this point we're very hopeful that we're  
8 going to be able to give them a schedule that is to  
9 their satisfaction. Their next meeting of their board  
10 is the 27th. So next Wednesday, I'll be talking to the  
11 board in San Luis Obispo. And I don't know that we'll  
12 have the compliance schedule completely outlined, all  
13 of the dates settled by that point, but we will  
14 certainly be able to report to them where we are,  
15 proposed schedule of compliance, and continue that  
16 conversation.

17 Part of the reason that we're not able to meet  
18 those deadlines is an ongoing discussion we've had with  
19 both Resources Agency, California coastal Commission,  
20 the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors, all entities  
21 involved, Air Pollution Control Board, et cetera, about  
22 our need to put up temporary monitoring on the dunes to  
23 monitor the wind patterns so we can then use the  
24 information we've gathered to design a plan of how to  
25 control some of the dust emissions.

1           To date, I would say up until just a few months  
2 ago, nobody has been wanting to give us permission to  
3 go out and put up temporary monitors. Even putting up  
4 temporary monitors has its own ramifications. There  
5 are some concerns that provides roosts for predatory  
6 birds. There are environmental complications. There  
7 were concerns that if we didn't put the monitors in the  
8 correct locations, we would end up with junk science  
9 that wouldn't really tell us anything.

10           So we've been working over the last year with  
11 the various entities that control -- we have to get  
12 permits from both the Air Pollution Control District to  
13 make sure our data that we collect is something that  
14 they can trust as good science, and with the California  
15 Coastal Commission on dealing with their rules about  
16 what is a temporary structure.

17           And so we are making progress on both fronts,  
18 and our hope is to get some mobile monitoring towers  
19 out at the dunes in the next couple of weeks if  
20 everything works correctly. So what that would be is a  
21 trailer mounted ten meter tower that would have wind  
22 speed, wind direction. Various scientific instruments  
23 would hang off of this tower. They're on a trailer, so  
24 they're temporary. We can move them into place; anchor  
25 them with guide lines; leave them up for part of the

1 windy season either for several weeks or several months  
2 at the most; and then take them down and take them out,  
3 truly temporary installations that shouldn't require a  
4 full-blown coastal permit to have up. That's the  
5 debate we're having.

6 By the next time we meet, we should be able to  
7 tell you folks whether or not we were successful in  
8 getting them out there and hopefully report some of the  
9 data that we've collected. And that will point us  
10 toward where we need to spend our money to put  
11 preventative measures.

12 We've got 1600 acres out there to work in. We  
13 could spend \$2 million putting in vegetation for those  
14 artificial roughness with hay bales or wind fencing.  
15 We could spend \$2 million on that, not put it in the  
16 right place, and we've achieved nothing and wasted our  
17 money.

18 So our overall program is to ensure that when we  
19 spend that money, when we spend that resource, time,  
20 and effort, when we manipulate the environment out  
21 there, that we're not interfering with the snowy plover  
22 population. We're not interfering with ongoing  
23 recreation, and that we are doing something that makes  
24 a difference to the dust that's kicked up into the air  
25 by the wind coming off of the ocean. That's where we

1 are on that. I imagine you'll have some questions when  
2 we finish the report here. I'll move on at this point.

3 AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(1)(iv) - REPORTS - CALIFORNIA

4 STATEWIDE MOTORIZED TRAIL

5 CHIEF JENKINS: The last item I just wanted to  
6 touch on was the Statewide Motorized Trail. As we  
7 begin to look at both the Triennial Report, which we'll  
8 be talking about a little later on in the agenda and  
9 our own Division Annual Report, which we should have  
10 out soon, besides looking at what deadlines are coming  
11 up just around the corner, we are looking at what are  
12 the outlying deadlines, and what we're doing to prepare  
13 for them because some of them take a lot of ramp-up  
14 time. One of those is the Statewide Motorized Trail.

15 In just a moment I'm going to have Sylvia  
16 Milligan give us a little bit of background on that.  
17 The day I got my position as chief of the Division, I  
18 started hearing from Sylvia Milligan, and she gave me a  
19 sign that still sits in my office that's the old  
20 Statewide Motorized Trail sign. Statewide Motorized  
21 Trail, that's a program that's been here for a long  
22 time. We'll remember it's been in our legislation, in  
23 our California Code of Regulations section ever since I  
24 can remember going back into the '80s, that we would  
25 develop a Statewide Motorized Trail that would go from

1 Mexico to Oregon, that would allow for somebody to go  
2 on an off-highway vehicle, was the original plan, from  
3 border to border, so much like some of the hiking  
4 trails that do the same things but for motorized use.

5 We had as a Division when I was in the Division  
6 back in the early '90s been working on this. We were  
7 all very excited about it. We just couldn't wait to go  
8 out on our trip border to border. It ran into some  
9 difficulties in that there's a lot of sections where  
10 it's hard to find all of the interlinking pieces. And  
11 as we began to be better at figuring out where we need  
12 to do our environmental documentation, we realized that  
13 this would truly take one of those programmatic  
14 statewide EIR/NEPA because we'll be crossing federal  
15 line processes to accomplish.

16 So over the years, we've tried to start and  
17 stopped, tried to start and stopped and just haven't  
18 been able to make great progress. Sylvia Milligan has  
19 been my cheerleader, my goad all of this time to not  
20 let this fall off the page.

21 The strategic plan that we all reviewed, you  
22 approved as a Commission, calls for us to get the  
23 Statewide Motorized Trail in place by 2020. We've got  
24 a little time to work. We're going to need every bit  
25 of that if we hope to achieve that goal. There are

1 places up and down the state that have pieces of the  
2 original envisioned Statewide Motorized Trail. We  
3 can't really go out right now and fund work on the  
4 Statewide Motorized Trail because we would, in fact, be  
5 piecemealing the project.

6 So what we need to do is begin to get a  
7 subcommittee of the Commission perhaps, get a task  
8 force from the Division, get some interested members of  
9 the community and ascertain how much interest is there  
10 still in the community, pursue this. It would be an  
11 expensive undertaking. How can we approach it  
12 technically to ensure that we have the correct  
13 environmental process, much like we did with the  
14 Statewide Motorized Snow EIR recently we had to do with  
15 this, and how do we secure the funding for it.

16 So, Sylvia, would like to give your perspective  
17 of the Statewide Motorized Plan?

18 SYLVIA MILLIGAN: It's gotten to the point that  
19 every time I look at Phil, he knows what that means.

20 Anyway, we've been working on this for a long  
21 time. We already have the trail complete from the  
22 Oregon border down to the Sierra County line. And when  
23 I was at an SVAC meeting earlier this month, I met the  
24 new supervisor from Sierra County and mentioned to him,  
25 and he said I don't know anything about this trail. I

1 said you're going to.

2 We already have the line through Tahoe. I work  
3 with a guy that's a retired Forest Service traffic  
4 engineer. He has done this. Let me tell, he's done an  
5 incredible job. And the commission just recently  
6 funded Plumas National Forest to complete it through  
7 their forest, and they're almost done. By this summer  
8 that will be done. So we are connected all the way to  
9 Sierra County.

10 My management team that I work with, there are  
11 three retired Forest Service people, we're willing to  
12 go out -- and in fact Dick already has the trail  
13 planned. He know does exactly where it can go. All we  
14 need is the recognition and to be able to move forward  
15 and we're ready. But you know what, we need to do it  
16 real soon because Dick is not getting any younger, and  
17 he's an incredible man. So I would love to see this  
18 continue while you've got the people like myself, my  
19 organization, Recreation Outdoors Coalition, and my  
20 management team willing to go out there and do the  
21 legwork. Thank you.

22 CHIEF JENKINS: A final note on that, there has  
23 been some individuals recently that maybe -- John, help  
24 me out. Who did the jeep tour for the border recently.

25 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners,

1 John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel  
2 Drive Clubs. I believe the year was 2007. Chris  
3 Collard who is the editor of the Overland Field  
4 Magazine and Del Albright began a four-wheel drive jeep  
5 tour with the goal of sticking to dirt roads from  
6 starting at the Mexican border right outside of Yuma  
7 and heading north to the Oregon border.

8 As I recall they were only on pavement for maybe  
9 30 or 40 miles throughout that direction. But the  
10 ability to have a border-to-border trail that is all on  
11 dirt roads is there, and it is something that the  
12 community would love to see. Thank you.

13 CHIEF JENKINS: I believe you can still go  
14 online and read many of the blog posts from that  
15 journey. It was really a fascinating thing to read.

16 So the interest is there in some parts of the  
17 community. If you all as a commission have an interest  
18 and want to set up a subcommittee, I would love to  
19 become personally involved in that and bring some folks  
20 together and just test the waters and see if we can do  
21 that. See if we can set up something so when  
22 individuals want to do that, there is a managed legal  
23 way to do it. We don't have to worry about intruding  
24 on other non-motorized trails. We can do this  
25 responsibly as a community and yet provide a great

1 opportunity. That concludes my report.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: We need a break.

3 (Returned at 10:43 from a break starting at 10:29.)

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: I kind of jumped ahead of the  
5 agenda. We need to finish the legislation report and  
6 general plans. We're all the way down to Item No. 7,  
7 Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition. So what I  
8 think we're going to do at this point is we're going to  
9 let the public speak about the agenda items that we  
10 already talked about so we don't get lost in this  
11 process. Are we going to do legislation next, and then  
12 we're going to let them talk now or eleven o'clock do  
13 the public.

14 CHIEF JENKINS: Chair, I think we have time to  
15 give the legislation report very quickly. So you could  
16 either begin public comments on the elements of the  
17 Chief's report we've already completed.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Up to the legislation report.

19 CHIEF JENKINS: Which might take the next  
20 15 minutes, which would put us right at eleven o'clock  
21 for the agenda public comment.

22 I would suggest we take the comments on the  
23 Chief's report already given and collect public  
24 comments on that.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: And then do legislation reports

1 after the public comment.

2 CHIEF JENKINS: I think it's going to take 15  
3 minutes to walk through stuff we've already reported  
4 on, and that would put us at the public comment at  
5 11:00.

6 **AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS I, II,**  
7 **III, IV(A), IV(B)(1)(i-iv)**

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: So we're going to do public  
9 comment on the agenda items that have already gone.

10 So at this point anybody that's filled out a  
11 green public comment card has an opportunity to comment  
12 on the agenda items up to this point that we've talked  
13 about. If somebody has not filled out one of these  
14 cards, this is not an absolute necessity. It's  
15 basically for our information so we have the correct  
16 spelling of your name and stuff, you still have the  
17 ability to get up here and speak your piece.

18 What I'm going to do is call people's names.  
19 Please come up and stage or queue, as they say, at the  
20 podium, you have three minutes to talk.

21 NICK HARIS: Good morning, Commissioners,  
22 General Jackson, Chief Jenkins. It was a great tour  
23 yesterday, first of all, and I was really happy to get  
24 to participate because I had never been out there.

25 I do not have as good a list as Commissioner

1     Perez. Just touching on the RTP, we did send a letter  
2     to the Governor. We sent copies to Commissioner  
3     Slavik, General Jackson, Chief Jenkins, as well as the  
4     incoming deputy director, outlining some of our  
5     concerns with the potential plans.

6             I'm sorry, Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist  
7     Association.

8             So the letter has either been received or should  
9     be received in the next few days. It was sent it from  
10    your D.C. office. I won't try to repeat what Pam has  
11    said, but we share a lot of the same concerns that was  
12    shared on a conference call two weeks ago.

13            Realize that a lot of us are looking at RTP and  
14    this potential withdrawal from California participation  
15    as a bad sign that a lot of other states may follow.  
16    And realizing in California this is an important budget  
17    item, but it's not necessarily a large enough of a  
18    budget item. But in some states, the RTP program is  
19    literally the off-highway vehicle program along with  
20    the non-motorized component.

21            So we are concerned with the precedent that it  
22    sets as well as just the -- you know, what they're  
23    going to do in the future. And I have talked to the  
24    Christopher Daud, who runs the program from the federal  
25    level, as well as Kelly Long on a number of occasions

1 just to get a better feel for what's going on. I wish  
2 we knew why the Governor was indicating this was in his  
3 plan.

4 I won't touch on anything else yet because we  
5 haven't got to the agenda item. I did like the Oceano  
6 Dunes information a lot. It was very useful. I  
7 remember the tour that we did, and a lot of things  
8 going on there. It's pretty incredible to hear all of  
9 the hoops you have to jump through to put up a  
10 temporary monitoring station to follow the rules that  
11 you're being asked to follow. I applaud your efforts  
12 in that area, so thank you.

13 AMY GRANAT: I'll start when I'm walking, and  
14 I'll make mine really quick. Amy Granat, California  
15 Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs -- sorry, that was  
16 the old one; California Off-Road Vehicle Association.  
17 You get confused.

18 Congratulations, the new Commissioners, and  
19 welcome the general and Aaron, it's great to have  
20 everybody here. I'm one of the OHV representatives on  
21 the Recreational Trail Program. And in terms of  
22 proportion, the RTP program represents for the Governor  
23 a minuscule amount of money, but in terms of what it  
24 gives back to the people in the current incarnation is  
25 huge. There is no proportion. If we can look at what

1 they would be gaining, a really small amount of money  
2 just to solve much bigger issues, but what we would be  
3 losing is huge. So I think it's really important for  
4 the Commission to come out, also. We will all be  
5 sending letters to the Governor really stating that the  
6 RTP program is very important to all Californians  
7 because of what it gives us.

8 And the job that Kelly does in California State  
9 Parks does in deciding where the money goes is really  
10 incredible, and it's been a pleasure to serve on that  
11 committee.

12 And I just want to thank whatever influence  
13 anyone had with the Governor for putting the  
14 \$26 million back in the budget. It's appreciated more  
15 than anybody probably can say, so thank you all.

16 PAM GLUCK: Thank you very much. I thought I  
17 had three minutes earlier. So Pam Gluck with American  
18 Trails. And so I'll just add a couple of more things  
19 about the Recreational Trails Program if I may.

20 This is such an important program, and it is a  
21 user pay, user benefit program and especially the OHV  
22 community. I mean the funds for the whole Recreational  
23 Trails Program come from the taxes from off-highway  
24 fuel use purchase. And so if the fund goes into  
25 Caltrans and there is no longer an RTP program, that

1 means that all of the gas that you are using that are  
2 paying your taxes, you are no longer going be receiving  
3 benefit from that ultimately, unless something major  
4 changes in the way the program gets run through  
5 Caltrans, and they decide to keep it as a distinct  
6 program. So this is of major concern to us that this  
7 program, that we really could lose this program, and  
8 that the OHV community and the back country folks could  
9 lose funding.

10 And this funding is -- I mean there are so many  
11 projects waiting to the funded, and there's just not  
12 enough money here in California and throughout the  
13 whole country. So as Mr. Haris said, for California to  
14 opt out of the program is like setting a precedent for  
15 this to happen throughout the country. So this is a  
16 really, really bad thing.

17 And funding through this program is unusual  
18 because it allows for funding for maintenance, which we  
19 know is so important, and so we would lose that. We  
20 would lose the funding for the State Trail Advisory  
21 Committee. This program more than any other started  
22 in '91 has brought the trails community together  
23 throughout the country to get everyone to sit down at  
24 the table, motorized, non-motorized and to work  
25 together so that we've had great trails throughout the

1 country. It's just -- it will be devastating if this  
2 program leaves State Parks. So thank you very much.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Pam, just to hold a second.  
4 Would you be specific on where these taxes come from  
5 just so that people here can understand that.

6 PAM GLUCK: Yes. Every time you put gas in your  
7 snowmobile, your ATV, your jeep, yes, any of the  
8 motorized off-highway uses, every time you put a  
9 dollar's worth of gasoline in it, the tax you pay on  
10 that --

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: The federal tax.

12 PAM GLUCK: -- the federal tax goes into the  
13 Highway Trust Fund. And it is based on -- this whole  
14 program was based on the user pay, user benefit. So  
15 you pay in, and you should get a benefit back from it.  
16 And that's what will essentially go away.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

18 JIM BRAMHAM: Good morning, Jim Bramham,  
19 California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs. And as  
20 a former commissioner, I'm very pleased to see all of  
21 you up on the front there. I'm glad it's you, and so  
22 welcome. I look forward to working with all of you as  
23 we move forward.

24 Specifically when I was on the commission, my  
25 pet project was the Oceano Dunes SVRA. I put in a

1 tremendous amount of time working on that. I'm so  
2 happy to see that we not only, one, still have that  
3 park to take my grandchildren to, but secondly that it  
4 is such a focus of the Division and now to a  
5 Commissioner. And I ask the Commission to take that  
6 special effort to make sure that facility remains open  
7 and for public use.

8 It has been so many issues over so much time,  
9 and we've ended up fighting this so much more on the  
10 global level than the local level. So I'm so glad to  
11 see that there is a local person there to make local  
12 contact with the folks within the county area and the  
13 county leadership. So I want to thank the Commission  
14 for that and look forward to working with you on the  
15 Oceano issues at any time. Thank you.

16 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners, John  
17 Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs.

18 I'm just going to make a couple of comments on  
19 the RTP grants program and the California Statewide  
20 Motorized Trail. Quite a bit has been said about the  
21 importance of the RTP and I would like to add one  
22 particular item, though, is that the RTP grants are  
23 more than just a trail work or trail maintenance. They  
24 also provide trailhead and restroom facilities at  
25 various places along the trails. So there is a broader

1 scope to it than just what the program implies.

2 And my request from the Division if you could  
3 make available a kind of a snapshot of what the grants  
4 are and have been over the past that might help develop  
5 some talking points that would just help to fund the  
6 uniqueness and importance of the RTP program to the  
7 recreation program community.

8 With the discussion about the California  
9 Statewide Motorized Trail, when it was started, the  
10 long distant trips were very popular then. Those fell  
11 into just took kind of a back seat to shorter,  
12 different type of change in recreation.

13 But in the past couple of years, there has been  
14 a noted change and shift in the type of recreation that  
15 people are pursuing, and this is under the concept they  
16 now call overlanding. In other words, people are  
17 looking for long distant trips on dirt roads just to  
18 get off the asphalt and looking for the dispersed  
19 camping opportunities that can be provided.

20 Following through and creating or finalizing the  
21 California State Motorized Trail would go a long ways  
22 to addressing that growing segment of the marketplace  
23 that is looking for the dirt road experience, the back  
24 roads away from the congestion of the blacktop and  
25 provide more opportunity for dispersed camping either

1 in small groups or individuals. So this is something  
2 that is very important to the recreation community and  
3 should be pursued. Thank you.

4 DON AMADOR: Don Amador, western representative  
5 for the Blue Ribbon Coalition.

6 As a former commissioner from '94 to 2000, I  
7 just wanted to welcome the new commissioners up there  
8 and General Jackson to this great program. Blue Ribbon  
9 is a member of the Coalition For Recreation Trails and  
10 certainly we share concerns about opting out of the  
11 Recreational Trails Program; think it's a bad idea.

12 And then also as one of my pet projects in the  
13 1990s was the California Back Country Discovery Trail  
14 Systems. So I'm really glad to see it coming back up  
15 and that you're looking at getting more engaged in that  
16 program. And just a quick story before my dad died in  
17 March of 1998 from cancer -- he was a World War II  
18 vet -- his last outdoor activity in the fall is I took  
19 him on the back country discovery trail segment on the  
20 Mendocino, which is an alternate route that goes up to  
21 the Mendocino Six Rivers National Forest, and that was  
22 his last outdoor adventure. So I really want to be  
23 part of that, include me in on that, and look forward  
24 to getting that back up and running. Thank you.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Does anybody have any

1 comments concerning the preceding agenda items that  
2 haven't spoken? All right. We'll close that portion  
3 and move on to the legislation.

4 CHIEF JENKINS: Actually, I think since we're  
5 right at eleven o'clock, we can move right into the  
6 non-agenda public comments.

7 **AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

8 RANDY JORDAN: My time is running already. You  
9 count the time when we walk up?

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: We can start it again.

11 RANDY JORDAN: I'm Randy Jordan, Sun Buggies Fun  
12 Rentals. We're one of the OHV vendors at Oceano. And  
13 basically I want to thank you guys for letting me speak  
14 today.

15 I've given you a summary of my concerns at the  
16 Oceano site for vendor-related safety only. I want to  
17 first say that I am a huge proponent of OHV. I think  
18 it's one of the best things we have of instilling  
19 family values today.

20 We've been there for ten years. Currently, the  
21 park, my guess is, generates about \$400,000 a year in  
22 user fees through the vendors. And basically what I'm  
23 presenting to you today is information that I sent in  
24 2011 before the contract that is currently being  
25 administrated was put out and what the changes have

1 been relative to safety as it is to the tourists who  
2 rent the vehicles.

3 My concern was then that the new contract was  
4 proposing the use of vehicles that had not been used in  
5 the park before, which have a track record of being  
6 challenging to operate. ROVs were introduced that have  
7 a placard right on the dash that says: If you use it  
8 on anything greater than 15 degree, severe injury or  
9 death may occur. And Oceano is 30 degrees on the back  
10 side of every dune. The general public comes in, rents  
11 them, they think they're able to operate this here and  
12 available, and then get hurt. And it's not good for  
13 anybody.

14 My concern is where is the tolerance level with  
15 those vehicles, the two-seat ATVs and adolescent ATVs  
16 and ROVs where we're going to say that's enough people  
17 hurt per rental. That's what we're seeing is an  
18 annual, calculable, reoccurring number of injuries and  
19 nothing being done to reduce it. No changes in the  
20 program, and that's my concern. It's going to be a  
21 degenerative effect on the whole program if it's not a  
22 reflexion on the park if we don't get that under  
23 control. We in ten years in our Sun Buggies have never  
24 had an adolescent injury, and we are the only vendor  
25 who has ever put out zero injury years in the last ten

1 years, and we provide general liability insurance and  
2 have since the day we got there, and it's still up in  
3 the air whether or not that exists with everybody else.

4 So my concern is I would like to see the new  
5 contract which has language in it to increase safety  
6 and better safety. And I would like to see that  
7 enforced, to see safety increase rather than the  
8 status quo. My prayer is that, you know, with the  
9 changing of the guards, we're going to have a changing  
10 of the tides. I want to see a change in that.

11 Is anybody aware of who Chris Meadow is?  
12 Chris Meadow was a volunteer safety person out there at  
13 the dunes who lost his life on ATV going out on a call,  
14 injury call. And what we're seeing is injuries  
15 basically from the same conditions that cost him his  
16 life. And we're just letting it reoccur. We need to  
17 figure out a way to monitor the system, change the  
18 system to reduce those injuries.

19 We have virtually -- we have zero injury seasons  
20 one right after the other. This is the first year  
21 we've been allowed to rent ATVs. We've had our first  
22 ambulatory injury this year on an ATV, and that's my  
23 concern. I want to try and develop systems to reduce  
24 those injuries with all of the vendors, so it doesn't  
25 affect the whole park.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Your time is up, Randy. I thank  
2 you.

3 AMY GRANAT: Amy Granat, California Off-Road  
4 Vehicle Association. And I'm very pleased to report  
5 the California Off-Road Vehicle Association Off-Roader  
6 of the Year Award to Phil Jenkins on behalf of all of  
7 the work he's done.

8 (Audience standing ovation.)

9 AMY GRANAT: I don't want to the scare you, you  
10 get to keep the plaque. So if you'd like, you can have  
11 the trophy for a couple of months, show your best  
12 friends, take it home, use it as a paperweight.

13 And I would like to read a letter from our  
14 president, Jim Woods.

15 "This is the George Thomas  
16 Memorial Trophy for Off-Roader of the  
17 Year presented to Phil Jenkins. It  
18 is with great pleasure to recognize  
19 Phil Jenkins as the winner of our  
20 perpetual George Thomas Memorial  
21 Trophy for Off-Roader of the Year.  
22 You were nominated for this award and  
23 by vote of the CORVA board of  
24 directors at our annual meeting  
25 chosen to receive this honor. Your

1 work on the behalf of all users of  
2 recreational areas is to be  
3 commended. About this award, this  
4 trophy was sponsored by Crimly Desert  
5 Casters presented to the one  
6 individual each year whose  
7 contributions to the betterment of  
8 off-roading during the preceding year  
9 are worthy of this very special  
10 recognition. This trophy has been  
11 ongoing since 1972 and named after  
12 George Thomas, who helped create the  
13 job you hold today. You now join a  
14 group of dedicated people that have  
15 led the way in OHV recreation.  
16 Thanks again for your hard work and  
17 dedication to the sport of  
18 off-roading and the time and effort  
19 to keep our sport recognized.  
20 Sincerely, Jim Woods, President of  
21 CORVA."

22 (Audience applause.)

23 CHIEF JENKINS: Wow, it's not often I get  
24 surprised. I'm surprised, not expecting this today. I  
25 know the plaque is a relief. I was afraid I was going

1 to have to ask the general for a bigger office.

2 But just let me say to everyone it has been a  
3 fantastic -- I can't even talk. This has been the best  
4 eight years of my life, and I'm not going anywhere, and  
5 I look forward to working with Chris, and we're going  
6 to keep doing this kind of stuff, and we are going to  
7 make Chris the kind of deputy director perhaps some day  
8 he's going to deserve this reward. So I look forward  
9 to the next eight years working with everybody. Let's  
10 keep this all going. Thank you.

11 (Audience applause.)

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Would you thank Jim Woods and the  
13 board of directors for being so obviously  
14 congratulatory to a man that's worked really hard and  
15 given so much to OHV.

16 JIM BRAMHAM: Jim Bramham. At the fear of  
17 jumping ahead, I just wanted to bring word from the  
18 California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs and the  
19 American Sand Association in how much we appreciate  
20 Tom Bernardo's work as we work toward through  
21 legislation that has to do with the side-by-side  
22 vehicles, in particular, SB-234 that will be heard soon  
23 at the transportation committee. Tom has just been a  
24 great resource for us trying to help folks not only  
25 within State Parks but with all of the federal agencies

1 to understand the regulations that have been placed and  
2 the ones that make change moving forward for the  
3 operation of side-by-side vehicles. Thank you.

4 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, John Stewart,  
5 California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs. On  
6 behalf of the California Association of 4-Wheel Drive  
7 Clubs, I'd like to welcome General Jackson and the new  
8 commissioners to the fold here for working forward with  
9 the recreation. And in the conversations with the  
10 general, he's indicated that he's all for recreation  
11 and for multiple stakeholders or multiple groups  
12 getting together and coming together. We applaud that  
13 and believe that's a rationale and a good approach. We  
14 look forward to seeing recreation put back into  
15 California Department of Parks and Recreation.

16 Along that, I would like to draw the attention  
17 to, as you have Boating and Waterways, there is a small  
18 state park down in the southeastern corner of the state  
19 called Paso Muchaco. Paso Muchaco sits in a unique  
20 spot right along the Colorado River, and it combines  
21 all forms of recreation possible. It is adjacent to  
22 BLM's lands which is open for recreation. It is an  
23 intermix. There is also wilderness areas in there, but  
24 there's also a four-wheel drive route that goes up the  
25 river. I would invite you to come down and take a look

1 at that because that's a beautiful scenic place. And  
2 it also incorporates small camping spots for the  
3 boating public. So it is something that does meet what  
4 you're looking for. It's all facets of recreation, and  
5 this is something that things like this we would like  
6 to see the opportunities for recreation expanded where  
7 you have a mix of land use, land management going from  
8 one agencies, whether it be the State Parks to BLM or  
9 OHV into State Parks, such as in the Ocotillo Wells  
10 area, and look at the possibility of at least opening  
11 some of those forests back up so that we can have a  
12 better recreational opportunity and a better  
13 opportunity for all members of the public to move  
14 throughout without being impeded by unnecessary  
15 science. So thank you. We look forward to working  
16 together for the recreation. So thank you.

17 DON AMADOR: Don Amador, western representative  
18 for the Blue Ribbon Coalition. I just wanted to  
19 comment I don't know how many took the tour yesterday,  
20 but I wanted to compliment the staff and everybody, see  
21 BLM leadership here on probably one of the best tours  
22 I've been on since I've been doing this since 1994. I  
23 thought it was a great experience.

24 I'm glad Pam is here. Some you may remember, I  
25 know Paul does, the 2000 American Trails Conference,

1 national conference we had in Redding. And after  
2 yesterday's tour, clearly observing what now has become  
3 a showcase OHV area, I would like to just throw it out  
4 on the table that American Trails consider having  
5 another conference back here. It's been, what, 13  
6 years. So I just wanted to throw that out there. It's  
7 easy for us to come to. BLM has done a great job, and  
8 look forward to doing a lot of good stuff over the next  
9 few years with the new leadership team here and  
10 everything. Thank you.

11 SYLVIA MILLIGAN: With all of the accolades that  
12 went in front of me, they kept me from having to use up  
13 all of my three minutes, but I feel the same way, but  
14 everybody, including Pam, if you have the next  
15 symposium here, I'll help.

16 This is it a little away from it, but I wanted  
17 to share something with you. In the 1990s while  
18 snowmobiling one day, we were at a resort up here in  
19 Tehama County, and somebody -- we were talking about,  
20 gosh, wouldn't it be fun to be able to snowmobile all  
21 the way around Lassen Volcanic National Park. So I'm  
22 going -- they start putting these thoughts in my mind.

23 The next thing, I'm involved over my head. And  
24 I'm saying, yes, but let's don't just have it for  
25 snowmobiles. Let's make this trail if we can ever get

1 it down for everybody. Let's share the dream.

2 So I started walking myself all the way around  
3 this mountain to find where can we connect. Most of  
4 the trails, 95 to 97 percent of the route is already  
5 in, it's existing. The only three percent is just  
6 marginal, nothing to be done to really put it in except  
7 a few things. I've had Division come up. The support  
8 they've given me on this has been tremendous. They  
9 looked at the parts that needed to be completed and  
10 said we can do that.

11 Well, we went to the Forest Service, and they  
12 were just wonderful. They dedicated the trail to  
13 everybody but the mixed-use people, the off-road  
14 people. And we're going now wait a minute, this trail  
15 is supposed to be for everybody.

16 Well, that's when we found out when we proposed  
17 this trail route, we've got an engineering report  
18 that's been done, we've done the traffic study, you  
19 name it, everything has been done. It is a stellar  
20 project. So then they kind of drug their feet on the  
21 mixed use, and come to find out they knew at that time  
22 that it was the intention of the Forest Service to  
23 close the ML-3 and four roads. And we had been using  
24 them for years. We went everywhere in the forest.

25 So it's been a good five years since I started

1 my little quest. It's actually now been longer than  
2 that. Okay. And that's the stumbling block. We will  
3 get those roads open. So I went back to D.C. in 2008,  
4 and I talked to Radanovich, McClintock, Herger and  
5 Lungren, and explained what was going on. And that  
6 started that letter in April of 2008 to the Forest  
7 Service about the Travel Management Plan.

8 I started working with my counties, and I said  
9 one of the reasons that they say we cannot have this  
10 trail is because there's not mixed use allowed on the  
11 county roads. They said we're here to -- I forgot the  
12 word -- serve the public. They said our roads are  
13 open. You can now count on our roads being opened.

14 So we have finally through this process of  
15 working together and doing it in a very calm way, we  
16 have the roads in Shasta County that are in the  
17 Shasta/Trinity National Forest has been reduced from  
18 ML-3s and fours to ML-2Ms to support mixed use. We now  
19 have the five PWBs that totally surround Lassen  
20 National Forest. Our meeting with Jerry Bird, the  
21 supervisor of the Lassen, and we've heard via  
22 grapevine -- I have a lot of inside friends.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sylvia, excuse me, your time is  
24 running out so if you could summarize.

25 SYLVIA MILLIGAN: Okay. I'll be real short.

1           We have found out that we're going to be getting  
2 probably -- it's looking very good that we're going to  
3 get those roads. So we intend to move forward now with  
4 this dream.

5           And what I wanted to suggest real quickly, I  
6 know I'm over time, would this Commission entertain an  
7 idea of perhaps sending a letter to the Shasta/Trinity  
8 National Forest thanking them for their movement  
9 forward and stating maybe that if they are in need of  
10 funds to remember that the state OHV program is here?

11           CHAIR SLAVIK: We can try.

12           SYLVIA MILLIGAN: Okay. Think about it. Thank  
13 you.

14           CHAIR SLAVIK: I asked Rick to come and  
15 explain -- or I should say, kind of layout the Yosemite  
16 National Forest OHV program. And the reason I want to  
17 give you a little bit more time, Rick, because we had a  
18 Commission tour there with two-and-a-half years ago, I  
19 believe. None of these commissioners now, as you can  
20 see, were on that tour. You weren't there either. So  
21 we spent quite a bit of resources to get everybody up  
22 there and spend a whole day on this tour. Now all of  
23 this institutional memory is gone.

24           So I would like Rick just to give us a little  
25 bit of snapshot on what it's like on the San

1 Bernardino, what he's dealing with, how many hours the  
2 volunteers contribute, you know, a little bit of that.  
3 Not too long, Rick.

4 RICK LAVELLO: Will do. First off, I want to  
5 thank you, Paul, Commissioner Chair Slavik, for  
6 attending our 20th-year anniversary on Thursday night.  
7 We just became 20 years old. We started out in '93 as  
8 the San Bernardino National Forest Association. And  
9 recently we're just going through a name change. We  
10 are now becoming the Southern California Mountains  
11 Foundation. It's because the OHV program was one of  
12 six programs, and the other programs were kind of  
13 having problems getting funding because people were  
14 confusing them with the Forest Service, so funders  
15 didn't really want to give funding to the government.

16 Basically, the OHV program, the off-highway  
17 vehicle education safety program is basically an  
18 education safety outreach program. And we're  
19 definitely dependent on the funding that comes from the  
20 cooperative grants agreement and the RTP funding. So  
21 when the Governor takes that money away or the money  
22 gets less, it kind of -- we get worried whether or not  
23 we're going to be able to fund our projects.

24 Basically, the education safety program, that's  
25 our project, is recognized as one of the largest

1 support groups in the nation in cooperative spirit with  
2 the Forest Service. We have approximately 30,000 hours  
3 a year by a consistent base of 200 volunteers, which  
4 equates to about \$700,000 in labor to the San  
5 Bernardino National Forest.

6 On the San Bernardino National Forest, we have  
7 approximately 900 miles of dirt roads that are  
8 available for off-highway vehicle use, and out of that  
9 900 roads, 170 of them are green sticker, available for  
10 green sticker use. And my volunteers help the Forest  
11 Service in educating the public, and we do that through  
12 a variety of different ways. We go out and we set up  
13 kiosks and staging areas, and we hand out educational  
14 materials. We go to local dealers, OHV dealerships,  
15 and give them materials to hand out to the public so  
16 that they're not just saying, here, you can -- here buy  
17 this OHV, you can go riding anywhere.

18 Like Paul was talking about, the forest was  
19 actually being loved to death. The Baldy Mesa area, as  
20 much as we try to keep it -- it's constantly being  
21 overran by unauthorized use. So basically we go out  
22 there, and we basically educate the public on that.  
23 And typically a volunteer spends his weekends  
24 patrolling about 900 miles of dirt roads and trails.  
25 And, let's see, interacting as safety education

1 ambassadors, last year we made -- on a typical year, we  
2 actually make well over 20,000 contacts per year. Last  
3 we are we disbursed more than 400 illegal campfire  
4 rings. We removed over two tons of trash from the  
5 forest, and we cleared over 800 roads. A lot of time  
6 trees fall down, stuff obstruct the roads, and all of a  
7 sudden the public decides they want to go around it and  
8 they cause resource damage. So in order to repair the  
9 resource damage, we go out there and a clear the stuff.

10 Also, we print maps with the Forest Service, and  
11 we hand those maps out. And the green sticker roads  
12 are in dark green so they're labeled so they'll easily  
13 refer to let you know what's green sticker and what's  
14 street legal use only.

15 And basically that's about it. Again we're very  
16 dependent on the funding that comes from the  
17 Cooperative Grants Agreement and the RTP funding. So  
18 when that funding starts to go away, we get worried  
19 about how we're going to fund our projects.

20 Oh, we just started working with the Forest  
21 Service, and we also do -- we're doing a restoration  
22 project now. And this last grants cooperative  
23 agreement, the 2012, 2010, 2011 or '11/'12, we just  
24 started the restoration project. What we do is we use  
25 Urban Conservation Corps and Americorps members, and

1 they go out and actually do the restoration work. And  
2 then the OHV volunteers come back. What they do is  
3 they monitor the sites once they've been treated, and  
4 we've just got equipment and stuff like that, so we're  
5 going to photograph and GPS -- locations are already  
6 GPSed, but we're going to going back and photograph  
7 them and monitor them on a regular basis, and that's  
8 about it.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Rick, would you just tell us what  
10 the rest of the programs are besides OHV real quick?

11 RICK LAVELLO: The other programs, we've got the  
12 OHV volunteer program. We have the fire lookouts,  
13 which were the first two that actually started the  
14 SBNFA. We have the Big Bear Discovery Center, which is  
15 the discovery center in Big Bear, Big Bear Lake for the  
16 visitors. We also have a children's forest, which is a  
17 forest which is dedicated with a visitor center that's  
18 ran by children, ages seven to 14, and it's for  
19 children, and they've got a couple of trails there.  
20 Also, we have Forest Care which is another program that  
21 works with the Forest Service and forester, and they  
22 work with the people that actually live in -- we have a  
23 lot of urban interface in San Bernardino. You get a  
24 lot of mountains, a lot of the forests don't have the  
25 same urban interface aside from having Orange County,

1 Riverside, LA County with all of the people there  
2 coming up to recreate, we have people that live in  
3 Crestline and Arrowhead, and they think the forest is  
4 their backyard. Anyway, it is kind of their backyard.  
5 What they do is they work with the landowners to thin  
6 the forest because a thinner forest is a healthier  
7 forest.

8 And we also have Music in the Mountains thing  
9 where people, the locals basically come up, and we  
10 usually hold anywhere from three to five concerts a  
11 year. And Big Bear Discovery Center, where there is an  
12 amphitheater, and it's kind of neat, music under the  
13 stars.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

15 CHIEF JENKINS: Let me add to that. We've done  
16 a lot of tours in the last eight years, and that is one  
17 of the tours that really stands out in my mind, on par  
18 with what we saw yesterday, actually. So great job.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: So where are we here?  
20 Legislation. Are we ready for Tina now?

21 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(2) - REPORTS - LEGISLATION**

22 OHV SUPT. WILLIAMS: Hello, Commissioners, my  
23 name is Tina Williams. I am the Division  
24 Superintendent for Public Relations and Communications  
25 for California State Parks.

1           Before I begin, I'd like to ask Tom Bernardo to  
2 come up and stand with me. Someone mentioned earlier  
3 that Tom is really that person with the boots on the  
4 ground that works with enthusiasts and associations and  
5 really the legislative aides. Just like the Commission  
6 is transforming and a lot of leadership, we also have  
7 staff members are transforming, so I would like to ask  
8 Tom to come up.

9           There's at least ten bills that are outlined  
10 behind Tab No. 4 in your binders. And in the interest  
11 of time, we're going to outline some of the ones that  
12 really stand out and affect the legislative program for  
13 OHV.

14           I'd like to start with chapter legislation 1595  
15 and 1266, and I'm going to ask Tom to do a little bit  
16 of explaining of how those came to light. Tom.

17           OHV STAFF BERNARDO: Tom Bernardo, Division  
18 staff. I want to give a little bit of history on the  
19 ROVs because some of the Commissioners may not be aware  
20 of that particular history.

21           ROVs, side-by-side vehicles are extremely  
22 possible, best selling vehicles now in the state in  
23 terms of off-highway vehicles. The manufacturers have  
24 gone to a recreational-type of vehicle. Originally,  
25 they were utility type of vehicles, farm vehicles.

1 Now, they design recreational specific side-by-side  
2 vehicles.

3 Their association last year got a bill passed,  
4 Assembly Bill 1595, that put a definition in the  
5 Vehicle Code of what a recreational off-highway vehicle  
6 is, and it also provided some safety-related laws in  
7 the Vehicle Code, including seat belt use, helmet use,  
8 what they call rider fit for the seat, seating  
9 positions.

10 And also the most controversial section that was  
11 passed had to do with aftermarket seats in the  
12 vehicles. It's very popular for people who own these  
13 vehicles to add seats in the rather of these vehicles  
14 in a location not provided by the manufacturers. The  
15 manufacturers are concerned about that practice, so  
16 part of the law that they passed prohibited people from  
17 sitting in those seats.

18 That law was to go that effect January 1st of  
19 year. Once the law came out, a lot of OHV community,  
20 thousands of people who have put these seats in the  
21 back of their ROVs have been recreating safely and  
22 legally for years, and as of January 1st that would  
23 have been illegal.

24 So they found a legislator, and Assembly Bill  
25 1266 was passed. 1266 delayed the implementation of

1 the aftermarket state law until July 1st of this year,  
2 and also made a minor change in the rider fit section  
3 that previously said the person had to have their feet  
4 flat on the floor. That was taken out. So someone who  
5 didn't have feet or legs or someone with short stature  
6 could fit into the vehicle legally now.

7 There are three bills pending, and Tina is going  
8 to go into those. Again, all 1266 did was delay the  
9 implementation of the aftermarket seat law. That's not  
10 a fix. It's just a delay. So the three laws that Tina  
11 is going to talk about address some fixes to current  
12 problems.

13 And, again, the OHV community leadership has  
14 been very vocal and involved in this current  
15 legislation process, so hopefully that will get fixed  
16 soon.

17 OHV SUPT. WILLIAMS: Okay. Specifically  
18 Assembly Bill 64 sponsored and authored by Donnelly, it  
19 really addresses children wearing a helmet while  
20 they're secured in a child safety seat, and it also  
21 addresses the model year of which these things would go  
22 into effect. And I believe the model year that is  
23 discussed in the Donnelly bill is January 1st, 2014.

24 Moving on to Senate Bill 234, which is authored  
25 by Senator Walters, they go back to the model year of

1 2013, and they specifically start to address having the  
2 passenger hold onto a grasp section. They want to  
3 eliminate that.

4 All of these bills, by the way, have the number  
5 four in them. So if I'm confusing you, please go to  
6 the back, behind Tab No. 4, coincidentally.

7 Assembly Bill sponsored by Fuller addresses the  
8 dates of which these bills were go into effect. And  
9 that pushes the dates back to January 1st, 2015.

10 We're also watching a couple of other bills that  
11 are coming to light. One of those is Assembly Bill  
12 988, and that really addresses the activities of  
13 distributors, manufacturers of ROVs. This going to  
14 require those manufacturers and dealers to subscribe to  
15 or present an application to the Department of Motor  
16 Vehicles. They'll also have to put up a bond. They'll  
17 also be required to do renewal fees every year. So  
18 that one is out there.

19 There is another one that's out there, Senate  
20 Bill 151, which we're watching very closely. You know,  
21 Tom and there are a lot of others in the Division who  
22 are in contact with people who've sponsor bills, and  
23 one came up recently, and it had everything to do with  
24 the Department of Motor Vehicles issuing a sticker in  
25 lieu of the license plate. And a lot of people say,

1 hey, that sounds like the green sticker program. Well,  
2 our intelligence so far hasn't revealed that this would  
3 repeal the green sticker program, but again we're  
4 really, really watching that.

5 The last two bills that I want to talk about  
6 have everything to do with veterans of war. The  
7 department currently has a pass program, a  
8 distinguished veterans pass program for which applicant  
9 can apply for. One of the bills which would allow for  
10 a recipient of a Purple Heart to be included into that  
11 pass program. The language of who the recipient of the  
12 Purple Heart has not been included into that language.

13 And the last one that's going through in the  
14 pass program includes allowing for veterans of war,  
15 along with active duty personnel, to be able to apply  
16 for a pass and be eligible for waiver of fees into a  
17 state park on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

18 That concludes my report unless there are  
19 questions.

20 CHIEF JENKINS: Hold on questions for later.

21 I know there is a whole parcel of those that had  
22 to do with the ROV legislation. To summarize, there  
23 are nuances in each of those, but essentially what's  
24 happening is the seats and the expanded roll cages  
25 particular to those seats were legal to install. A lot

1 of people spent money, installed those legally under  
2 existing law. The law that was passed last year was  
3 retroactive. So even if you installed it at the time  
4 it was legal to install, you would have to take it out.  
5 So what a lot of these three new laws have in common,  
6 they're looking at grandfathering in so that vehicles  
7 that were modified legally at the time wouldn't be  
8 affected. Moving forward that wouldn't be legal to do.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. We're approaching  
10 lunchtime, and the Director has not been able to hear  
11 the Commissioners' comment on proceeding agenda items.  
12 And then I know, Director, you anticipate leaving  
13 around lunchtime, so I'd like you to see the King of  
14 the Hammers presentation or hear that presentation and  
15 see the video before you go, and I'd also like you to  
16 hear the comments from the Commissioners on the agenda  
17 items that we've already experienced. So can we kind  
18 follow that, and then go beyond that. We can finish  
19 the agenda items after lunch. I think, Debbie, can you  
20 reset your visuals over there?

21 CHIEF JENKINS: We can certainly accommodate  
22 that, Chair.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: So will that work for you,  
24 General?

25 GENERAL JACKSON: Yes.

1 CHIEF JENKINS: So Tina and Brian.

2 OHV SUPT. WILLIAMS: I think we're going to  
3 start with the video first. Tina Williams,  
4 superintendent for public relations and communications.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: This is in Johnson Valley.

6 (Viewed video.)

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Tina, before you get started, let  
8 me just do a little intro on this thing.

9 We weren't really necessarily interested in  
10 showing you the guys the exciting racing, although  
11 everybody likes to see the races. The real thing we  
12 wanted to show was the crowd control and the  
13 cooperative arrangements that the promoters had with  
14 the BLM. Before we got to this point, there was a big  
15 accident you may have heard about out in Johnson Valley  
16 several years ago, and it caused quite a stir in the  
17 OHV community as far as crowd control, liability, and  
18 things like that.

19 So here is our safety folks here to talk about  
20 those things. But we wanted to show kind of an  
21 overview of what the thing was about. There was 30,000  
22 people out there in what they called Hammer Town.  
23 Those were people that stayed there. They wouldn't  
24 like transient people. They brought their own motor  
25 homes and whole families with them. It was a huge

1 investment in resources. Anyway, I get carried away.  
2 Go ahead.

3 OHV SUPT. WILLIAMS: Thank you for the intro.  
4 We like to think of it as we estimated about 50,000  
5 people, 50,000 of our closest friends because it was  
6 probably one of the biggest campfires I've ever seen.

7 I do want to describe the people in attendance  
8 were not just from California. We observed a lot of  
9 license plates from New Jersey, Minnesota, of course,  
10 Colorado, Nevada, and all of the neighboring states.  
11 So this is a pretty important event for a lot of people  
12 not just in California. I'd like to also add that the  
13 King of the Hammers race is very unique, as you all  
14 saw. Not only does it feature the rock climbing that  
15 was going on in the video, they have the opportunity to  
16 do that high-speed desert racing.

17 It was my first King of the Hammers, and it was  
18 quite the experience because we quickly, as California  
19 State Parks, became the hub and the meeting place where  
20 people wanted information about OHVs and new laws and  
21 new things that were coming down the pike. So I was  
22 very proud of our law enforcement officers and  
23 interpreters and grant administrators that were on  
24 scene because they were an able to give that  
25 all-important information that people wanted to know.

1 And they wanted to know where to get the money, and  
2 they wanted to know where they can recreate, and they  
3 wanted to know where they can recreate responsibly.

4 One of the things that as peace officers we are  
5 charged with interpreting to the public, and we do that  
6 quite well. I used to be a recruiter for California  
7 State Parks, but school teachers make the best park  
8 rangers because it's so important to take the time to  
9 explain why the rule is in place, and that creates that  
10 understanding and buy-in that you need.

11 The King of the Hammers, getting back to the  
12 race, was a 183-mile race with at least 129  
13 competitors, only 29 of them made it through. It was  
14 fascinating to see. And myself and acting chief Maria  
15 had the opportunity to ride in these dirt buggies --  
16 that's what they call them -- and the precision and  
17 precise actions that they had to take to get through  
18 the course. But in the end you could see the winners  
19 there were Randy Slauson and his brother from  
20 California who's crowned King of the Hammers. I like  
21 the sound of that.

22 In addition to the spectators, there was  
23 numerous opportunities to go live with broadcasting  
24 through video, and it was estimated about 600,000  
25 people were watching the race via video. And we also

1 had the opportunity, as you can see, to do a live  
2 podcast featuring our Chairperson, Paul Slavik, and  
3 Brian. Also in attendance was the BLM Chief Ranger  
4 Mr. Chaffie.

5 Before I turn it over to Brian, who is going to  
6 talk a lot more about the law enforcement activities, I  
7 really want to highlight that with the interpreters  
8 that were at the site, we were able to bring our ATV  
9 safety simulator and our mannikin family to our  
10 outreach tent. And it was really important for  
11 especially young people to see what safety equipment  
12 would be required. And all of them wanted to put the  
13 helmet on and all of the equipment, but it really  
14 teaches and reinforces ATV safety.

15 And with that, I'm going to turn it over to  
16 Brian.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Brian, before you get started,  
18 the scope of the event was how many days? You know,  
19 there's an individual race for every day and that kind  
20 of thing.

21 OHV SUPT. ROBERTSON: Commissioners, the  
22 original race -- the first race will start on Sunday,  
23 so that's one week from the last race, which is on that  
24 last Friday so you basically have eight days of racing  
25 and preparing.

1           Good morning, Commissioners. Good morning,  
2           General, I'm State Parks superintendent Brian Robertson  
3           with California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle  
4           Recreation Division. I'm the visitor services lead and  
5           the law enforcement lead.

6           Today, I'd like to quickly summarize our law  
7           enforcement element and also our outreach element that  
8           we did at the King of the Hammers special event. The  
9           deployment to the Hammers was based on a longstanding  
10          invitation from the Bureau of Land Management. Over  
11          the last couple of years we've deployed at Dumont Dunes  
12          and Imperial Sand Dunes, and every time we were there,  
13          the folks would say, you've got to come to the Hammers  
14          you haven't seen anything yet.

15          So this last year, about four months out from  
16          the special event, we started working on logistics,  
17          started making contacts. There is a lot of stuff to  
18          bring staff down there. So after about four months, we  
19          started getting on the road.

20          Prior to our arrival to the Hammers, we did have  
21          goals and objectives for the Hammers deployment. Those  
22          goals and objectives were supporting and also  
23          partnering with BLM and offering our statewide  
24          experience relating to law enforcement, interpretation,  
25          and public outreach.

1           What we wanted to get across to them is that  
2 we've learned some techniques statewide that sometimes  
3 you don't have to right that ticket right off the bat.  
4 It's better to outreach, it's better communicate. That  
5 was one of our goals, to create new communications.

6           One of the other things we wanted to demonstrate  
7 were these new styles of outreach. We brought a new  
8 trailer. We had the new ATV safety simulator. We had  
9 the mannikins. These are new things that they hadn't  
10 seen here at the King of the Hammers. So we were  
11 really excited to show them these new techniques.

12           The Division team was on the ground about seven  
13 days prior to the big race. The reason why we came  
14 early to the Johnson Valley is we hadn't been there  
15 before so we wanted to learn the lay of the land,  
16 reinforce some of the partnerships that we've had  
17 through the grants and other deployments and just  
18 improve communications.

19           During those first few days, we met with the BLM  
20 staff, we met with their law enforcement, we met with  
21 their recreation coordinators, who kind of like do the  
22 special events. There's a lot of moving parts. We  
23 also met with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Office. So  
24 BLM and San Bernardino are the two primary agencies in  
25 the region.

1           During our law enforcement briefings with San  
2 Bernardino and BLM, we also started to discuss and  
3 describe a new approach to law enforcement. We weren't  
4 trying to blowup the boxes on them. We were just  
5 trying to show them an option. So we started talking  
6 about good law enforcement really needs -- and also  
7 long-term compliance really needs good or great  
8 outreach programs and good messages. So when you saw  
9 the slide earlier, you could see we had some great  
10 messaging, and that's how we were really trying to get  
11 that outreach going. If you don't have that outreach  
12 and a great program, your law enforcement job is a lot  
13 more difficult.

14           Great example of that is before we really  
15 started the big days of races and a lot of crowds, we  
16 met with all of the different agencies, and we started  
17 talking about it's much easier or it's much more  
18 beneficial in the long run. You have a five-minute  
19 citation contact or you have a 20-minute conversation.  
20 What we found by having 20-minute conversations,  
21 30-minute conversations, we were able to show that user  
22 that might have some kind of violation, that this is  
23 the reason why we'd like you to wear your helmet, this  
24 is the reason we'd like you to not speed. We were able  
25 to give them good examples. And at the end of the day,

1 people were really starting to get it.

2           During the Hammers event, the BLM operation  
3 inserted eight State Parks rangers into their patrol  
4 schedule. During the day, there was four rangers on  
5 patrol during the day. Some of those were on  
6 motorcycle, which were some of the most successful  
7 contacts we had. We actually specifically are  
8 requested for next year to bring as many bikes as you  
9 can. So we are hoping to probably bring between four  
10 and six motorcycles. And what that did for us is we  
11 were able to quickly jump out into the field, based on  
12 type of radio comments or some type of report, and stop  
13 that person before they went like onto the racetrack,  
14 created some kind of public safety issue. And then one  
15 of the most important things is we worked with the  
16 Marines because some of the folks have a tendency of  
17 maybe going onto the base. So the motorcycle program  
18 was very successful.

19           Then also, too, what we did is we had four  
20 rangers on during the day, and then we would have six  
21 rangers on during the night. So we covered both the  
22 day and the night with the regular staff that was on  
23 scene.

24           Many could say the King that the Hammers event  
25 was very successful. As a law enforcement guy, I could

1 say that the event was extremely successful. And the  
2 reason why is we only had seven driving under the  
3 influence of alcohol arrests during the event, only one  
4 drug arrest, and we made hundreds and hundreds of  
5 warnings. So for me when I'm looking at the ratio of  
6 50, 60,000 people, and maybe you had ten rangers on at  
7 a time, that is an incredible success.

8 In closing, during the first few days of our  
9 deployment, we saw countless violations of different  
10 OHV laws. Everywhere we were making contacts, waving  
11 people down, the new side-by-side ROV laws were  
12 starting to come into effect. There was a lot of  
13 confusion. So using that outreach type of approach and  
14 waving people down and the first thing is we walk up to  
15 them and say you're not getting a ticket, we just want  
16 to talk to you and tell you what's kind of going on.  
17 By the end of the event, we couldn't find anymore  
18 violations. It seemed like everybody in the ROVs or  
19 even on ATVs they were getting it. So I'd like to say  
20 that's the outreach program, not so much the law  
21 enforcement.

22 So in the end, the OHMVR Division outreach team  
23 and law enforcement team made a successful deployment  
24 down to the Hammers. And in the past they were saying  
25 you've got to come and check it out, BLM. This year

1 they're saying, please come back, we need your help.

2 Thank you.

3 (Audience applause.)

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Tina, do you have anything to add  
5 to that?

6 I would like to say, General, there were -- you  
7 saw some of the crowd control features they had there.  
8 They had fencing. They had the vendor area was all  
9 contained. They only had two entrance and exits to  
10 that. They also had something I had never seen before  
11 in my life in the desert, and I've been going there  
12 since the '60s, big screen outdoor TVs. And when I say  
13 big screen, what are we talking?

14 OHV SUPT. ROBERTSON: Megatrons, 40 feet by  
15 20 feet.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: There's one of them back there.  
17 You had some pictures of them. They're very big.  
18 They're as big as billboards. And what he did was he  
19 strategically placed those around so that the crowd  
20 would have a place to sit on their lawn chairs by a  
21 fire or something and watch instead of going out in the  
22 desert and getting involved in the race itself. So  
23 there were a lot of people out there, but 30,000  
24 people, they had to come up with some pretty creative  
25 ideas on crowd control. I thought it was extremely

1 successful.

2 And there was a picture there of the guy that  
3 started it, Dave Cole. This gentleman and just a few  
4 of his buddies like seven years ago decided to do this  
5 Hammers thing and just do a loop. They put money in  
6 the pot. Whoever won, got the pot. The next year they  
7 had 70 guys, and the next year they had like -- now  
8 they're turning away people. And they got people from  
9 14 countries, I believe, and 46 states.

10 OHV SUPT. WILLIAMS: Honduras, Switzerland,  
11 Italy, Australia, obviously Mexico, and I think Norway.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: And the team that won the  
13 Every Man's event, which I'm not quite sure the  
14 criteria, but they had a tricked out Land Rover, I mean  
15 a really tricked out Land Rover. They flew it in from  
16 Great Britain and won the event. They were ecstatic  
17 about it. They thought it was the greatest thing since  
18 sliced bread.

19 There's a lot of unique things about this. They  
20 had a big stage set up with the screen behind it, so  
21 the winner would come in and he would get up on this  
22 stage and have a big presentation with these big  
23 checks.

24 GENERAL JACKSON: I look forward to going there.

25 CHIEF JENKINS: Chair, if I may, I think one of

1 the important messages to take home out of this: BLM  
2 had quite a challenge because of the accident that  
3 happened so many years ago with fatalities, maybe it  
4 was a couple of years ago.

5 That's part of the reason we're there is to  
6 help. BLM is putting a lot of effort into managing the  
7 race itself. We're down there to supplement some of  
8 the other just crowd control, law enforcement,  
9 background items.

10 Also, what didn't quite come out in the  
11 presentation is they do a tremendous amount of work on  
12 the course ahead of time to identify the course,  
13 carefully identify the course, review the course for  
14 environmental issues, and then after the course is  
15 completed, I think you were the one who was telling me,  
16 within two or three weeks, they go in and pretty much  
17 erase the course, and you don't end up with a big scar  
18 on the land year after year, correct?

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: They claim that two weeks after  
20 the course, the crew that's out there, they have a  
21 considerable amount of people that are volunteering for  
22 this, basically leave that desert looking like nothing  
23 ever happened.

24 The other thing is the cost recovery, which has  
25 been a big issue that we've been dealing with. In

1 previous Commission meetings, we've had a lot of  
2 discussion about cost recovery. And this is where the  
3 these little nonprofit clubs that are putting on events  
4 on public land are being saddled with large bills,  
5 maybe \$30, \$40,000 to put on an event that they've been  
6 putting on for 40 years essentially for free and never  
7 had any issues.

8 So this guy, Dave Cole, he had to -- after this  
9 accident, he had to come up with a creative way to  
10 solve this problem. The way he did it was he somehow  
11 enlisted probably hundreds of volunteers I'm guessing.  
12 They were all over the course. They supplemented the  
13 BLM's presence out there. The BLM, how many bodies  
14 were out there that actually had --

15 OHV SUPT. ROBERTSON: We had eight peace  
16 officers, and the BLM had eight also, and the  
17 San Bernardino had about four. It was kind of  
18 rotating.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: So that number, less than a  
20 dozen, were the presence out there for a 30,000-people  
21 event -- or 50,000, whatever Tina has come up with.  
22 Nice count. Did you get up there in the helicopter and  
23 count that?

24 OHV SUPT. WILLIAMS: One of the other things,  
25 Commissioner, you had pointed this out, is during this

1 time it was climatic with the weather, and it was  
2 actually snowing on one day, which was interesting.

3 And also there were big law up the hill at Big  
4 Bear. At this time they were looking for one of the  
5 most wanted on Big Bear at the same time that we were  
6 at the Hammers event. So it really drew a lot of the  
7 law enforcement presence away. But with our presence  
8 there -- I'd like to say, thank you, Brian, for your  
9 staff. It was like the staff that holds meatloaf  
10 together. People went to that tent, went to that area,  
11 and really looked to us for expertise.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. I've got one public  
13 comment form here from Pat Henderson, is that right?  
14 Would you want to come up here and spend your three  
15 minutes, then we will go right to the Commissions'  
16 review of all of the information that we've received so  
17 far.

18 PAT HENDERSON: Thank you. I'm Pat Henderson.  
19 Thank you for having the meeting in Redding. I really  
20 didn't know what to expect, so I didn't want to really  
21 say anything, but I can't sit down either. Thank you,  
22 sir, for telling us to attend. We've got to go. We  
23 can't stay home. We've got to attend. I belong to two  
24 clubs here in town, and I'm on them all the time. If  
25 you don't go, you're going to lose it.

1            Sylvia saved Shasta/Trinity. I mean it. The  
2 lady saved it. And if she could share the dream, I  
3 want it named after her.

4            But the real reason why I wanted to talk was  
5 because I was at King of the Hammers. I've wanted to  
6 go for the past three years, and I have to tell you the  
7 safety issue was really important. They had cyclone  
8 fences everywhere so that the public couldn't really  
9 get down into the area where the automobiles are  
10 climbing rocks that are this tall. And after the 30 or  
11 40th car climbing that rock, you've not just got that,  
12 but you've got the hole that it dug to get over the  
13 rock, and the public can't get down there anymore.

14           And I enjoyed the big screen, and we enjoyed the  
15 display that the parks and recreation had there. We  
16 stopped by there and saw it, too. I picked up a lot of  
17 information.

18           And the only other thing I wanted to say was  
19 most of the public wants to obey the law; 99 percent of  
20 us out in the forest and the desert or anywhere else we  
21 ride, we want to obey the law. And on the other hand,  
22 I think that's what you're counting on. It's not my  
23 perspective. You guys know that, too.

24           And in another way it's a way of controlling us.  
25 Because if you put certain laws through, we can't

1 fight. You know we're going to obey them. And so  
2 we're used in one respect and needed in another. And  
3 that's all I have to say. Thanks for coming.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. We would like to open  
5 this up to the commissioners. Any comments on any  
6 agenda items start so far.

7 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: First off, thank you for  
8 everyone that's made public comment; appreciate getting  
9 your input; believe it is helpful. The staff, the  
10 stuff in your reports was very informative, and I  
11 appreciate that, also. I have a couple of comments.

12 First off, I'm going to address the recreational  
13 off-highway vehicles, the side-by-sides. I'm an avid  
14 OHV user. I'm a motorcyclist, and what I see with  
15 OHVs, I see many different types of vehicles, and as  
16 time has gone by, we've seen first three-wheel ATVs,  
17 and four-wheel ATVs, now we have the evolution from a  
18 side-by-side from a farm implement to a recreation  
19 vehicle. And it seems to me those vehicles are much  
20 more classified along the lines of jeep-type activity.

21 And I don't see the wisdom from the Department  
22 of Motor Vehicles to classify these specifically as a  
23 green sticker off-highway vehicle. That equates it to  
24 like a motorcycle or a smaller ATV. And personally I  
25 would rather see a specific classification that would

1 still be within the umbrella of the OHV program, but I  
2 think the vehicles should have a different type of  
3 registration on them. And I believe that they should  
4 be allowed to travel on unimproved dirt roads  
5 throughout the national forest and State Parks,  
6 whatever areas that any kind of a street vehicle,  
7 jeep-type could. They just should not be allowed to  
8 travel on any paved roads because they have the wrong  
9 type of tires and they don't have the safety equipment  
10 such as the five-mile-an-hour bumpers or some of those  
11 types of items. So that whole program, I wish the DMV  
12 would look at that a little closer, come up with a new  
13 classification.

14 Secondly, the statewide OHV trail, I think  
15 that's a wonderful idea. I've traveled parts of the  
16 Back Roads Discovery Trail, and I found it really  
17 amazing. There were some great trails and nice places  
18 to be. And if it wasn't for those nice little signs  
19 that were sitting out there, I never would have  
20 experienced a couple of nice fire lookouts and few  
21 other areas. I appreciate the efforts the people put  
22 into the paths.

23 I also think it's important that it brings  
24 people out into rural communities in the State of  
25 California. And we all know these rural communities

1 are really suffering right, especially financially in  
2 the situation we have in our economy. And any time we  
3 can raise recreational dollars out to those areas, I  
4 think it's very important.

5 Next thing is King of the Hammers. King of the  
6 Hammers sounds to me like -- I've watched the videos  
7 and stuff. I haven't been there, but it sounds to me  
8 like it's quickly grown into perhaps the largest  
9 sanctioned off-highway event in the State of  
10 California. And I think that the people that are  
11 promoting the event are doing the great job. Myself,  
12 I'm an experienced competitive in the infamous  
13 Baja 1000, and they don't have any of this level of  
14 type of -- obviously Mexico different, country  
15 different rules, but they don't have any of this type  
16 of safety-type things. And I'm really glad to see that  
17 someone has taken the initiative to do right and within  
18 the rules and the framework of State of California.  
19 And I certainly would like to see not only that event  
20 continue, but also that whole OHV area to be able to  
21 remain and to keep going on for a long period of time.

22 Recreational Trails Program, that sure makes me  
23 nervous to hear Caltrans is going to try to get their  
24 fingers on that stuff, to be kind of blunt. In my  
25 watershed work, one of our biggest agencies, the

1 agencies in our area, the leadership in our agencies,  
2 the agency we have the most trouble with is Caltrans.  
3 And I kind of feel that that could be a problem. So I  
4 would like to see support from the Commission at some  
5 point, whether it's in a letter form or whatever form  
6 would be proper, to kind of support keeping the program  
7 the way it is now. And I have no more comments.

8 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'm going to pass on the  
9 comments only to say that I thank everyone for the  
10 reports. And I think Chief Jenkins, I do want to  
11 congratulate him for his recognition today.

12 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I don't have a whole  
13 lot to say. I've enjoyed listening to everybody's  
14 presentations, and this last couple of months that I've  
15 been on the Commission has been a real learning  
16 experience for me, and I'm enjoying it.

17 The King of the Hammers presentation, I just  
18 want to say that being from that area, I'm really happy  
19 that there's an increased emphasis on spectator safety  
20 at the organized events, and I think we've gone from  
21 the dark ages to a high degree of professionalism, and  
22 I'm really happy about that. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: I've got some stuff for  
24 Phil, but I'll wait until he gets back, on the budget.

25 So let me start with the last thing we saw,

1 which is King of the Hammers. And a number of us were  
2 down in Johnson Valley and rode the Hammers and some of  
3 those vehicles about a year ago, and frankly that is a  
4 very unique area, unique in the United States, and I  
5 think it's something that we want to work hard with the  
6 Marine Corps to preserve access to a significant  
7 portion of the Kern area.

8 I became aware in talking with the general about  
9 the importance of training to the Marine Corps, but I'm  
10 hopeful that we can find a way to work cooperatively  
11 about this. I know there's a lot of going on in  
12 Congress about this issue. But let's be real clear,  
13 this is the kind of event that California does best.  
14 Those unique special best in the world kind of thing,  
15 and I think that I want to congratulate our law  
16 enforcement group for making it a better event this  
17 year. That means it will probably be around next year,  
18 the year after. And those of us that missed it this  
19 year, I'm sure will be there next year. But this is  
20 obviously going to be on par with the Dacar race or the  
21 Baha 1000, and something we need to keep going.

22 Speaking to that type of thing, when we talked  
23 about the California Statewide Motorized Trail, I guess  
24 Kevin and I can now add that to our bucket list, but we  
25 can't do it until it's done. So who's going to make

1 this happen. I submit that the only -- the most  
2 logical agencies to take the lead on that trail is our  
3 Division. If not us, who else? You know we have the  
4 staff support. We have the financial support, and we  
5 have the support of brand to make that happen.

6 If it were to happen, then it would become  
7 another point on the compass that distinguishing our  
8 state and brings people to our state and makes us proud  
9 of our state and gives us the type of thing that  
10 California is known for. So I would be very supportive  
11 of the Division getting involved in that and would be  
12 happy to learn more about it and potentially serve on  
13 the subcommittee.

14 Before we leave these items, I wanted to talk a  
15 little bit about the budget. We kind of blew through  
16 that. And in reading the binder, there were some  
17 things that stood out for me. There's what's called  
18 the structural imbalance in our budget. This is not  
19 the first time I've seen this issue. So I believe, as  
20 near as I can tell, sort of using my brand of  
21 mathematics, there is about a \$16 million structural  
22 imbalance in the budget that the Governor has proposed.

23 Now, there's two things going on here. One is  
24 it's darn hard to spend the public's money. There's a  
25 lot of impediments. Every year we talk about doing

1 things, and then often there's several that fall off  
2 the radar screen due to either an environmental problem  
3 or some other issue with the neighbors or who knows  
4 what. So I'm just assuming that we won't spend the  
5 entire amount that's budgeted.

6           However, over the last few years we have been  
7 spending more than we've been taking in. And now we  
8 have a very large theoretical balance in our Trust  
9 Fund. The state owes I think \$200 million or somewhat  
10 dollars and maybe they're paying us back this year, and  
11 that's why we can afford to spend more than what we're  
12 taking in.

13           But I'm really happy. I'd like us to talk more  
14 about these issues and to stay on top of them because I  
15 don't want to be in this chair a year or two from now  
16 and have to lay off law enforcement officers or make  
17 other sudden adjustments to our grants program or other  
18 important things that we do because we have haven't  
19 planned ahead adequately.

20           So I don't know, Chief, if you want to discuss  
21 the structural imbalance?

22           CHIEF JENKINS: Yes, I would be happy to address  
23 that. So if you're in your binder under Tab 4, you can  
24 see the bubble chart that's at the beginning at the top  
25 three boxes on the bubble chat. This is the same chart

1 that was available on the table earlier. It looks like  
2 that, for those out in the audience.

3 The top three bubbles on that chart represent  
4 what we will make in revenue this year from fuel taxes,  
5 entrance fees, and registration fees, \$81.23 million.  
6 Right in the middle of the page, the three boxes below  
7 OHV Trust Fund, kind of where everything is gathered  
8 from those incomes, is our expenditures that are  
9 proposed at this point by the Administration's as this  
10 year's a budget, the Governor's budget, that's  
11 \$96 million. So that's what Commissioner Kerr is  
12 referring to, the difference between those two numbers  
13 is we're spending 16 million more dollars than we're  
14 generating this year. So we're operating in the red,  
15 in other words.

16 If you go further back in that same section  
17 behind the goldenrod, you'll see the Department of  
18 Parks and Recreation budget that's spelled out in  
19 detail. You can turn in that packet to page 13 on the  
20 top right-hand corner it says, RES 13. And you'll find  
21 the funding condition statement for the OHV Trust Fund  
22 right there that gives all of the detail. You've got a  
23 beginning balance, revenues. You've got all of the  
24 various things in and out of the budget. This is the  
25 key. If you flip the page and go to the bottom of that

1 budget right down to where the line where it ends at  
2 winter recreation fund, begins the next section.

3           So right above that you'll see "Reserve for  
4 Economic Uncertainty." See that line? That's what's  
5 left in our budget at the end of the year after you  
6 have our revenue put into it, our expenses taken out of  
7 it that are proposed in the budget, and you see our  
8 remaining balance. The three columns represent what we  
9 had remaining last year after the budgets, what we're  
10 going to have remaining at the end of the current year,  
11 and then in the budget that's being proposed that would  
12 pass this way what would be remaining.

13           You can see the balance drops from \$58 million  
14 left in the reserve, to \$34 million left in the reserve  
15 this year, to \$16 million left in the reserve at the  
16 end of this proposed budget. Keep in mind this budget  
17 has a \$16 million red hole in it, which means we can go  
18 one more year at the current spending level before we  
19 are broke.

20           So what that tells us is it's a great benefit to  
21 the program to get \$26 million in grants this year, but  
22 it comes at the cost of we're burning our savings  
23 account to use that.

24           Beginning a couple of years ago, they started  
25 diverting \$10 million of past tax revenues which would

1 have in the past been moved in our program over in the  
2 General Fund, that's what resulted in this situation  
3 where we are spending more money than we're making. We  
4 can keep doing this after the loans are repaid, and  
5 every indication is that those loans will be repaid as  
6 we need them in this kind of situation.

7 So I'm not overly concerned, which is why I did  
8 not bring this up in my original report that next year  
9 we're going to be broke. But next year we need to  
10 start getting some of those loans repaid to maintain  
11 our current rate of burn, if you will. And by ten  
12 years from now, we need to address the situation by  
13 either generating more revenue or somehow adjusting our  
14 income expense because we cannot run in the red  
15 forever. Does that kind of address what?

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: So as I understand it, the  
17 condition of the loans is that there's a trigger that  
18 if we do run our bank account down to zero, our savings  
19 account down to zero, that the State is then compelled  
20 or in some manner to pay back the loans? This creates  
21 the condition as described in the loan agreement  
22 whereby the State is obligated to start paying back the  
23 loans.

24 CHIEF JENKINS: Let me get to that.

25 Chief deputy director was just correcting me. I

1 looked at the wrong line. I read down too far from  
2 where I was looking at. So, again, we are facing that  
3 same burn rate down, but we actually have \$44 million  
4 at the end of the year. But the rate of burn is the  
5 same where we're burning away that money. So that will  
6 give us, at \$16 million, about three years before we  
7 hit that bottom red zone at our current rate of burn.

8 But your question, yes, at some point we'll hit  
9 that red line which would kick in that trigger for some  
10 of those old borrowed funds where our program is set to  
11 go into the red, that would trigger the repayments from  
12 those original loans that went back 20 some odd years  
13 ago.

14 GENERAL JACKSON: I think the key is -- and it's  
15 good to bring it up now because we have to set the  
16 stage for those repayments well in advance. It can't  
17 be at the red line; it's when you start approaching.  
18 So now is a good time to bring it up it as a subject,  
19 and if you look back there, and as Aaron pointed out on  
20 that page 13 there, it's really some \$44 million at the  
21 end of the next budget year that's still in the reserve  
22 fund. But it is something to be highly aware of and to  
23 start setting the stage to make sure that we don't go  
24 into the red.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: Okay. Well then, I mean I

1 say, I think we need to keep these programs going, but  
2 I'm glad that we're going to be doing something about  
3 this, instead of waiting until that moment in time. I  
4 feel comfortable if we continue to discuss this matter  
5 in our budget updates.

6 CHIEF JENKINS: And the last issue about that  
7 balance that's out there is, if we were to ask for it  
8 to be repaid before we start hitting bottom line, we  
9 would need to demonstrate that there's a pending really  
10 good use of those funds. So if acquisitions were to  
11 pop up on the horizon, various possibilities where we  
12 would say this is why we would like those loans repaid  
13 on this schedule rather than perhaps this lower  
14 schedule, it would only really make sense to do that if  
15 there were something out there because there is just no  
16 point in having the money repaid and sent there for no  
17 purpose.

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: We will talk about that in  
19 continuing days.

20 Before I conclude, we taken the opportunity to  
21 thank the local BLM folks for the tour that we had  
22 yesterday. And it's obvious that I believe it's  
23 Sky Zaffaroni who took us all around and had this  
24 loose-leaf Lucy binder we kept referring to, very  
25 informative, actually incredible.

1 I was struck by a couple of things. One is the  
2 amount of care that's taken to preserve those sites of  
3 that town that grew up around the copper smelter and is  
4 now merely flat pieces on the ground, California law  
5 requires that quote/unquote cultural resource to be  
6 protected, and I know he's doing his best to do that.

7 I'd like to submit the Hammers for a cultural  
8 designation and that it be a protected cultural  
9 resource of the State of California. And I don't know  
10 how we can do that, but maybe we can get some  
11 protection for that.

12 Anyway, our thanks for your great work here.  
13 It's obvious that it's a very successful cooperative  
14 arrangement we have with you, and that's something  
15 we're doing down in the Johnson Valley, as well,  
16 apparently. And I hope we can do it throughout the  
17 state. So thanks again for hosting us.

18 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I can't say I have very  
19 much to add to what's already been said, but I would  
20 like to thank all of you who are attendance today and  
21 thank you for participating. That's very important.

22 And, again, I just wanted to thank the BLM  
23 management team for the tour yesterday and for the  
24 excellent work that they're doing out there. It's a  
25 beautiful park that I'm going to be sure to come back

1 and enjoy. So thank you for your work out there.

2 I also wanted to just support Commissioner  
3 Cabral's statements on the ROV as its own  
4 classification. I think that's a reasonable  
5 suggestion. I would support that, as well.

6 I wanted to thank the gentleman who's doing the  
7 work in the San Bernardino National Forest. Your  
8 presentation I thought was excellent, and the program  
9 you're running out there, it just blew me away. That's  
10 awesome. It sounds like you're doing a great job out  
11 there, and I think we need to support RTP for funding  
12 that. So thank you for your work out there, especially  
13 so interpretive forest for the children. I thought  
14 that was just an excellent thing. Thank you for your  
15 work that you're doing out there.

16 I also want to support the King of the Hammers  
17 event. I thought it was an excellent job that was done  
18 by the promoters put that down and for the Division  
19 staff that went down there to support that. I think  
20 that's a great cooperative arrangement there, and  
21 that's something that we should support in the future.

22 That's about it. So thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I'll be quick. I just  
24 wanted to note that since we have a lot of new  
25 Commissioners on the staff -- I still consider myself

1 new, this is my third meeting -- we also have a lot of  
2 members in the legislature, half the houses are new  
3 members, that is emblematic of the education that we as  
4 a commission need to do. And all of the other groups  
5 out there also, we need to work together in partnership  
6 to educate.

7 I just ran across this when we're going through  
8 this new legislation to do kind of corrections for our  
9 ROVs and wanting to get the chair of the Latino Caucus  
10 to come on board to co-author one of these bills. I  
11 know him, and I was thinking to myself, he doesn't even  
12 know what we are, what we do, been out to a park, or  
13 anything like this. So our level of education is  
14 extreme, and it's very high.

15 And I just raise that as a point for us all to  
16 be aware as we're doing these meetings with either  
17 members or we have the groups out there who are  
18 speaking to new members of the legislature, do not take  
19 it for granted. They doesn't know as much information  
20 as you may know, and it's our responsibility to educate  
21 them.

22 And I am probably not the best person to be  
23 speaking on this since everybody here is so passionate,  
24 and I'm a city girl, and I don't ROV or all of your  
25 acronyms that we all use. But I do know that it is

1 another option for us to be able to connect with our  
2 national resources of the State of California, and I  
3 think it's very important for us to be able to  
4 communicate that in an effective way because we're  
5 talking about budgets, we're talking about all of these  
6 corrective legislation pieces that are going on, new  
7 cars that are being built for us to recreate, and we  
8 have new Commissioners on here who have probably  
9 experience, some of us who don't, but we have a  
10 legislature who is creating these bills who probably  
11 don't have as much education or awareness of this. I  
12 just wanted to make that point.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. So I've got a couple of  
14 things here. Maria, when you talked about new  
15 employees, I thought to myself, I don't know some of  
16 these people, and I wonder if we can have some kind of  
17 an org chart for the Commissioners that indicate where  
18 the people are, what are their responsibilities, and  
19 things like that.

20 CHIEF JENKINS: Certainly, we can update the org  
21 chart. The org chart that all of you got no matter  
22 when you've had OHV 101 is out of date. So we'll send  
23 out a fresh org chart to all.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: It looks like we've got a couple  
25 of subcommittees that are potentially here. Are you

1 interested in, Ted? So Statewide Motorized Trails and  
2 Recreational Trails Program are both potential  
3 subcommittee subjects I think. And it sounds like we  
4 have people here that are interested in those. Would  
5 you be interested, Kevin, in Recreational Trails  
6 Program.

7 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Yes, I can do that.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: Talking about the statewide?

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Statewide, yes.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: So the RTP is something else  
11 we talked about. This is the one that goes all the way  
12 to the Oregon border, right?

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Recreational Trails is the  
14 funding program. Statewide Motorized Trails is the  
15 Oregon border. So those are two separate things.  
16 We're going to talk about each one.

17 So let's talk about the Recreational Trails  
18 Program and the funding and the problems we have with  
19 the Governor's budget shifting that to Caltrans. It  
20 sounds like you had good experience, some experience  
21 dealing with Caltrans. We need somebody to under the  
22 issue maybe, be closer to it, and then come back with  
23 recommendations.

24 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I can do it.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Are you interested.

1           COMMISSIONER KERR: I know the funding source,  
2 and I know some other programs that are under Caltrans  
3 that are mentioned on here, like the EM program, the  
4 Environmental Mitigation program, is already under  
5 Caltrans.

6           I mean I could see the rationale why the  
7 Governor is probably proposing to do this since there  
8 is already some programs that a lot of environmental  
9 groups and others, you know, even us, we've seek  
10 funding from the EM program, so I can see why they are  
11 wanting to put it in; although, I would advocate to not  
12 put it in.

13          CHAIR SLAVIK: For instance, the L.A. River  
14 Trail or something like that would be a prime example  
15 of where RTP funds could go.

16          COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Right.

17          CHAIR SLAVIK: So Commissioner Villegas, and  
18 Commissioner Cabral, would you guys be interested in  
19 being on a subcommittee.

20          COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I would be interested  
21 in that. I was kind of a little more interested,  
22 though, in the statewide trail.

23          CHAIR SLAVIK: You can be on two.

24          COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I see where this is going.  
25 I would be honored to work with her. I think she's

1 very knowledgeable, and I would learn something.

2 CHIEF JENKINS: And if I may, Chair Slavik.  
3 Probably the best use of your time as the  
4 subcommittee -- of course, you're free to do as you  
5 will, but we were all comparing notes here. It looks  
6 like that's probably going to be moving fairly quickly.  
7 So perhaps your most effective approach would be to  
8 show up at the hearing if you're available and speak  
9 for the Commission and express your views there, and  
10 that might be the most direct path to getting your  
11 message out.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. So how do we make that  
13 official?

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: So we're charging them to  
15 speak on behalf of the Commission; is that's what's  
16 going on here?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Well, more a factfinding, I  
18 think.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'm having to lobby. I  
20 might not be able to make this meeting. A lot of times  
21 you get up to the mike and say, I'm not speaking on  
22 behalf Commission, I'm here to speak on behalf of. So  
23 is there a way for us to -- is it valuable for them to  
24 speak on behalf of the Commission or not?

25 CHIEF JENKINS: I think if you were to all have

1 an agreement on the message that you would like them to  
2 deliver, to vote on that right now, then they would be  
3 empowered to speak for the Commission, and that might  
4 carry a little more influence than individuals speaking  
5 just as private citizens.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: So we need to craft a statement?

7 CHIEF JENKINS: Or you can give them the  
8 outlines, the boundaries of what you would like said,  
9 and let them hammer that down into something that's  
10 intelligent.

11 GENERAL JACKSON: And the good thing about  
12 crafting a statement with your signatures on it, it  
13 gets entered as part of the Assembly record for all  
14 time so that they can come up, read the statement and  
15 then get some --

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: I would like to take a stab  
17 at the statement. So I think that I'd like to make a  
18 motion or at least have some discussion about a  
19 statement that we could all agree on.

20 So some key points that would be in the  
21 statement, number one, State Parks is doing a good job  
22 in running the RTP program as evidenced by their  
23 national award only last year.

24 Secondly, State Parks has an understanding and  
25 experience that the Commission believes is valuable in

1 their running of this program. So those are kind of  
2 one or two of the same things that is evidenced by the  
3 award.

4 Secondly, there's no guarantee -- we talked  
5 about precedence. So State of California is a leader  
6 in trails programs, both motorized and non-motorized,  
7 and we think that keeping the RTP program within State  
8 Parks will allow us to continue that leadership role,  
9 and it would be an unfortunate precedence if the State  
10 of California were to drop out of this role.

11 The last thing is that we -- again, for  
12 discussion, that there's a danger that these funds  
13 might be commingled with other Department of  
14 Transportation funds, and that the trail program could  
15 suffer as a result.

16 So I don't know if there is anything else that  
17 the people wanted to include.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Strategically, I think we need to  
19 try and figure out who put the bug in the ear of  
20 whoever started to convince the Governor this was a  
21 good idea to opt out of the program and put it into the  
22 Caltrans. Can we get to that source?

23 CHIEF JENKINS: So I was just taking advice from  
24 our legal counsels' collective opinions over here.

25 We have to be careful not to go too far in the

1 meeting. This was not an agendized business item. It  
2 is within your power to appoint a subcommittee and turn  
3 them loose to do some work. I think we've gotten to  
4 the point where they've heard the views. You have a  
5 subcommittee. I think if we delved too much further  
6 into this here without rescheduling this for a future  
7 meeting, we may be treading close to the edge of where  
8 we should go. I think at this point your subcommittee  
9 would have enough information to move forward and do  
10 what they need to do.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right.

12 COMMISSIONER KERR: So what about the vote?  
13 We're voting to set up the committee?

14 CHIEF JENKINS: There is no requirement to vote  
15 to set up the subcommittee. The Chair has the  
16 authority to do that at any moment. And the  
17 subcommittee has now heard your views and so I think  
18 that's on the record.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Subcommittee, go forth and do  
20 good work.

21 The Statewide Motorized Trail program, the Back  
22 Country Discovery Trail. So any discussion on that and  
23 as far as moving that process forward with the  
24 subcommittee that can get more engaged.

25 You know, it's a big huge deal, and I was kind

1 of involved in it from the very beginning. I probably  
2 was on a subcommittee a long time ago. You're dealing  
3 with a lot of different agencies, and each one of them  
4 has their own personalities individually. Each forest  
5 is going to have its own individual personalities that  
6 you're going to have to deal with.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: You guys could build it, and  
8 I'll just drive on it.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think basically what you would  
10 have to do is birddog the process through State Parks.  
11 They've been the lead. Somebody mentioned they should  
12 be the lead, but they've been the lead all along.

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I think it's going to  
14 require a lot of communications between a number of  
15 different, not only agencies but also --

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: Have to agendize for every  
17 single meeting, you're going to have to make it a  
18 priority, and somebody is going to have to drive that  
19 process.

20 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Exactly. It's going to  
21 have to be somebody to drive it forward. I think that  
22 some of the volunteers that are in here that have  
23 worked on this in the past would be good resources. I  
24 know one of the gentleman who actually was one of the  
25 beginning developers of this program. He's retired

1 now. He's not living in the state, but I can contact  
2 him and see what's going on with it.

3 So I'm willing to look into it, but I don't know  
4 if I want to have a subcommittee on that before doing  
5 something -- I can research a little bit and bring the  
6 report back to the next meeting, and then we can go  
7 from there.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: So we table the subcommittee  
9 until the next meeting?

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: Let Phil chew on it a little  
11 bit.

12 CHIEF JENKINS: I think that the main thing  
13 we're looking for as staff to you all, is we have some  
14 excitement in the staff level to move forward. We want  
15 to make sure that we're not moving forward out of sync  
16 with the Commission. And so if you establish a  
17 subcommittee now or later, at least know which of you  
18 are the most interested. We can begin discussions and  
19 begin making plans for how best to move forward and  
20 continue on that path.

21 I think Commissioner Kerr is exactly right, this  
22 is going to take concerted effort for a number of years  
23 because it's been attempted and failed too many times.  
24 We can't afford to do it that way again.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Commissioner Murphy and

1 Commissioner Breene?

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I can do it.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: I want him to call his  
4 friend, though.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Absolutely.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: But you know guys can't talk,  
7 more than two people can talk about it?

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: We're still not a quorum,  
9 it's just three of us.

10 CHIEF JENKINS: If more than two of you are  
11 discussing a business item, we would need to publicize  
12 that and run it as a noticed public meeting.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: So you've got to work on this  
14 independently, the two of you with staff.

15 COMMISSIONER KERR: And then we'll agendize it  
16 for our next meeting.

17 CHIEF JENKINS: We can make this one of those  
18 standing agenda items on our meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Being new, I want to ask  
20 this question. Am I able to pass him information as  
21 far as a phone number or contact information for people  
22 to call; is that legal?

23 COUNSEL TOBIAS: It's really not.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: Just put it in the public  
25 record right now, then all you've got to do is check

1 the agenda.

2 COUNSEL TOBIAS: When you establish a committee,  
3 a committee of two or over it requires to be noticed.  
4 So with that type of committee you could pass each  
5 other things, but you would have to do it through a  
6 public meeting.

7 When you have two, it's an ad hoc committee, so  
8 that could be a communication between you because it's  
9 not a quorum, it's not a majority of your commission.  
10 That's the Bagley-Keene Act. So with two of you, you  
11 can talk to each other, but a third cannot. So it  
12 would be better for you to pass that information to  
13 staff, and staff to get it to them.

14 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Okay.

15 CHIEF JENKINS: And I'm fairly certain that I've  
16 got all of the names, and I'll pass on information to  
17 them. If I missed that name at the next meeting when  
18 we're publicly noticed, you can add that information to  
19 the list.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Cheryl needs a break, and it's  
21 lunchtime. And I think the General and Mr. Robertson  
22 would like to get going.

23 GENERAL JACKSON: Thanks very much.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Parting comments.

25 GENERAL JACKSON: Yes. I thank the public.

1 And, like I said, I'm all ears, and so I'm learning the  
2 issues like many of you. I look forward to working  
3 with the Commission. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you for coming.

5 (Returned at 1:49 from a lunch beginning at 12:37.)

6 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(3) - REPORTS - GENERAL PLANS**

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: Next business item, general  
8 plans.

9 CHIEF JENKINS: Dan Canfield.

10 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: Hello, Commissioners. Dan  
11 Canfield, OHMVR Division, California State Parks. I'm  
12 providing report on the status of the SVRA General  
13 Plans. The report is provided to you in your binders  
14 behind Tab No. 4 and the third goldenrod slip sheet.

15 A general plan directs the long-term development  
16 and management of State Parks units like an SVRA. One  
17 of the responsibilities of the OHMVR Commission is to  
18 hold a public hearing to receive comments on proposed  
19 SVRA general plans.

20 Some of the Commissioners may remember back to  
21 June 2012, a long time ago when the Commission met in  
22 Oroville and approved the Clay Pit SVRA General Plan,  
23 which I have a copy right here. These general plans  
24 are required by state law before we can do any capital  
25 facility developments at SVRAs, so they're very

1 important.

2 A brief history, back in 2007, the Division did  
3 a comprehensive review of all of the SVRA general  
4 plans. Some of the criteria that we looked at included  
5 SVRAs that didn't have a general plan at all but had  
6 the need for facility development. SVRAs that had  
7 acquisition lands that needed to be annexed into the  
8 existing SVRA, and also SVRAs that had older general  
9 plans that didn't accommodate new OHV-use patterns or  
10 new OHV vehicle types, like the ROVs that we talked  
11 about earlier today.

12 So at that time the determination was that six  
13 of the eight SVRAs needed to either initiate or update  
14 their general plans. OHV Trust Funds were appropriated  
15 and the work began. This is an attachment to your  
16 report which is a chart that gives you the overall  
17 status of all of the SVRA general plans.

18 Currently, two SVRAs, Carnegie and Ocotillo  
19 Wells, have general plan updates that are well  
20 underway. And for both projects, the general plan  
21 teams are in the process of developing general plan  
22 alternatives. Once finalized, these general plan  
23 alternatives will be brought out to the public through  
24 public meetings, on-line exercises to solicit feedback  
25 on our general plan alternatives.

1           Now, to ensure that the final product is the  
2 most dynamic plan possible, it's crucial these general  
3 plan alternatives cover a wide range of potential OHV  
4 recreational opportunities. This step has taken a  
5 little bit longer than anticipated for Carnegie and  
6 Ocotillo Wells, and at that point the schedule for both  
7 projects would have them have the plans ready for  
8 Commission consideration in early 2014.

9           That is my report.

10          CHAIR SLAVIK: We're going to hold our comments  
11 until after all these are spoken to.

12          CHIEF JENKINS: If I can just add, the point of  
13 that report really is that as we look at where we hold  
14 our upcoming meetings, we need to keep that date in  
15 mind for two reasons. One so that we can make sure  
16 that we're fully informing you midstream so that you  
17 have an opportunity of input before we reach that final  
18 stage. And number two is to make sure that we schedule  
19 a meeting near those SVRAS at the time that we expect  
20 to be adopting a general plan. So we'll work with you  
21 as we move forward.

22          CHAIR SLAVIK: So we have a relatively open date  
23 for the last meeting of this year this calendar year.  
24 Does that coincide with any of these general plans?

25          CHIEF JENKINS: We will be watching this develop

1 through the rest of the year. As we get about three  
2 months out from that meeting if it looks like we're  
3 ready for this for one of these from one of the parks,  
4 we will work with you.

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Attendance report.  
6 Natalie.

7 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(3) - REPORTS - ATTENDANCE**

8 OHV STAFF LOHI: Good afternoon, Commissioners.  
9 My name is Natalie Lohi. I'm a ranger at the OHMVR  
10 Division. I'm here to provide you with the attendance  
11 CSUS Study Report. You can find that behind Tab 4  
12 behind the fourth goldenrod.

13 "If you build it, they will come," a famous line  
14 from the work of fiction but very much the reality in  
15 our parks. We've acquired and built parks, and no  
16 matter how big or small, no matter how urban or remote  
17 people will come visit them. We have the obvious  
18 responsibility of providing recreational opportunities  
19 and protecting the resources within them, but we also  
20 have many other responsibilities, less glamorous, more  
21 mundane yet equally important responsibilities such as  
22 keeping track of how much people are visiting those  
23 parks.

24 The Department requires that the Division report  
25 attendance data monthly. With the approval of Senate

1 Bill 742, the Division has the additional requirement  
2 of reporting attendance data to the legislature upon  
3 request to be considered as a factor in determining  
4 possible adjustments to our funding.

5 Last year the Division established a contract  
6 with CSUS, California State University, Sacramento, to  
7 complete an attendance study that will satisfy our  
8 agreements of SB 742 and provide attendance-related  
9 information from the public to support management  
10 decisions at the SVRAs.

11 SB 742 made several changes to the OHMVR  
12 program. One of those changes involve our funding.  
13 The revenue and taxation code was modified to stipulate  
14 that the amount of funds transferred from the Motor  
15 Vehicle Fuel account shall be the same as the amount  
16 transferred in the 2006/07 fiscal year. Every five  
17 years beginning in the 2013/14 fiscal year that amount  
18 may be changed depending on several factors. One of  
19 those factors is SVRA attendance.

20 You can see on the graph here on the screen  
21 statewide SVRA attendance from 2001 to 2012. The  
22 comparative data that provided on that graph is job  
23 availability provided by the California Employment  
24 Development Department. You can see a very clear  
25 correlation between the two. The CSUS study does not

1 provide -- is not focussed on providing information on  
2 the impact of our struggling economy on SVRA  
3 attendance, but the survey portion of the study will  
4 provide economic information from visitors that will be  
5 compiled in the final report.

6 The Division's goal in contracting with CSUS is  
7 to provide a comprehensive review of our attendance  
8 program. The study has three main priorities.  
9 Priority one is to review, evaluate, assess, and update  
10 or confirm our conversion factors.

11 For those of you who may be uncertain, a  
12 conversion factor is a method used to convert a measure  
13 of attendance to an individual park visit. So at our  
14 SVRAs and at most State Parks, the visitor pays a fee  
15 per vehicle rather than per person. When we report  
16 attendance data, the target information is how many  
17 people are visiting our parks. So in order to convert  
18 the number of vehicles into the number of people, we  
19 need a formula. That's our conversion factor.

20 Priority number two is to evaluate the  
21 day-to-day methodologies we are using to measure  
22 attendance data. This study will identify those  
23 methodologies we are currently using that are most  
24 effective and make recommendations to increase the  
25 efficiency and accuracy where the possibility exists to

1 do so.

2 Priority number three is visitor survey  
3 information. Visitor surveys are being administered at  
4 all eight SVRAs. The surveys are similar in format and  
5 content but SVRA managers have had the opportunity to  
6 provide input and customization. This will allow for  
7 the collection of information that is specific to each  
8 SVRA maximizing the value of that information with  
9 regards to management decisions at each location.

10 Collecting attendance information at an SVRA can  
11 be challenging. Staff can contend with challenges such  
12 as the need to provide or the mandate to provide  
13 specific information to every visitor coming in the  
14 park, the need to gather information on different types  
15 of vehicles, staff must do registration checks, spark  
16 arrestor checks, sometimes deal with reservation  
17 systems. All of this must be done while maintaining a  
18 level of customer service that visitors have come to  
19 expect when visiting a California state park. We must  
20 welcome our guests, not process them.

21 On the other hand, the challenge at another SVRA  
22 would be the lack of an entrance station at all and  
23 multiple entry points into the park. Regardless, our  
24 staff has done a stellar job of collecting and  
25 reporting attendance data and will continue to do so

1 per department policy. The CSUS study will help us to  
2 identify those areas where we are successful currently  
3 and will help us to streamline and improve in areas  
4 where opportunities exist to do so.

5 This concludes my report on attendance, and I  
6 would be happy to answer any questions.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're holding questions.

8 CHIEF JENKINS: While we're waiting for the next  
9 speaker to come up, let me say Natalie has brought a  
10 badly needed kind of form and function to our visitor  
11 attendance data. For many years our visitor numbers  
12 are our best guess, I would say. Natalie, working with  
13 the university, Sacramento State, is bringing a lot of  
14 science to it, so I am expecting we're going to have a  
15 lot more confidence in our numbers, and that's largely  
16 due to Natalie's work.

17 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(4) - REPORTS - PUBLIC SAFETY**

18 OHV STAFF LONG: Good afternoon, Commissioners.  
19 I am here to provide an update on the Grants and  
20 Cooperative Agreements program since we have last.  
21 Tell you a lot about what's going on, and just I'll  
22 provide a little brief background for the new  
23 Commissioner members as well just a reminder for anyone  
24 else. Kelly Long, grants administrator with the OHMVR  
25 Division.

1           The Grants and Cooperative Agreements program is  
2 an annual competitive grant cycle, and this is an  
3 opportunity for you to distribute funds from the OHV  
4 Trust Fund. And these funds are available to a number  
5 of eligible applicants including federal agencies,  
6 particularly the Forest Service, BLM; other federal  
7 agencies for some project types; local agencies,  
8 sheriffs; and nonprofit organizations primarily. The  
9 funding is distributed by law. Fifty percent of our  
10 available funding goes to operations and maintenance,  
11 and that includes what we consider ground operations,  
12 planning, development and acquisition of real property.  
13 Twenty-five percent of the available funding goes to  
14 restoration projects. Twenty percent is earmarked for  
15 law enforcement. And five percent is set aside for  
16 education and safety projects.

17           As Phil had mentioned earlier, this year we have  
18 \$10 million available for the Grants and Cooperative  
19 Agreements program, and this year that 10 million  
20 represents a decrease of more than half from the  
21 previous year when we had 21 million available.

22           So in January our grants cycle opened up. We  
23 have an on-line grant application system affectionately  
24 called OLGA, and all of our grant applications have to  
25 be received on-line. That system was made available,

1 and we conducted two outreach workshops with interested  
2 in parties in Sacramento and Ontario. These were  
3 attended by approximately 180 potential applicants.

4 On March 4th, earlier this month, we had our  
5 preliminary application file date. And that is you had  
6 to get your application in in order to be eligible for  
7 any funding at all. Included in your packet there is a  
8 sheet that is also up on the screen here.

9 This is a summary of the funding requests that  
10 we received with the preliminary applications. You can  
11 see the shaded area that is the combined operations and  
12 maintenance category. All that money comes out of the  
13 same pot, 50 percent, and it's broken down into  
14 restoration, education, safety, law enforcement.

15 The important numbers to keep in mind are  
16 \$10 million available, and you can see down in the  
17 lower right-hand corner, \$30 million requested. So we  
18 you can see how it is broken out, and you might notice  
19 the bottom two lines provide a summary of how the funds  
20 have been distributed as far as their requests versus  
21 what is available to them.

22 The total amount requested for the O&M projects,  
23 almost \$17 million. Doing simple math, if we have  
24 \$10 million available in the program, we have  
25 \$5 million available this year. Restoration, again, in

1 this case we have over \$2 million requested. We have  
2 \$2.5 million available based on that ten percent again.  
3 The law enforcement is interesting in this case,  
4 remembering the law enforcement gets 20 percent of the  
5 available funding. \$2 million available, and over  
6 \$8 million requested.

7 So as you can see that presents the framework  
8 that we're working in, and I think I would be happy to  
9 entertain questions later.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, Kelly.

11 **AGENDA ITEM IV(B)(7) - REPORTS - PROPOSE EASTERN KERN**  
12 **COUNTY ACQUISITION**

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: We come to the proposed eastern  
14 Kern County acquisition.

15 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: Hello, again,  
16 Commissioners, Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division providing a  
17 report on the proposed Eastern Kern County land  
18 acquisition. The report is provided in your binder  
19 behind Tab No. 4, the fifth goldenrod slip sheet. This  
20 report is also made available on the back table for the  
21 public.

22 As staff has previously reported, the OHV  
23 Division is proposing to acquire approximately 28,000  
24 acres of privately-owned land in eastern Kern County  
25 near the Jawbone and Dove Springs OHV areas.

1           Recently there have two exciting developments on  
2 this project. The first development was that on  
3 February 15th, in accordance with CEQA, The Eastern  
4 Kern County Acquisition Draft Environmental Impact  
5 Report, or EIR, was made available for public review  
6 and comment. Attached to your report is a copy of the  
7 public notice for that draft EIR. The draft EIR is  
8 available for comment through April 1st, 2013. And I  
9 brought a copy of the EIR along with me. It is also on  
10 the back table if anyone would like to go take a look  
11 at that. Of course, the EIR is available for review  
12 and download from our website, and the website address  
13 is in that public notice that you have in your report.

14           The second exciting development is that on  
15 March 16th, one week ago, a subcommittee of the OHMVR  
16 Commission held a public hearing in Tehachapi,  
17 California. And this public hearing was to provide  
18 opportunity for the local citizens and interested  
19 parties to provide comments to this subcommittee, as  
20 well as providing comments on the draft EIR.

21           Chair Slavik and Commissioner Patrovsky were  
22 present at this meeting one week ago today in  
23 Tehachapi, and that's the end of my report. But I  
24 would be happy to turn it back over to Chair for any  
25 further comments.

1 CHIEF JENKINS: I was going to say you're  
2 probably going to have comments on all of these items.  
3 There was one last item I didn't write down that I  
4 wanted to include in the Chief's report to note.

5 You all that were here several meetings ago, I  
6 think the first meeting of 2012/13, the one we had at  
7 Carnegie, Tim Guardino made one of the presentations.  
8 He was on our law enforcement team suffering from a  
9 terminal illness. He has since passed away. And the  
10 director awards are awards that the entire department  
11 can nominate folks, and then the director of the  
12 department, in this case General Jackson, chooses the  
13 awards.

14 Tim Guardino was nominated for and has won the  
15 Drury Award for Professional Integrity, awarded  
16 posthumously. And his family will be receiving the  
17 award April 24th at 1:00 p.m. at a ceremony downstairs  
18 at the Resources Building. So if any of you happen to  
19 be in Sacramento, happy to have you there. If not,  
20 we'll send pictures and updates on that. He was an  
21 outstanding individual. We actually nominated him for  
22 a number of awards. This is one of the most  
23 prestigious. So quite an honor for him, his family,  
24 the entire Division.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. That was a tragedy.

1 AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS IV(B)(2-7)

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Public comment on the  
3 items that we have talked about so far.

4 NICK HARIS: Nick Haris, American Motorcyclist  
5 Association. I actually was out eating, so I may be  
6 commenting on something that was done a while ago. I  
7 just wanted to mention on Senate Bill 234 that we've  
8 now heard, there is going to be the first hearing on  
9 April 9th. So anybody in the crowd or Commission is  
10 interested that's apparently the first date for a  
11 hearing.

12 I also wanted to just comment, I did attend the  
13 Tehachapi meeting, and I met Commissioner Patrovsky for  
14 the first time, as well as Chairman Slavik. And I was  
15 really happy to be there. I was really happy to see  
16 this project. I wasn't up to speed, so to speak, on  
17 what exactly is being proposed and what the property  
18 really entails, and I think it's a great project. I'm  
19 really happy to see it. It's going to definitely meet  
20 a lot of demand we have, as well as bring a little more  
21 clarify in the management of the area so we don't have  
22 checkerboard issues of different management. I thought  
23 it was a very good presentation. I would have liked to  
24 have seen more of the public, but it was a very good  
25 meeting, very informative. Thank you.

1           DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36,  
2   Motorcycle Sports Committee. I wanted to make a  
3   comment on the visitor attendance. I think that was  
4   the fourth section, fourth goldenrod. But on page two  
5   in the back was Item No. 3 with the controller shall  
6   withhold \$833,000 from the monthly transfers to the  
7   Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund per schedule, blah,  
8   blah, blah.

9           Bottom line here is this is the \$10 million take  
10   that the Senate Budget Subcommittee a number of years  
11   ago took place. That continues on. This is a pure  
12   take. I appreciate the young lady, Natalie, that put  
13   this report together because it did make that fact  
14   present for the public to take a look at.

15           That is \$69,000 a month, \$2300 a day, seven days  
16   a week, 365 days a year that we pay for through our  
17   green sticker and fuel tax sharing agreement. And we  
18   have to figure a way to get that put back into our  
19   budget. We are not hitting the grants that are needed.

20           So this has been going on now for a couple of  
21   years, and I really want to bring this to the attention  
22   of the public. That is a lot of money, \$2300 basically  
23   a day. We need to figure out a way to get that fund  
24   back into our program, especially when in January we  
25   had a \$5 billion influx of capital that came in. And

1 perhaps the Commission should consider a letter to  
2 Governor and Secretary of Resources Laird and ask when  
3 this can come to a stop. Every day I open up the  
4 newspaper, and they're starting some new program or  
5 enhancing with new money what they promised under  
6 Prop. 30. I appreciate it. Thank you.

7 JIM BRAMHAM: Jim Bramham, Cal 4-Wheel Drive. I  
8 just want to speak for a second on the ROHVA issue. I  
9 serve on the Desert Advisory Subgroups for both the  
10 Imperial Sand Dunes, which are down by Yuma, lowest  
11 southern corner of California and the Dumont Dunes  
12 area, which is in the Barstow Field Office in the  
13 northern desert. Both of these areas receive extensive  
14 visitations.

15 And basically the whole ROHVA thing started in  
16 the sand dunes. Years ago folks would bring golf  
17 carts, just regular golf carts to the dunes. Next  
18 thing it was a modified golf cart. Next thing, it was  
19 a more modified golf cart. They finally caught the eye  
20 of the manufacturer. The manufacturer said, wow,  
21 there's something people are using, bringing  
22 themselves, making themselves, so they introduced the  
23 first of the side-by-sides into the industry.

24 And so it's just a natural evolution in the sand  
25 world. But in both of these locations, more than a

1 third of the users come from out of state. The  
2 proximity of the Imperial Sand Dunes to Arizona,  
3 Phoenix and Tucson specifically brings millions of  
4 visitors a year out of Arizona. And these folks have  
5 these vehicles. They've modified them. They've made  
6 them work for their families, and that's what they  
7 intend to use for their off-highway vehicle recreation.

8 If we cannot get this modified, the impact to  
9 the local communities, and this is of great importance  
10 to the desert gateway. There is the United Desert  
11 Gateway Group, that's the folks from Imperial County,  
12 Yuma County, chambers of commerce, that look after  
13 this, you're going to have a lot of folks that don't  
14 come there. And, likewise, with Dumont, more than a  
15 third of that visitation comes out of Las Vegas, Nevada  
16 because of the proximity to Las Vegas. Once again,  
17 those folks are going to have to look for a different  
18 recreation.

19 And so it's a highly important issue for Cal  
20 4-Wheel. It is the fastest growing segment of the  
21 four-wheel drive community, and we understand that.  
22 But sand has always been a "Run what you brung" world.  
23 We started taking dune buggies that are Volkswagens and  
24 folks built dune buggies out of them. We modified  
25 jeeps with bigger motors. Everything that's ever been

1 done in the sand has been a "run what you brung." And  
2 that's the same thing here, is that these folks started  
3 with golf carts. They modified them. They found a  
4 vehicle that they could modify into something that  
5 worked for their family. And if we cannot get this  
6 legislation passed into a grandfathering state to  
7 recognize absolutely that now vehicles are available  
8 that are capable of doing family recreation, but the  
9 folks who bought these vehicles in 2006, 2007, simply  
10 do not have that opportunity with the vehicles they  
11 currently own, you're going to make them less valuable,  
12 and you're going to introduce a whole, well, we won't  
13 ride where there is law enforcement. And that's not  
14 something we want to see. Thank you.

15 JOHN STEWART: Good afternoon, Commissioners,  
16 John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive  
17 Clubs. I appreciate hearing the report about the  
18 attendance and about the grants. But I've read that  
19 one statistic or way of looking at the grants is  
20 missing. It noted that there is, what, \$30 million in  
21 requests. Over the past few years, this is a  
22 continuing issue is that each year there is more in  
23 interests for grants than there is money to fulfill the  
24 grants. Perhaps, it would be a good and interesting  
25 number to look at how much is left on the table

1 unfunded at the end of each grant cycle.

2 Now, this really underscores the fact that the  
3 partnerships between the federal agencies and the state  
4 are the bulk of the OHV program. And it is one that is  
5 little tracked, little defined, and is something that  
6 does provide the bulk of the opportunity. Riding and  
7 driving on the BLM managed lands in the national forest  
8 is where the majority of the recreation opportunities  
9 are. And from that respect, the grants are the ones  
10 that support that riding opportunity. And having the  
11 grants fully funded and even probably be best off if  
12 they were even pushed up in order to provide an  
13 equitable funding to assist and uncover the  
14 recreational opportunity with the federal partners. So  
15 this is something that I think we should look at for  
16 the future, look at how much money is left on the table  
17 and start pushing to get the grants program increased  
18 because that is vitally important to the health of the  
19 entire program for the state. Thank you.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Commissioners, time to weigh in.  
21 Teresa, would you like to start on your end?

22 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I'm going to pass.

23 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Pass.

24 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Actually, I have a couple  
25 of questions. On the general plans, are those general

1 plans -- I notice there's contractors that are being  
2 hired for the general plans. Are those a competitive  
3 bid process or is that something they just deal with as  
4 certain contractors? I didn't know. I'm not sure what  
5 that is.

6 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: The general plan contractor  
7 was secured through a RFQ, request for qualifications.  
8 And then they're reviewed by a panel, scored, and then  
9 contracted with the highest scoring recipient.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Okay. Cool, I just wanted  
11 to know what that was.

12 And then the Carnegie -- just using that as an  
13 example, you said that was in process, it's gone along  
14 quite a ways. It is still being adjusted to the  
15 controversy that's been surrounding it. I live in the  
16 San Francisco Bay Area, so I see a lot in the media.  
17 There is a lot of stories and stuff that are skewed one  
18 way. And I was just wondering if because of this  
19 controversy that's being created if that's having an  
20 effect on the general plan.

21 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: For the Carnegie General  
22 Plan, the work that's going on now as I described where  
23 we're crafting the plan alternatives, a range, are not  
24 affected by the media reports. Instead they're  
25 directed by what we call our constraints. We have the

1 OHV Act that directs that we have SVRAs. And then we  
2 make the most possible use recreation of the SVRAs.

3 We have the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water  
4 Act, those are all of our constraints. So as we craft  
5 these alternatives, we try to juggle. We try to  
6 balance. We want to make the most possible use  
7 recreationally out of the SVRA lands while still not  
8 running afoul of Endangered Species Act, the Clean  
9 Water Act. That's the step that the state is in. It's  
10 not being affected by the media report.

11 CHIEF JENKINS: And to clarify, it's not being  
12 affected by the ongoing meeting reports, but in a way  
13 it is. Let me explain.

14 When we did our public scoping meeting, the  
15 concerns that are being kind of turned over repeatedly  
16 in some of these recent newspaper stories were brought  
17 up at the public scoping meetings. Those are in our  
18 discussions. In other words, we took all comments from  
19 the public from all points of view and are looking at  
20 those as we go through exactly what Mr. Canfield is  
21 describing. We're looking at the constraints, looking  
22 at mandates, looking at all of those things in the  
23 context of what was suggested by the public, all  
24 suggestions of the public. So we had all of those  
25 comments. They're all on record, we had them. That's

1 what the team is considering.

2 And then there's been a number of news stories  
3 that were circulated that are bringing it up as if  
4 they're fresh ideas, but most of those ideas -- I think  
5 at this point it's safe to say everything I've seen in  
6 recent press stories are issues that were brought up by  
7 various groups during our scoping meetings.

8 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: Thank you for reminding of  
9 me that, chief. In addition, to the scoping meetings,  
10 the general planning team also had a series of  
11 stakeholder meetings that involved the visitors to the  
12 SVRAs, neighbors, environmental groups from the Bay  
13 Area, representatives of the Historic Society, so there  
14 was this whole series of follow-up stakeholder meetings  
15 where many of the folks that are being quoted in the  
16 media report sat at the table with us and communicated  
17 to the general plan team their concerns. So good  
18 point, a lot of those ideas do come up with the media.  
19 Rest assured, they've also been delivered to the team  
20 through the formal general planning process.

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: At previous meetings, we talked  
23 about taking some of those focal folks out to Hollister  
24 Hills, for instance, and doing a tour there and  
25 basically demonstrate what State Parks has done.

1 Comment on that.

2 CHIEF JENKINS: Yes, we had offered some tours  
3 at Hollister Hills to anybody that is interested. To  
4 date, we haven't had any takers on that. We are  
5 getting some interest from a couple elected officials,  
6 so we're still negotiating times. It's always hard  
7 with all of the pressures on their schedules to find  
8 the time to get them out there. There are several  
9 individuals who are trying to get out there, but nobody  
10 from the general public has yet taken us up on that.  
11 We'll continue to move forward.

12 The General is going to go out there soon.  
13 We're trying to get a whole range of people so that  
14 they can see a vision of what might be possible, not  
15 what we're going to do because we don't know yet  
16 because we haven't come to that point, to see a model  
17 of what might be possible when we take them out and  
18 show them some of the recent developments on the Renz  
19 property and other properties.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: So those invitations, is that  
21 part of public record invitations to the public or  
22 interested neighbors, for instance?

23 CHIEF JENKINS: I don't think they're really in  
24 public records. They're usually in response to letters  
25 to us making specific requests, why don't you take this

1 course of action. We'll respond with, we'll be happy  
2 to show you what we're looking at. Certainly, things  
3 that could be public record. Nobody has requested  
4 those public records, but just an ongoing dialogue in  
5 the community that we'll do with in any group, any  
6 point of view that comes to us for information.

7 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: To add, on the Carnegie  
8 General Plan Team, we were able to host a tour of the  
9 Renz properties with the regulators, the United States  
10 Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fish and Game,  
11 El Centro California Water Board, and it was  
12 Jeff Gaffney, Superintendent Gaffney hosted the tour,  
13 and it was very well received. The general plan team  
14 is ready to do more of that. It's been scheduling it  
15 is complicated.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: I have a couple of questions.  
17 Regarding the Onyx property, we know we have a sunset  
18 on the acquisition money that's coming up pretty close.  
19 Can you find of fill us in on that, and what happens if  
20 we pass that date?

21 CHIEF JENKINS: It's tough to talk about that  
22 one. I'll give you the outlines, and you can fill in  
23 the blanks. Yes, that money disappears at the end of  
24 the year. We have been working very closely on a daily  
25 basis -- when I see "we", I mean Jeff Gaffney, he's

1 been driving the process, with Dan supporting him and  
2 then all of the folks in Division and his district --  
3 working with our departments, land agents, working with  
4 DGS, working with various lobbyists, various political  
5 electives.

6 We're doing everything we can inside the system  
7 without violating any processes to try to grease the  
8 skids and get this thing done by June. I think we said  
9 earlier it may not be done by June. We're trying to  
10 develop backup plans, and that's part of that budget  
11 process that, once again, I just can't say much more  
12 about.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is there any value in having a  
14 subcommittee or Commissioners involved at this point?

15 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: Good afternoon,  
16 Commissioners, Chairman Slavik. I'm Jeff Gaffney the  
17 project manager for this, also the district  
18 superintendent for Hollister Hills, Hungry Valley.

19 I think there are some things we can do probably  
20 where -- I'm already having a meeting with  
21 Commissioners Villegas and Perez with Senator Lara. I  
22 think some of those things are probably things we'll be  
23 talking about. You have your two budget subcommittees  
24 on the Senate and Assembly side. There are people,  
25 members on those committees, Commissioner Kerr is

1 familiar with a couple of them. Those are the people  
2 that probably need to be talked to in preparation for a  
3 possibility ask of an appropriation. Does that make  
4 sense?

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any further questions?

6 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: A clarification,  
7 Chief Jenkins. You said that in the end of the year or  
8 the end of the fiscal year?

9 CHIEF JENKINS: The money expires this  
10 June 30th. And the difficulty is going through that  
11 Public Works Board process, there is like a schedule of  
12 things that if you miss part of the schedule, then just  
13 becomes physically impossible. We haven't hit that  
14 point. We haven't hit that point yet. We're doing  
15 everything we can to stay on track and make that final  
16 deadline. Right now, we have high hopes of making the  
17 deadline. It's not guarantee, high hopes.

18 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: I think it's important to  
19 note that the examination from the public as a whole  
20 and the audit about the department acquiring new lands  
21 has sort of had its peripheral damage to us; although,  
22 we have a Trust Fund that is outlining how we would  
23 maintain and take care of these lands. In the past  
24 there's been a lot of questions about the other side of  
25 the department not having the resources. So the

1 additional scrutiny slows us down. It's part of the  
2 issues.

3 But just, once again, it's about educating,  
4 informing people about how our system works and what we  
5 are doing. We have not bitten off more than we can  
6 chew in the past, and we will not do that. That's what  
7 we continue to do. That's why we only have eight  
8 SVRAs.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Another part of that question is  
10 does an MOU somehow have to be constructed with BLM to  
11 manage that land? Are we moving along on that tract,  
12 as well?

13 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: Yes, I was very quietly in a  
14 meeting with Chief Jenkins and the state director from  
15 BLM last week, and they discussed that. We're moving  
16 forward very smoothly with that. I don't see any  
17 issues.

18 CHIEF JENKINS: We're looking at actually  
19 working with the state director, Jim Kenneth, very good  
20 to work with on this issue. We're looking at initially  
21 just going in there and supporting the existing program  
22 that's on the ground. While we go through a planning  
23 process and look these what might be possible to grow  
24 the program as we go.

25 So right now nothing we would go in there and do

1 will threaten existing operations, it's just going to  
2 support what's going on, try to make what's going on a  
3 little bit better. Then we will go through a general  
4 planning process. That's where you all would come in  
5 and we would look at what does the potential build-out  
6 of the project looks like in coordination with BLM.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would suggest the Commissioners  
8 and the public at large stay engaged on this. This is  
9 probably one of the most significant items on our  
10 agenda that we have. It's a huge piece of property  
11 that probably that opportunity will never come up again  
12 in our foreseeable future.

13 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: This is a legacy project, I  
14 do agree.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Absolutely, a legacy project.  
16 Good way to put it. I'm hoping the people that make  
17 those decisions -- I know you guys are doing a good  
18 job, but if there is anything we can do to help  
19 encourage those people or at least bring people to the  
20 table to give them a better understanding of the scope  
21 of this thing.

22 CHIEF JENKINS: We are, proverbially, taking out  
23 all of the stops on this one. This is like all hands  
24 on deck. The General has on several occasions  
25 reiterated that for the OHV, State Parks this project

1 is his absolute top priority. We're getting that level  
2 of support. So if it can be done, it will be done.

3 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I think there's some  
4 reports in the media about is there any danger of  
5 losing that property if we're not able to move forward?

6 CHIEF JENKINS: Very briefly there's two  
7 possible ways this could move forward. The legislature  
8 could decide to extend the money, the legislature and  
9 Administration could decide to extend the money in  
10 which case our acquisition would bleed over a little  
11 bit into July or August. That's one possibility.  
12 These are the two possibilities if we don't complete it  
13 by June, by the way.

14 The other possibility is that they didn't see  
15 fit to extend those funds, we would have to request  
16 funds again. It would take a year to get those funds.  
17 And so then it's all like back in play. Who else would  
18 come out to try to buy the property from the current  
19 owners, ReNu, would somebody be trying to buy it before  
20 we could get our money back in place. So then it all  
21 becomes once again a moving chest board.

22 But, like I say, we have backup strategies and  
23 plans that we are considering, and we're looking at  
24 very scenario and developing our strategies. We're  
25 tending our hopes, and we've got the General's backing

1 on making this happen by June. Hopefully, all of that  
2 other planning will not be needed.

3 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Okay. Any assistance that  
4 I can be, I'm glad to help out. I'm in the general  
5 area.

6 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: There a couple of members on  
7 the subcommittee from the area where you're from, I  
8 think it would be helpful if you did meet with them.  
9 I'd be available to go with you and talk to them.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: So, counsel, is this an item that  
11 we could as the Commission submit support of this  
12 project to whoever is interested?

13 COUNSEL TOBIAS: If you put it on the agenda.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Because it's not a business item,  
15 we cannot submit it.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: We've already supported it  
17 in the past.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: We haven't gotten a letter in the  
19 hopper on this.

20 CHIEF JENKINS: I don't think support is any  
21 problem on this. I think everybody all the way up the  
22 chain is aware of the support from the community,  
23 support from Audubon, and DNC, support from military,  
24 quite frankly. There are many layers of support on  
25 this. So I don't think there is a concern that we need

1 more support at this point. We just need to get the  
2 machinery in government to move smoothly and get this  
3 done.

4 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: Just echoing Commissioner  
5 Villegas' comments from earlier, it's about education  
6 and understanding what the program is about because we  
7 have tremendous support for this, and I tend to see how  
8 difficult it is with an off-highway vehicle project.  
9 As soon as you say that, it's a lot of things that can  
10 happen. But it's us doing that education as  
11 Commissioner Villegas was talking about earlier.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: I might add at the public scoping  
13 meeting, there was a gentleman there and his wife  
14 Joe Fontaine, advised us he was a past president of the  
15 Sierra Club, National Sierra Club. Obviously, the guy  
16 has got some connections. And he sat in the audience.  
17 He had some questions. Ed had talked to him previously  
18 before the meeting started, kind of give him a better  
19 understanding of the scope of the project. He walked  
20 away, he didn't seem to have any issues at all with the  
21 things. So it sounds to me like a pretty good  
22 endorsement.

23 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: Absolutely. I'm available.  
24 As I said, Hungry Valley would be a great example for  
25 anybody. If you are talking to legislators, we can

1 take them out and show them what we do at an SVRA and  
2 how it works.

3 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: One more thing, would it  
4 be helpful to try to recontact those people,  
5 re-establish the invitations, somehow reach out to them  
6 at another time?

7 CHIEF JENKINS: Which people are you referring  
8 to at this point?

9 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: The decision makers that  
10 we need to move forward.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: It's more procedures and  
12 bureaucrats.

13 CHIEF JENKINS: Right now, it really has become  
14 not an issue of the decisionmakers, per se. It's the  
15 bureaucracy. Punching through it, it's tough. Like I  
16 say, with the General's backing and hitting the agency  
17 heads to get their own individual organizations, you  
18 know, moving expeditiously as possible. That's the  
19 best hope right now. That's the direction we're going.  
20 So we really appreciate the offer and interest, but I  
21 think right now leaving this to the General and Aaron  
22 to really shepherd through the process, backing up  
23 Mr. Gaffney here, I think that's our best chance for  
24 success.

25 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: And to clarify, too, we're

1 talking about if this all were not to be successful, we  
2 wanted to have the meetings ahead of time. We've  
3 already talked to them, and they're aware we're asking  
4 for something additional in the way of appropriations.

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: You need to let us know.  
6 Right now, that's not the way you want to go.

7 OHV SUPT. GAFFNEY: I'll let you know. We will  
8 be talking.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're leaving this ROV question  
10 on the table. Does anybody want to weigh in on that at  
11 all? It seems like that's an issue that's getting more  
12 and more prominence in the recreation community. Do  
13 you guys want to revisit that on a subsequent meeting?

14 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I think so.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: I don't know if there is any way  
16 to weigh in on it. Basically, from my understanding,  
17 the industry initiated the legislation based on their  
18 experience with the ATVs. The ROV community responded  
19 to that, and now it's kind of a give or take situation,  
20 back and forth.

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Well, I think that we have  
22 a situation there, having dealt with distributors for  
23 many types of vehicles that they're concerned with  
24 liability issues with the built-on aftermarket kits  
25 because there's been a number of instances when not

1 only the aftermarket kit makers but also the  
2 manufacturer of the vehicles have been sued throughout  
3 the last 30 years or so, and where they lost in court  
4 on those circumstances.

5 So I think that's why getting that type of  
6 support from the industry because they now make a  
7 vehicle that will accommodate those types of things, so  
8 it's a difficult situation is all I can really say.  
9 It's going to be a tough one to go either way. I see  
10 both sides of it.

11 **AGENDA ITEM IV(C) - REPORTS - BLM**

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: All right. Moving on BLM, you  
13 have been very patient here. Thank you. Would you  
14 please come up give your report.

15 BLM JENNIFER MADA: I think we figured you heard  
16 from us so much yesterday that it would be fine if we  
17 waited until later on in the afternoon. My name is  
18 Jennifer Mada. I'm the field manager here in the  
19 Redding Office, and I'm going to give kind of the rest  
20 of the state report for BLM, and then Sky will come up  
21 and concentrate on the Northern California piece, and  
22 he actually has a real PowerPoint prepared for you  
23 guys.

24 So in your packet you should have some  
25 information that was put together from our state office

1 OHV leader. Her name is Jane Arteaga. She's not able  
2 to be here today because of travel restrictions  
3 associated with our budget.

4 So the first thing that I will talk about is the  
5 Marine Corps/Johnson Valley update. So we signed -- or  
6 the Navy signed a Record of Decision on February 11th,  
7 2013 apparently to implement Alternative 6 with some  
8 modifications. So I'm sure there are people in this  
9 room that are much more in depth in this information  
10 than I am. So BLM continues to work with the  
11 Department of Defense and the Marines to expand the  
12 Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corps Base, but we've also  
13 went ahead and identified the impacts that the proposed  
14 expansion would have on OHV enthusiasts in the Johnson  
15 Valley OHV area. And we have, I guess, explored  
16 options that could provide both military training and  
17 public recreation, and those were discussed in the  
18 Record of Decision.

19 The 2012 Draft Business Plan Update for the  
20 Imperial Sand Dunes would update the 2003 Business  
21 Plan, and it's required to address gaps between agency  
22 objectives, customer needs, and management capacity.  
23 And without modification to the fee program, drastic  
24 changes may occur to the recreation program as a result  
25 of declining federal budgets. They started public

1 outreach on August 2010 at a DAC subgroup meeting, and  
2 then they have continued several subsequent public  
3 meetings resulting with the release of the draft  
4 business plan in October of 2012. It looks like they  
5 got about 236 letters, had 400 different comments, and  
6 there is it a nice little chart on the bottom that  
7 demonstrates about 32 percent of the comments related  
8 to the amount of the proposed fee; 19 percent talking  
9 about the appropriateness of expenditures and the level  
10 of service; and 15 percent talking about the impacts to  
11 recreation visitation and socioeconomics. So this will  
12 not be the only time people will be able to comment.  
13 It says that the closure of the public comment period  
14 and the document do not mark the conclusion of the  
15 public process. Additional opportunities to engage in  
16 the development of the business plan and overall  
17 management of the ISDRA will continue, and there's a  
18 link that is provided to the El Centro Field Office for  
19 more information.

20 And then we will go on to some of the highlights  
21 of El Centro. So it says that they've received  
22 applications for ten AMA District 38 races within the  
23 Placer City and Superstition open OHV areas, one for a  
24 quad drag race within the Imperial Sand Dunes, one for  
25 a four-by-four touring event, and three for rock

1 crawling events in Devil's Canyon. All of the events  
2 that they've had there since September were successful,  
3 with no serious safety issues noted.

4 So three protests are currently being resolved  
5 for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management  
6 Plan. And once had they've resolved, all of the  
7 protests successfully, then we will issue a Record of  
8 Decision to the public.

9 Year to date, there has been 544,687 visitor  
10 days at the ISDRA, and then there is a financial fee  
11 report also post ed on the El Centro Field Office  
12 website, 201 calls for rescue service, and they do have  
13 many OHV grant projects in progress including closure,  
14 signing, trash collection, EMS, rescue, law  
15 enforcement, and restoration. And they have a new  
16 ISDRA Facebook page, which for BLM is a pretty unique  
17 thing. We don't often get Facebook pages with specific  
18 areas. They're not limited to state level pages or  
19 like our operation center, so it's rare that we get a  
20 Facebook page dedicated to one area, so that's pretty  
21 cool.

22 And then there is also a nice little article on  
23 the Superstition Mountain occurred. More than 150  
24 spectators turned out to watch 72 riders compete in the  
25 Full Throttle 100 at Superstition Mountain OHV area in

1 February. So we remain busy in all parts of the state  
2 on OHV.

3 So that's just a little dabble. I would  
4 encourage you guys if you have specific questions, I  
5 will answer them later on, but also contact Jane  
6 Arteago at our state office, and she can fill you in  
7 more. And if you need her contact info, I will leave  
8 you my card, and I will chase that number for you.

9 And I will turn it over to Sky. Thank you.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would suggest all Commissioners  
11 get on the BLM's newsletter, automatically be included  
12 in their newsletter when you do that.

13 BLM SKY ZAFFARONI: Afternoon, Commissioners,  
14 Division staff, Sky Zaffaroni, recreation planner,  
15 Redding BLM Field Office. So I'm going to use a little  
16 PowerPoint and focus in on four off-highway vehicle  
17 recreation areas OHV areas managed here in the Northern  
18 California district. The little area map here gives  
19 you kind of an idea of where each of these locations  
20 are in reference to where we are now. You can see  
21 Redding in the middle there. Most of us here toured  
22 Chappie Shasta yesterday, keep that kind of brief, not  
23 hit you over the head with that too much.

24 So then we've got Samoa Dunes over on the coast.  
25 That's a unique opportunity. And then we've got Port

1 Sage OHV area managed by the Eagle Lake Field Office,  
2 just 45 minutes from Reno and 45 minutes from  
3 Susanville. And we've got Cinder Cones managed by  
4 Alturas Field Office, and that's actually under  
5 development area.

6 So this is Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle  
7 Area located about 15 minutes from where we are now,  
8 65,000 acre area, a little over 200 miles of road and  
9 trails available for variety of off-highway vehicle  
10 types and skill levels. Two developed OHV staging  
11 areas. We're got really several dispersed areas that  
12 you can park, but two that are somewhat also developed  
13 with signing and information, mapping available. One  
14 22-unit developed campground, one primitive campground  
15 located kind of on one of those mountain peaks for  
16 those that want a back country experience.

17 This is the kind of thing that Chappie Shasta is  
18 most famous for, the scenic vistas, Lake Shasta, Shasta  
19 Dam, Mount Shasta, Trinity, Mount Lassen, remote riding  
20 opportunities, distinct. Someone mentioned adventure  
21 riding opportunities. We provide a lot of that kind of  
22 thing; have people do a lot of bike packing, ride to  
23 far destinations, and take enough stuff with them to  
24 stay and participate in the opportunity riding. Kind  
25 of jump-off point for a lot of dual sport riding,

1 getting increasingly popular with the side-by-side  
2 riding because the scenic vistas and big touring loops.  
3 There's a host of about five off-highway race and  
4 events things per year, everything from poker runs to  
5 AMA sanctioned races.

6 A little bit of taste of what the facilities are  
7 like there. We've got camping area. We've got the  
8 main Chappie Shasta OHV Staging Area where we started  
9 with our tour yesterday and shade structure. That  
10 place really developed around being able to handle  
11 those type of events with 400, 500 participants and  
12 riders. That's just the riders. You end up with over  
13 a thousand people there at a time.

14 Campground we recently installed, the new  
15 concrete picnic tables. Copley Mountain Staging Area,  
16 our other kind of smaller staging area developed after  
17 9/11 when the dam access closed, has become  
18 increasingly popular.

19 And road and trail maintenance is an integral  
20 part of our whole program at Chappie Shasta, and we've  
21 been fortunate to get a lot of support from OHV funds  
22 to purchase the equipment we need and put that out on  
23 the ground and improve the trail systems, both for  
24 resource and for usability of the area.

25 So future projects, working with keep doing

1 trail maintenance, and going to develop new trails, and  
2 connect dead ends, and try to keep providing increasing  
3 loop opportunities. Land acquisition is a critical  
4 part. If you can look at that map, you can see kind of  
5 in these areas here, the white properties, those are  
6 private end holdings. And then the yellow is the BLM  
7 Forest Service. So we're always trying to acquire land  
8 where we can, trying to focus our acquisitions on small  
9 pieces that surround actual trail opportunities or have  
10 the potential for trail opportunity instead of buying  
11 these blocks where we're not going to be able to  
12 development trails and provide OHV opportunities,  
13 continue law enforcement and patrol education.

14 Eagle Lake Field Office for staging OHV areas  
15 located right between Susanville and Reno on 395. It  
16 offers a really unique desert riding, very scenic  
17 opportunity, excellent family opportunities. They're a  
18 29,000 acre, 90 miles of trail, got two developed OHV  
19 trailheads and one small park area. Real popular with  
20 this type of use, the RV, and camp for four or five  
21 days, trailer type of use.

22 They've got a biannual Lassen Motorcycle Club  
23 race event that they do up there, very successful  
24 event, well run. There is kind of improvements that  
25 have been recently done using OHV funds. The main

1 forest staging trailhead, new concrete picnic tables.  
2 You can see grading, gravelling, new fire rings. And  
3 similar, this up here, is the Widow Maker Trailhead  
4 kind of on the other side of four rim, and this is the  
5 infamous Widow Maker Downhill. So same thing, graded,  
6 gravel parking areas, got concrete picnic table,  
7 replaced kiosks there, small parking lot. And so  
8 they've got the same type of facilities improvements,  
9 signing, picnic tables, and this little restoration  
10 projects. You can see these hill climbs, and they  
11 removed that using an OHV restoration fund.

12 Ongoing trail maintenance, a critical part of  
13 the program, as well, Sweco trail maintenance performed  
14 annually. Sometimes they'll get these ruts. I think  
15 they only get nine inches of rain. The sandy  
16 conditions get really woofed out, those that are  
17 familiar with desert riding conditions. We go up there  
18 with a little Sweco and knock down the woofs. We do  
19 that about once a year to keep people on the trail as  
20 well so they won't meander off trying to get a smoother  
21 ride.

22 So same thing, ongoing trail maintenance,  
23 installation of a new CXT vault toilet. Restoration  
24 project, the Turtle Mountain, trail planning  
25 development correcting dead ends to improve, the land

1 acquisition important there. You can see the parcel  
2 right there, we right now have a grant application in  
3 to purchase it right here; would provide a critical  
4 connection without having to ride this stretch of  
5 county road or you can go out around, but that would  
6 really increase the usability of the Widow Maker  
7 Trailhead, continue law enforcement, brochure updates  
8 at staging changes.

9 Samoa Dunes Recreation Area, most of you are  
10 probably familiar with these areas. Really Samoa Dunes  
11 is mainly unique that one of two areas that you can  
12 ride along the beach in California, the other being the  
13 Oceano Dunes we've been discussing, over 420 acres of  
14 open use. This is kind of have a unique trail system  
15 that kind of winds through the dunes there. There is  
16 an overview of their main staging, actually a nice  
17 facility; got a new CXT there, real open access to the  
18 dunes. You guys can read those instead of me reading  
19 those to you. Click through this a little quicker.

20 We're got an actual designated AA training site  
21 four by four obstacle course for BLM managed area, got  
22 the unloading ramps, of course. This is kind of what  
23 it looks like at Samoa, beach property, trail  
24 maintenance ongoing, same as the other areas except  
25 they're going to replace those uploading ramps that you

1 saw.

2 And then there is a real small area way out of  
3 the way kind of up in northeastern California managed  
4 by the Alturas Field Office, the Cinder Cone OHV area;  
5 been up there to visit about a year ago, kind of under  
6 development. It is currently used, as you can see.  
7 They have kind of two concentric loops, one bigger and  
8 one inner loop. It's used by the locals there from a  
9 little town of Fall River Mill. It's too far of a  
10 drive from Alturas. They've got their sign, and  
11 they'll be applying for grant funds hopefully this year  
12 so they can put some concrete picnic tables in there,  
13 install some shade structures, maybe some fire rings.  
14 It's actually like the other three, kind of a unique  
15 opportunity and interesting place. That's kind of your  
16 finishing slide. That's all. Thank you.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. That's it. Public comment  
18 on the BLM report.

19 JIM BRAMHAM: Jim Bramham, I appreciate the  
20 snappy microphone system you have today. I just want  
21 to point out some ISDRA facts to you, this Imperial  
22 Sand Dunes Recreation Area. The report that you got  
23 from the Bureau talks about 500,000 visitor days per  
24 months, just makes the Hammers look like Tiny Tim as  
25 far as the amount of visitation. They also talked

1 about the fact that we now have an almost 12-year  
2 delayed recreation management plan that's about to be  
3 signed. It's down to the final protests in Washington.  
4 And the implementation of that new recreation area  
5 management plan is going to be incumbent upon funding,  
6 and that brings us around to the item that's most  
7 prevalent in their report, which is their business plan  
8 for how to operate the sand dunes.

9           And for your Commissioners, I just want to back  
10 up, when I was on the Commission back in the '90s, the  
11 BLM started their first fee program in an area that  
12 also received grant money at the Imperial Sand Dunes.  
13 They said not only are you getting a million dollars a  
14 year in OHV grant money, but we want more money from  
15 the users to help manage the place. The public outcry  
16 against that was absolute phenomenal. And what came  
17 out of that was what was called a technical review  
18 team, which was that a group of dune users and local  
19 stakeholders would operate in an advisory capacity to  
20 the Bureau of Land Management. And an MOU was signed  
21 between Division and the Bureau of Land Management that  
22 allowed this group to have understanding of  
23 appropriated dollars that were used in that area, grant  
24 dollars, OHV grant dollars that were used in that area,  
25 and the fee monies and how those were to be spent. So

1 this group for five years got the input of all of  
2 those -- all of that information, and then gave the  
3 Bureau suggestions on how best to manage the area. It  
4 improved the facility tremendously.

5 But what the secondary thing that happened with  
6 that was what we called flee from fee. Because folks  
7 had never had fees for public land access before, above  
8 and beyond what their normal green sticker was, and it  
9 fundamentally changed how the desert was used,  
10 especially in that area. It increased the visitorship  
11 at Ocotillo Wells dramatically because those folks  
12 coming out of San Diego and Inland Imperial, it's  
13 shorter distance to go to Ocotillo Wells, and I don't  
14 have to pay a fee.

15 So as this business plan, they talk about -- in  
16 your report talks about the public process started in  
17 2010. That's actually very inaccurate. It started in  
18 2007, culminated with a 2008 desire to go before the  
19 Recreation Advisory Council for approval of a fee  
20 increase. They could not get public support to do it  
21 then, so they came back to try to start doing it in  
22 2010, and subsequently came out with this proposed  
23 plan. That plan was opposed by every stakeholder in  
24 the desert back in October, just four months ago, six  
25 months ago. The county opposed it. The chamber of

1 commerce has opposed it. The local cities have opposed  
2 it, the OHV groups opposed it, and the dune users  
3 opposed it. They got 200 some comments letter on what  
4 should be a basic business plan.

5 And so what the users and the subgroup have been  
6 asking of the Bureau for more than eight years is  
7 simply to explain to us what it costs to operate the  
8 dunes. And when we say cost, that isn't what they  
9 spent, it's what it actually costs to operate. This is  
10 the same thing as if you're in your home, if your CC&Rs  
11 tell you that you have to mow your lawn, you can put  
12 gas in a lawn mower and mow it, it's 50 bucks a year,  
13 or you can hire a lawn service for \$1,000 a year. And  
14 what the folks want to know is what it actually costs  
15 and whether in some cases it would be better do that by  
16 volunteer work, rather than paying employees.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Jim, I have to ask you to  
18 summarize here.

19 JIM BRAMHAM: You need to follow this. That's  
20 the summary. The Commission and the Division need to  
21 follow this business plan extremely closely because it  
22 will affect user patterns, and it will greatly affect  
23 satisfaction of the consumer.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

25 JOHN STEWART: John Stewart, California

1 Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs. There's two things  
2 that I would like to draw your attention to is that  
3 when the BLM El Centro reports that they had three  
4 permits for rock crawling events in Devil Canyon, this  
5 kind of brings up an ongoing issue that BLM is still  
6 refusing to recognize, that non-spectator events are  
7 not events requiring the in-depth paperwork, the  
8 insurance requirements, and everything, and all of the  
9 paperwork that spectator events require.

10 Now, you saw earlier with Johnson Valley and  
11 King of the Hammers, all of the extra work that went in  
12 with fencing to provide for spectator control. That's  
13 well and good. That's appropriate for that type of  
14 event.

15 But when you have a club and family members and  
16 it is limited to less than ten vehicles at a time and  
17 there are no spectators and yet to get that permit it  
18 is still being treated as a major spectator-attended  
19 event, and that is something that have been challenging  
20 the BLM on that for a long time. They have yet to  
21 correct their oversight.

22 And I'm also disappointed that the BLM has  
23 failed to address one of the major impacts coming to  
24 the desert that will have an impact upon recreation  
25 called the Desert Renewal Energy Conservation Plan.

1 The DRECP will close off major efforts or major  
2 portions of the desert that are now used for  
3 recreation, and this is areas where they are currently  
4 applying for grants to manage for law enforcement and  
5 other things, and yet they fail to address that as an  
6 issue that is coming up and is going to be providing a  
7 loss of opportunity in the desert region. It is  
8 something I would encourage the Commission to go back  
9 and look for and question the BLM on because it is  
10 going to be a significant issue. Thank you.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions from the  
12 Commissioners?

13 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I'd like to ask the  
14 BLM staff what the gentleman just spoke to on the  
15 different events. Do you use the same permitting  
16 process for all of those types of events?

17 BLM SKY ZAFFARONI: Yes, we do. It's hard to  
18 speak to exactly the events he's talking about, but,  
19 you know, say our area, take for instance out here, we  
20 do hold, like I say, about five special recreation  
21 permits per year. Specifically to the insurance, the  
22 insurance requirement that we have doesn't just cover  
23 spectator. It's there to cover also injured  
24 participants, that type of thing, staff members, you  
25 know, club members.

1           So I'll try to just give you an example. Like  
2 maybe our smallest event is say a poker run, local ATV  
3 club has a poker run, and they estimate they'll have a  
4 hundred participants. They get the same insurance to  
5 cover those participants and are under the same special  
6 recreation permit guidance regulations as the event  
7 that was mentioned that has close to 500 participants  
8 and does have a spectator component.

9           We manage a bit differently as far as the  
10 on-the-ground interaction with the club in order to  
11 make sure that the spectators are accounted for, more  
12 so than an event that doesn't have a spectator. But  
13 it's a very similar process getting that special  
14 recreation permit.

15           COMMISSIONER CABRAL: What level of a number of  
16 an unorganized ride or drive, how many people do you  
17 have to have or how many participants before they need  
18 a permit.

19           BLM ZAFFARONI: I don't have it right in front  
20 of me, but I think it depends on a number of criteria.  
21 And to my knowledge it can kind of come down to the  
22 field office area manager discretion as to setting a  
23 threshold, is what you're looking for. I'm not  
24 positive. I've read quite a bit through the special  
25 recreation permit guidelines. There is a multitude of

1 different kinds of permits that you can issue,  
2 commercial, competitive, depending on the specific even  
3 if it's a family ride, club ride, that's going to be  
4 different.

5 But there isn't necessarily a bottom or a  
6 threshold number. It just depends on what they're  
7 doing. And there are some other criteria that kick it  
8 into requiring a permit regardless of number.  
9 Basically if they're publicly advertising it, if  
10 they're collecting funds for people to participate,  
11 they might only have ten riders, it might be a guided  
12 tour, but that's similar to like our fishing guide  
13 permit, you're still paying for a service. They're  
14 making money, so they have to get a permit.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: One more question before you  
16 leave.

17 BLM JENNIFER MADA: I just want to clarify one  
18 thing. The special recreation permit process that we  
19 go through is not even -- the manual is written at a  
20 national level. So it's nothing that we can alter at a  
21 field office level or even a state level. So we get  
22 into discussions about permitting process, that's a  
23 Washington office national level manual for us.

24 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I was just looking for  
25 some clarity on it. That's all. Thank you.

1 Sky, once again, everything you've done and your  
2 professionalism on the ground, how you explain things  
3 has been excellent. I really appreciate that.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Some time ago I was with a BLM  
5 planner Jim -- I can't remember his last name, but went  
6 to Samoa Dunes. There was a proposal to put in a  
7 motocross track there. And we talked at some length  
8 about the possibility of literally a world class  
9 motocross track right next to the ocean that would  
10 benefit that entire community to a pretty serious  
11 degree. Any thoughts on that? Anybody ever done any  
12 follow-up?

13 BLM SKY ZAFFARONI: I'm not with the specific  
14 project.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: I knew that wasn't going anywhere  
16 anyway.

17 BLM JENNIFER MADA: I will follow up that with  
18 two separate things. We actually held a Resource  
19 Advisory Council meeting in the Arcata Field Office.  
20 We had like a citizen group there attending with the  
21 secretary. They represent all different interests.  
22 We've had Eric Lueder on there currently for the  
23 northwest who I think was on the Commission a while  
24 ago.

25 And at that meeting people did bring up more

1 interest in seeing OHV-type opportunities in Arcata,  
2 specifically the field managers there, she did hear  
3 that. Also, both the Redding Field Office and Arcata  
4 Field Office has requested funds to go through the  
5 process to redo our resource management plans, which is  
6 a guiding direction for how we manage the entire field  
7 office.

8 So if those plans are actually funded, we could  
9 kick that process off in 2014, which would be the  
10 perfect time as members of the Commission or the public  
11 to submit those kinds of requests for use, to both of  
12 those offices so we would look at those opportunities.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would submit on a small  
14 footprint you can keep a lot of people busy. Thank  
15 you.

16 Let's take a short break, and then we'll come  
17 back and finish up.

18 (Returned at 3:16 from a break beginning at 3:06.)

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Before we do the Forest Service,  
20 we had one last BLM concern, Jennifer, regarding the  
21 fee structure and this proposed plan at Imperial Sand  
22 Dunes. We're thinking that's a pretty big deal, and we  
23 would like to agendaize that item because we can't  
24 really do anything at this point, but we'd like to  
25 agendaize that item for the next meeting. And since

1 it's going to be in Sacramento, I'd like to request  
2 that we have maybe Jim Kenna or somebody else there for  
3 a while and kind of visit with us on that.

4 And I guess the other thing is if you could  
5 carry that message back to Sacramento, that would be  
6 appreciated.

7 BLM JENNIFER MADA: That's no problem. I'll  
8 actually be giving kind of a brief of what happened  
9 here in these last couple of days in our state  
10 leadership team meeting in Monday. I will definitely  
11 let them know.

12 I would stay as engaged as you can with Jane  
13 Arteago. She was really that she could make her first  
14 Commission meeting.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think she was at one in  
16 Hollister.

17 THE WITNESS: One, yes. She was pretty upset  
18 that due to our budget situation she couldn't come, but  
19 I will definitely pass that on.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

21 **AGENDA ITEM IV(D) - REPORTS - USFS**

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Forest Service.

23 USFS GARRETT VILLANUEVA: Good afternoon,  
24 Commissioners and Division staff, my name is Garrett  
25 Villanueva. I'm with the United States Forest Service.

1 And on Tab 6 you should find this write-up that  
2 Kathleen Mick put together. I'm here on behalf of  
3 Kathleen Mick at her request. One thing she wanted to  
4 make sure that I passed on clearly to you is that all  
5 of the topics that I'm going to cover today, and I'm  
6 going to kind of hit the highlights of them and not go  
7 into great depth, because of the 16 or 18 pages of  
8 words I think we will have some people snoozing if we  
9 go through that much detail, but she really wanted me  
10 to make sure that I stated for future items you would  
11 like the Forest Service to report on, go ahead and  
12 contact Kathleen Mick. Her information is right here.  
13 We will make sure she can address those in the  
14 Commission meeting and report on those.

15 Five topics that I'm going to hit upon, travel  
16 management and the lawsuits that associated with them;  
17 talk about the science synthesis for forest plan and  
18 revision for the three forests that are going forward  
19 under the new planning rule. I'm going to touch on the  
20 Eldorado National Forest 42 trails. That's the meadows  
21 situation, and the Southern California Land Management  
22 Plan, and that's it.

23 So let me start with the travel management  
24 stuff. I think everyone is very familiar with the CFR  
25 261. I'll cover it super fast. Subpart A, that's the

1 requirement for the travel analysis process, which  
2 typically identifies the minimum system for our  
3 motorized routes, okay. Subpart B is the actual  
4 creation of the Motor Vehicle Use Map, which is the  
5 regulatory tool for which we use to share with the  
6 public which routes are open and which routes are not  
7 open. Subpart C is for over-snow vehicles, and  
8 Subpart C is different. You'll see in the write-up the  
9 word underlined is "may". So the responsible official  
10 on each unit may allow, restrict or prohibit use by  
11 over-snow vehicles.

12           And right now currently we have in Region 5 we  
13 have zero forests that are using OSVUM, as we call it,  
14 or Over-Snow Vehicle Use Map, but those will be  
15 developed over time. We're looking to see those  
16 released. That's a big "may", and the reason why  
17 that's important is because on page three when we start  
18 to look at the lawsuits related to travel management  
19 out there, it says, first, the nationwide lawsuit that  
20 was filed is based upon it being a "may" because  
21 they're considering that to be an exemption from the  
22 requirement for over snow route designation. It's  
23 optional. So that's an important clarification in my  
24 opinion.

25           The second lawsuit is in litigation right now,

1 so I can't really speak any more to that than what we  
2 have here, but basically the lawsuit is about the  
3 implementation of grooming activities in that the  
4 lawsuit is contending that proper NEPA was not followed  
5 to conduct those grooming activities.

6 So moving right along, the science synthesis is  
7 my next topic. So there's three forests known as the  
8 early adopters of the new planning rule. The Sierra,  
9 Sequoia, and the Inyo National Forests are of moving  
10 forward with the new planning rule. And the idea  
11 behind the science synthesis is to have kind of a piece  
12 of universal science that can be used as a little bit  
13 of a boilerplate, I hate to use that word because it  
14 has negative connotations, that can be used to optimize  
15 the efficiency of the creation of new land management  
16 plans and inform those plans for the best science  
17 that's out there.

18 One of the interesting things about the science  
19 synthesis is on page five, first paragraph there,  
20 stakeholders can help identify and fill those gaps  
21 through an assessment process in meetings and workshops  
22 but also through the living assessment. So I didn't  
23 know what that living assessment was when I first got  
24 this document to share with you, and so I asked. And  
25 what the living assessment is it's kind of a process,

1 is what it is, where the public can go on-line and  
2 through the links on here -- and all these links are  
3 active -- I think you got mailed this electrically. So  
4 you can go click on those links. And you can and we  
5 call it wiki, I'll explain that what means, meaning you  
6 can go in and cite new sources for scientific  
7 information that apply to the different sections of the  
8 synthesis. Hopefully, that's relatively clear. But  
9 the information does have to be peer-reviewed  
10 scientific paper. So it's not white paper data. It's  
11 not the fluffy soft science, but it's the hard  
12 peer-reviewed science. I want to make that  
13 distinction.

14           There is one typo at the bottom of that page  
15 where soil was lumped in under socioeconomic cultural  
16 concerns. Soil is its own heading on one of the  
17 scientific disciplines that's being covered in that.

18           So I'm going to gloss over. There is a lot of  
19 material on that, so I'm not going to go into detail on  
20 those. There's also going to be a follow-up  
21 presentation that I'll get into a little more detail on  
22 that, on those aspects for you.

23           So with that, my next topic is the Eldorado  
24 National Forest, 42 trails. And I'm going to hit a  
25 couple of highlights on this. So on May 26th, 2011

1 Judge Carlton found that the Forest Service failed to  
2 comply with the natural forest management when it  
3 designated 42 motorized routes that crossed portions of  
4 meadows with the 2008 motorized travel management  
5 decision. I think everyone is pretty familiar with  
6 that. The order also stated that the Forest Service  
7 failed to complete a required riparian conservation  
8 objective analysis, and that's part of our standard of  
9 Cal lines for the land and resource management plans  
10 for that forest.

11 So I wanted to hit on a couple of high points,  
12 the timeline that's in your document on page 14 and 15.  
13 In September 21st, 2012, the revised Motor Vehicle Use  
14 Map became available, and that was ordered by the judge  
15 that it be revised to reflect those routes being closed  
16 until reanalyzed. And then also the Supplemental  
17 Environmental Impact Statement or SEIS, a draft is  
18 being released and is currently open for public comment  
19 until April 8th. So April 8th is when the comments on  
20 the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
21 are due, which is coming up pretty soon.

22 The next item I have is the Southern California  
23 Forestland Management Plans for the Cleveland,  
24 San Bernardino, and Los Angeles draft Supplemental  
25 Environmental Impact Statement. And this is the one I

1 think the abstract is actually at the end -- I  
2 apologize for that. It's normally upfront. But  
3 basically this is analyzing two new alternatives to  
4 address land management zones specific to roadless  
5 areas, okay. And so one of those, Alternative 3, would  
6 allocate a larger share of the inventory roadless areas  
7 to wilderness designation, and then Alternative C would  
8 require extensive monitoring. So those are two new  
9 alternatives to be analyzed for those forest plans, and  
10 they are specific to inventory roadless area.

11 And with that, I wanted to keep it short because  
12 I know we're running long. That's all I'm going to  
13 report on unless there are specific questions.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Stick around. Thank you.

15 And what we'd like to do is include Item B under  
16 Business Items so we can talk about science synthesis  
17 while you're here and get that off the table.

18 Did you want to explain more about science  
19 synthesis, or do you think it was adequate what you  
20 did?

21 USFS GARRETT VILLANUEVA: I think my overview  
22 might have covered it, and then we will let Chris go.  
23 And then if there's additional questions, perhaps I can  
24 answer those?

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Yes, sure. Sit by close.

1           OHV STAFF HEWITT: Good afternoon,  
2           Commissioners, Chair Slavik. My name is Christopher  
3           Hewitt. I'm the environmental program manager for the  
4           OHMVR Division.

5           U.S. Forest Service has released a document  
6           called, "2013 Science Synthesis -- it's a long title --  
7           To Support Land and Resource Management Plan Revision  
8           in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades." We'll  
9           just call this the science synthesis report.

10          It's a synthesis of recent science relevant to  
11          forest plans in the areas relating forest and mountains  
12          in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades and the  
13          Modoc plan. The areas that are in question are found  
14          in there, which is attachment one, that is included  
15          under Tab 8 of your binder.

16          The Stewards of the Sequoia have submitted a  
17          comment letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
18          which has been cosigned by over 60 organizations and  
19          clubs representing motorized and non-motorized  
20          recreation and other land uses challenging the  
21          synthesis report.

22          Forest Service and Sierra Nevada and Southern  
23          Cascades are preparing to review and revise their plan.  
24          It's called LRMP for Land Resource Management Plans.  
25          The three most southern regions of the national

1 forests, as stated by Garrett before me, were the Inyo,  
2 the Sierra, and the Sequoia. They were selected to be  
3 the lead forests from Region Five, and this will  
4 ultimately include the rest of the 155 national forests  
5 throughout the United States.

6 The 2013 report integrates findings from a range  
7 of scientific disciplines to inform and develop the  
8 management strategies. The goal is to inform the  
9 forest planning across the synthesis area, rather than  
10 at the project level, like Garrett had said previously.  
11 What it will do is it will set the baseline, and then  
12 from there they can go to that section, depending upon  
13 the type of work, fire, forest, genetics, zoology, they  
14 can actually look at those specific areas and use some  
15 of the references that were used to form a baseline so  
16 that they can go in and do specific projects like you  
17 would do in the EIR. So if you have a project or a  
18 programmatic EIR, then what you can do is you have a  
19 base document that explains the type of restoration or  
20 work that's going to be done that will have an impact  
21 to the environment. And then from there you can tier  
22 off of that for the specific projects that are going to  
23 be done.

24 Some of the topics specifically in the document,  
25 there's a very long list that is discussed, forest

1 ecology, genetics, fire, fire fuel, fire and tribal  
2 cultural resources, post wildfire management, soils,  
3 water resources, aquatic resource systems. There is a  
4 long list of scientific parameters that have been set  
5 in the document.

6 The Stewards of the Sequoia had submitted a  
7 16-page document. And within that document, there's a  
8 list of citations that the Stewards of the Sequoia  
9 believe that are inappropriate or that could be  
10 corrected. And in that letter they have provided  
11 comments to specifically correct those potential  
12 errors.

13 The science synthesis report will be used to set  
14 direction and provide citations for the upcoming forest  
15 plan revisions. Because these concerns that were  
16 brought up by the Stewards of the Sequoias in multiple  
17 sections of the science synthesis, they believe that  
18 some of them are inaccurate. So these statements  
19 regarding those, they failed to include many sections  
20 within the document that did not discuss OHV use or any  
21 other recreational uses. It was very, very parse when  
22 it came to that. I think there was three pages total  
23 that discussed OHV use within the 504-page document,  
24 which I did read.

25 But with that, that concludes my presentation.

1 And if you'd like, I would be more than happy to  
2 entertain questions when they're appropriate.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sit down for a minute, and we'll  
4 call for public comment and then move on.

5 Public comment on this.

6 AMY GRANAT: Amy Granat, California Off-Road  
7 Vehicle Association. And I've actually provided to  
8 each one of the Commissioners part of the science  
9 synthesis so you can see exactly what we're talking  
10 about. When we first heard the name science synthesis,  
11 we weren't sure what it meant, and we called up the  
12 made up science, and to a certain extent, it is. It's  
13 problematic for a number of reasons, and Chris and  
14 Garrett I think were very, very nice about it. And I  
15 have to thank my colleague, Chris Horgan, for really  
16 pointing out some of the problems.

17 In here you'll notice on the first page it talks  
18 about engaging with forest managers and stakeholders  
19 team. I'm lucky enough to represent OHV on the Sierra  
20 Cascades Dialogues, which are a series of dialogues  
21 that take place about every two to three months. I'm  
22 on the steering committee, and I was never given this.  
23 Almost everyone else on the steering committee was  
24 given this. Representatives specifically from the  
25 Wilderness Society, Sierra Forest Legacy. There was a

1 county that was given it. We were not. We were  
2 excluded, any recreation.

3 We also met with Back Country Horsemen and  
4 Travel Limited, they were excluded, as well. The only  
5 good part about it is we weren't excluded alone. So  
6 now we've got company, and they were very nice people.

7 So when they talk about stakeholders, and they  
8 talk about the Sierra Cascades Dialogues, so far we've  
9 had two dialogues strictly devoted to recreation. One  
10 was about multiple forms of recreation, and the other  
11 was about economic recreation, and economic benefits to  
12 rural counties from recreation. None of that was  
13 reflected in this document at all.

14 One of the most interesting parts in here  
15 actually is a further on it talks about the American  
16 marten, and I don't know if any of you were on the  
17 Commission when the OHV actually funded the Commission  
18 to study the effects of OHV recreation on the American  
19 marten. Phil, do you remember that study?

20 CHIEF JENKINS: The frozen chicken study?

21 AMY GRANAT: The American marten is an indicator  
22 species for the Forest Service, kind of a little  
23 weasely sort of thing.

24 But the woman sat here and Gary Willard -- I'll  
25 never forget this -- the study proved there was no

1 impact on the American marten from proximity, from  
2 noise from OHV, from anything from OHV, but she still  
3 presented her report as: But if the situation changes,  
4 we don't know what it will be. And Gary Willard very  
5 wisely at the time said: But you've studied it on the  
6 busiest weekends, on the lightest weekends, and there  
7 is no difference in between no matter how many OHV  
8 vehicles went by their nests. And she said: Yes,  
9 that's true, but if those patterns change.

10 And sure enough, in here on your page 13,  
11 potential impacts on the marten are discussed in a  
12 separate chapter, and they do give it a whole separate  
13 chapter, but we know that there are no impacts.  
14 They're choosing to define things through their own  
15 bias. It is discrimination at its core. It's  
16 discrimination against motorized access, and this is  
17 what is important to understand.

18 I talked to Dr. Friend, who is head of Pacific  
19 Southwest Research Station, very laudable individual,  
20 but he has no concept of how, first of all, his  
21 recommendations are going to affect land use on the  
22 ground and second of all what people expect from a  
23 forest, people either in rural communities or people  
24 who come to recreate. What they expect from a forest,  
25 depending on peer-reviewed research, how much

1 peer-reviewed research do we have from off-roaders?  
2 Very little. We don't have that opportunity. Most of  
3 us aren't scientists. My husband is an engineer. We  
4 have professionals, doctors, lawyers, et cetera, but it  
5 has not been an area that has been studied extensively.  
6 So we're already on the defensive.

7 And on top of that they never point out social  
8 benefits, economic benefit, ecological benefits, and  
9 they don't want to. So what do we do? We have to  
10 force people. We have to make them understand that OHV  
11 recreation is a valid form of recreation, and I told  
12 Dr. Friend this, but he said if it causes impacts. I  
13 said where are your studies on mitigation of impacts or  
14 management of impacts. They are not in here. On every  
15 other area, they talk about mitigation techniques and  
16 management techniques, not when he refers to OHV or  
17 recreation. All we're asking for is to be fair.

18 There was a conference call two days ago with  
19 representatives from the House Natural Resources  
20 Committee. Chris Horgan got so angry that he contacted  
21 Congresswoman McCarthy, who is very interested in the  
22 issues. And on the House Natural Resources Committee,  
23 Pacific Southern Region Station got called on the  
24 carpet.

25 I've offered to meet with him, educate his

1 people. No response back. It's unconscionable. And  
2 the biggest blow of all is that the whole OHV Division  
3 and the OHMVR Commission, you weren't consulted.  
4 Nobody asked you anything. The biggest supporter in  
5 money, in dollars of the Forest Service in California  
6 is the OHV Grant Trust Fund. For years and years and  
7 years, I couldn't even add how many millions,  
8 \$14 million a year alone went into travel management,  
9 14.1, why was this not noted?

10 And when we get upset, they say, well, we have  
11 been working with Sierra Forest Legacy for such a long  
12 time, and we know they understand forest issues.  
13 That's another way of saying: We don't think you're  
14 too smart.

15 Well, I've got news for them. We are smart.  
16 We're getting political more and more every day. We  
17 are getting contacts. But because our money seems to  
18 be taken very readily, I've never seen them refuse a  
19 grant, they have never come and said, oh, it's the OHV  
20 Commission, we're not going to take your \$3 million, we  
21 have to force them to listen to us, and we need your  
22 help to do that.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Amy, your time has been up for  
24 some time, and I understand it's an important subject.

25 Does anybody want to donate time to Amy to

1 continue this conversation? Do you have more to say.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She can have my time.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She can have all my time.

4 AMY GRANAT: I want you to understand that this  
5 study, it says on one of the earlier pages, it says:  
6 This information will be valuable and be used in all  
7 the other areas except perhaps the Great Basin. So  
8 what they're doing here, Pacific Southwest Research  
9 Station is going to echo throughout the country. So  
10 we're at the forefront. We can either do something or  
11 not doing something. Chris and I are fighting as hard  
12 as we can. We are really yelling, nicely,  
13 respectfully, but, you know, upset.

14 But we need the help of the Division, and we  
15 need the help of the Commission to turn this around.  
16 There are many symptoms of the disease of  
17 discrimination against OHV recreation. You're getting  
18 a clue of the disease itself, which is a  
19 discrimination. That's it. Thank you.

20 DON AMADOR: I think I'm actually going to step  
21 into another venue related to travel management Forest  
22 Service report. Don Amador, western representative for  
23 the Blue Ribbon Coalition. I think it's important when  
24 we're on a unit, I think it was important to know  
25 yesterday, that besides the BLM we also had the Forest

1 Service in attendance. I want to thank the regional  
2 office for sending their trail professional from their  
3 trail staff from the regional office to come to this  
4 meeting.

5 I also wanted to commend the Shasta/Trinity  
6 National Forest for the great travel management job  
7 they've been doing lately. Over the last couple of  
8 years, they've hired for the first time ever -- this  
9 forest has never had an OHV program, mostly been a  
10 water-based program, Trinity Lake, Shasta Lake. After  
11 their initial travel management plan, which all of us  
12 felt was inadequate, they decided to take another  
13 direction. The forest supervisor got involved, hired a  
14 trail coordinator. And as we speak today, they've got  
15 four or five post Subpart B project-level trail efforts  
16 going on throughout their forests.

17 So I just wanted to report to the Commission on  
18 a TMR forest that's actually doing some good work,  
19 doing what they promised, and hopefully you can get out  
20 and tour some of that some day. So I just wanted to  
21 give some kudos to the local Forest Service.

22 JOHN STEWART: John Stewart, California  
23 Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs.

24 I appreciate what Amy is saying, and I know  
25 everybody has their opinions on things that come up.

1 I've looked at many science synthesis that the Forest  
2 Service has generated. I don't quite share the same  
3 level of concern as expressed. And especially seeing  
4 how this science synthesis -- is it perfect? No. Does  
5 it go a little heavy on editorializing on some of its  
6 comments? Yes.

7 But I'd like to point out that the Forest  
8 Service is also, within this new planning rule, they're  
9 committed to trying to find new approaches in working  
10 with stakeholders in new ways to articulate what is  
11 going to happen.

12 This science synthesis is a collection of the  
13 present known science and data as it relates to the  
14 topical areas. Forest Service admits there are many  
15 holes in it. That's why they have created that living  
16 assessment that will go along with it. And I've  
17 checked with other forests throughout the nation,  
18 they're also going under these deals, this early  
19 adopter type basis. There are eight forests  
20 nationally, three of them in of California. Each  
21 forest is undergoing a similar science synthesis  
22 development, and a similar living assessment process,  
23 although these living assessment deal with the eco  
24 region or the landscape of the forest that they will  
25 impact. The living assessment as it is being crafted

1 is flushing out and making the science synthesis a much  
2 fuller and complete document.

3 And that is the true point of where the forest  
4 plans will develop from, is one its living assessment  
5 is complete, that is actually the science synthesis,  
6 not, you know, what is being published and put out  
7 right now is a draft that's Garrett and them, they can  
8 feel free, they can chime in and say I'm wrong, but  
9 everything that's been put out by the Forest  
10 Region Five officials is that's what coming up is this  
11 living assessment will be the science synthesis, and  
12 that will serve as the basis for the forest planning  
13 process as it moves forward.

14 I've had some extensive conversations with the  
15 Ron Pugh, the lead for the forest planning process, and  
16 that's direct from him. So like I said, I don't  
17 believe that the document as released is perfect. I  
18 see some holes in it, lack of information, and I also  
19 see a little bit heavy on editorializing. But once I  
20 get in and start reading, then the living assessment,  
21 which the Forest Service is publicizing, then that is  
22 filling in the extra holes.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Anyone else? I know there were  
24 some green cards.

25 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36. I

1 want to stay kind of generic on the Forest Service.  
2 I'm going to try my hardest to pay attention to what  
3 our new Commissioner Cabral said about civility, and  
4 it's getting harder and harder and harder with the  
5 Forest Service. And you heard me say this before.  
6 Here again, you requested Kathy Mick to be here. She's  
7 the OHV coordinator. When is the last time we've seen  
8 her? Unacceptable.

9 As Amy pointed out, the amount of money that  
10 we've given them is just -- it's got to be close to  
11 \$200 million. They can't survive without OHV money to  
12 run this OHV program in the state. We know that. We  
13 support the grants the best we can, the riding,  
14 et cetera, et cetera. But this -- no disrespect to  
15 Garrett at all, but.

16 Amy also alluded to supplemental funding that we  
17 gave to Region Five to distribute to the forest as  
18 supplemental funding so we can get this travel  
19 management program right the first time. And yet again  
20 the Forest Service has dropped the ball, and it's just  
21 like the planning rule. I haven't quite got the old  
22 planning rule down pat, okay? And it gets old, and add  
23 the litigants that are stepping in suit after suit  
24 after suit, and it seems the Forest Service, they leave  
25 a hole somewhere, they don't do their job. I hate to

1 use the word incompetence, but look at the Eldorado.  
2 There's a lot of people in this room that have never  
3 known the Eldorado that was not involved in a lawsuit  
4 filed against them for issues where they didn't follow  
5 their own rules or follow the rules that were set in  
6 place.

7 This is really getting old, and it's our money  
8 that you guys need to administer. And most of you  
9 sitting up there, may not even know about the old  
10 stakeholder program that we had, where we had Forest  
11 Service representatives, we had the partners in the  
12 room, we had the environmental community, we had the  
13 OHV community. I know some of this is rhetoric, but  
14 for the new folks that weren't there, those like  
15 myself, Nick, Don Amador, Bramham, and some of the  
16 others, promises were made and promises were not kept.

17 And it's getting old because, as Phil alluded,  
18 we are running out of money. They keep borrowing it,  
19 never paying it back. Our grant program is a joke with  
20 the dollars that were cut. We can't fund our partners,  
21 and it's almost like anti-OHV folks are attack, attack,  
22 attack, attack. So the Forest Service to me has got to  
23 be on the ball. If Kathy won't show, I'll send her a  
24 letter saying her time is done. Where is Rich  
25 Harrington when you need him? Thank you.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Commissioners.

2 CHIEF JENKINS: Can I just say one thing, Chair?

3 I just have to add in there, while I understand,  
4 Dave, your frustration neither Kathy nor Jane  
5 Arteago -- I spoke with both agencies. Because of the  
6 sequestration, all other issues aside, they just have  
7 severe limits on their ability to travel right now.

8 So with all respect, but in this case -- I know  
9 it's been a frustration for a long time, so I'm not  
10 excusing her, trying to make excuses. But this time  
11 there is a very valid reason why those two coordinators  
12 may not be here.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Maybe we ought to put a travel  
14 budget in their grant request.

15 CHIEF JENKINS: I asked about that, quite  
16 frankly. I asked BLM if we had a cost agreement on the  
17 state board commission, would that allow Jane to come  
18 to this meeting. And the answer is in this case, with  
19 the sequestration and the rules surrounding it, no.  
20 Even if there is an outside funding source, their rules  
21 coming down from Washington on travel is so strict that  
22 neither of those two individuals, even if we were  
23 funding their travel, would be allowed to come to this  
24 meeting. That's beyond their control.

25 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: What about video

1 conferencing? I mean we do a lot of them in education.  
2 She can be on the screen answering questions.

3 CHIEF JENKINS: I will approach them about that.  
4 We have video conferencing capabilities in Sacramento.  
5 Getting it sometimes in the remote locations like the  
6 hotels has been an issue in the past, but with the  
7 technology we have available now, we will perhaps work  
8 with Debbie and some others on staff and see if that's  
9 an option. That's a great suggestion.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'm an avid national  
11 Forest Service user, and I absolutely love the national  
12 forest in the State of California. Because of my  
13 constant time spent out there, I have a number of  
14 issues with the Forest Service in a lot of areas, and  
15 this is I'm going to kind of split this up into two  
16 things.

17 One would be the -- actually I kind of question,  
18 I have some notes here. I kind of question just the  
19 basic management practices. Most of the people I've  
20 met on the ground in the forest as far as the employees  
21 are incredible. They are the most helpful, awesome  
22 people that I've never run into, very knowledgeable and  
23 very much want to assist you.

24 But if you go -- and the time that the forest is  
25 most heavily used is on a Saturday or Sunday and

1 weekend, and here I look at the grant request that I  
2 just looked at here asking for all of this money for  
3 enforcement or if they want to do a riparian job  
4 because someone destroyed an area that would have been  
5 not destroyed if someone was actually there doing some  
6 enforcement work on a weekends.

7 I have no idea why the forest office is not  
8 closed on the Tuesday and Wednesday and opened over the  
9 weekends. It makes map availability problematic, which  
10 probably comes from a grant from us. What happens with  
11 that is that, you know, a box like the old-style mail  
12 box will have three or four maps of them, and most the  
13 time it's empty. I've rarely seen one filled and the  
14 offices are closed. So expecting people that are  
15 ignorant to be on trails and they're unenforced, to me  
16 I look at basic management, that doesn't make sense.

17 The other thing is that we have on the agenda on  
18 the business item, it is Section B, proposed drafting  
19 letters to the USFS regarding the USFS science  
20 synthesis. I think that's what's been presented by Amy  
21 and just some of the general feedback, yes, this is a  
22 kind of -- I haven't read the whole thing. It looks  
23 like it's a rather long document. But for a long  
24 document, it certainly doesn't have much in the way of  
25 any information as far as motor vehicle use. It's not

1 accurately accounted for in my opinion.

2           So I think maybe if we craft a letter letting  
3 them know that it's not -- and I'm not talking about  
4 just off-highway vehicles. I'm also talking to  
5 vehicles that can drive their whatever type of vehicle  
6 they want to a trailhead on the dirt road, that in my  
7 opinion is off-highway vehicle use since there's road  
8 vehicles, too. But that would be one area that I think  
9 we should note in that letter if we're going to do  
10 that.

11           And then also we may want to remind that the  
12 grants are based on a score basis at some point and  
13 this could affect their scoring if they continue to  
14 leave us out of the process.

15           CHAIR SLAVIK: Anybody else?

16           COMMISSIONER KERR: What exactly are our  
17 options?

18           CHAIR SLAVIK: I think maybe another question  
19 would be has staff been engaged in the science  
20 synthesis process at all, and where did we go from  
21 there?

22           CHIEF JENKINS: Define "engaged".

23           At this point we've been watching the process,  
24 monitoring it. Quite frankly, my response to looking  
25 at the science synthesis, looking at the information

1 that's been gathered, we tend to take an approach of if  
2 there's not enough studies in there about OHV, rather  
3 than throw rocks at the Forest Service for not  
4 including more studies about OHV, it's an honest  
5 assessment of our role in this, we've done enough to  
6 ensure that good science is being done so that it's  
7 available to the Forest Service when we go to collect a  
8 set of reports about this.

9 I was just making notes here to myself as I  
10 listened to the various comments and suggestions, and  
11 remembering over the last several years, one of our  
12 discussions in-house has been that there's not enough  
13 science, there's not enough hard science. Because one  
14 of our strategic plan goals that the Commission and  
15 Division put together, you guys approved, was that we  
16 would make data-based decisions. Right now science  
17 tends to be driven by a problem arises, somebody does  
18 some science to try to sort it out.

19 Perhaps what we should begin to do as a program  
20 together is we look at how to prioritize how we spend  
21 some of our research dollars, in other words, sweeten  
22 the pot on some of those grants, so that we can engage  
23 academics in doing proactive research about the cost  
24 benefit analysis to the environment of a wholistic OHV  
25 recreational program. For instance, if you were to

1 look at the program we looked at yesterday and looked  
2 at it on the landscape scale, what's the net benefit to  
3 the environment on that, who is doing that research.  
4 If nobody is doing it, we should be involved in trying  
5 to find people to do it, help finance to do it.

6 So we are watching from the sidelines. We have  
7 not been directly involved with the Forest Service on  
8 that project.

9 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: One of the things that  
10 Ms. Granat mentioned was that the Forest Service seems  
11 be to be regarding OHV, it's not a priority to them.  
12 That's what it seems. Is there any way that we can  
13 have somebody from the Division be part of these  
14 scientific studies so that there is a little more  
15 equity there as far as representation or how can that  
16 be accomplished?

17 CHIEF JENKINS: Just to be clear, we wouldn't be  
18 part of the studies. The studies are done by  
19 independent scientists, so we would let them do what  
20 they do. I think you're talking about assimilating how  
21 do you interpret the studies, I think is what you were  
22 getting at, and I don't know.

23 I mean we can certainly speak with the Forest  
24 Service about where they are. This is specific  
25 research by Pacific Southwest Research Station, and we

1 have had some dealings with them in the past, limited  
2 dealings, but I think the point is what we're all  
3 hoping for is objectivity in looking at all of these  
4 data.

5           Maybe I'm Pollyanish, but my starting position  
6 is that I hope that they are being objective and not  
7 subjective about it. Quite honestly, I tried to catch  
8 up on the background on this getting ready for this  
9 meeting, and I'm just not as fully informed as some of  
10 the community clearly is. So Chris has been trying to  
11 tutor me on this. I will commit to looking at it more  
12 closely and talking to our contacts in the forest.

13           But at this point I'm not prepared to say  
14 personally from me as my role here in the Division what  
15 I think we should do about this because I haven't  
16 studied it closely enough. Heard a lot of real  
17 interesting things today, but I will commit to you all  
18 is that we will take a look at it and report back in a  
19 future Commission meeting.

20           COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Just one more thing to  
21 that, is there any way that we can ask them to include  
22 the socioeconomic impacts of having people in the  
23 forest? I mean we are part of the environment, too.  
24 People, off-roaders, is there a way that they can  
25 include that, what the impacts and benefits are? Is

1 that something that can be done as well alongside the  
2 science of the environmental?

3 OHV STAFF HEWITT: If I may, Chris Hewitt,  
4 environmental program manager. That is one of the last  
5 major components of the document is a socioeconomic  
6 cultural component that is part of their study. So  
7 that is it part of their study so that it does discuss  
8 that in detail.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sylvia, real quick please because  
10 we do need to wrap up.

11 SYLVIA MILLIGAN: Sylvia Milligan, chairperson  
12 of Recreation Outdoors Coalition. I have been in the  
13 forest a number of times when they have done those  
14 surveys. Of course, I was in a jeep, and I looked at  
15 the survey. And I took it to the forest supervisor and  
16 I said: This survey is not adequate. You are asking  
17 all kinds of questions, but you just recently locked  
18 out the quads and the dirt bikes, so they have no say  
19 in this survey at all. They're afraid to come into the  
20 forest right now for fear of getting a ticket. So none  
21 of them around there to fill out these forms, and she  
22 says: Oh, you're right, I guess we screwed up.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: So it sounds like we might  
24 hear about potential research projects in the future  
25 which we have funded in the past in or out of the grant

1 program.

2           You mentioned something on the tour yesterday I  
3 wanted to kind of double check on. You said that a  
4 person applying for a grant is scored in two ways. One  
5 is the history of that organization and how successful  
6 it had been in the past, and then the other way to  
7 score is on the individual merits of the particular  
8 project they're asking for the money for.

9           So over the last couple of years, I've heard of  
10 lot of negative comments about the Forest Service and  
11 the way that they -- their performance on some of the  
12 grants that we have given them. So are they now  
13 scoring lower on their grant applications as a result  
14 of this because their organization has failed to  
15 deliver on past grant objectives?

16           CHIEF JENKINS: I think to comment on that, as  
17 the Forest Service scoring one way or another, would be  
18 an oversimplification. We do it applicant by applicant  
19 throughout the forest. So an individual forest will  
20 put in for a grant. Some of the forests have  
21 outstanding records. Somebody had commented earlier,  
22 had said they had good experience on the ground but not  
23 with on-the-ground staff.

24           Like any of organization, my own included, you  
25 go some places, you get a really strong program. You

1 go another place, it may not be quite so robust. I  
2 wouldn't generalize and say the Forest Service has done  
3 poorly.

4 COMMISSIONER KERR: There are individual forests  
5 that are suffering because of the forest --

6 CHIEF JENKINS: There are individual forests  
7 that don't score well.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. I think we need to  
9 conclude here soon. Let me finish on the Forest  
10 Service side first.

11 Chris, are you aware of the National Off-Highway  
12 Vehicle Conservation Council's information hotline if  
13 you will?

14 OHV STAFF HEWITT: No, I am not.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would suggest you look at  
16 NOHVCC.org. They're an OHV education organization  
17 essentially. They're a good resource, let me put it  
18 that way. I think there is a lot of stuff out there.  
19 There are several universities that have done surveys,  
20 OHV surveys that are peer reviewed. And the Forest  
21 Service in Region Five doesn't even know anything about  
22 it.

23 Quite frankly, this thing scares me. I've never  
24 seen yet a study done by, let's say, the Forest Service  
25 in this case, practically any agencies would do it, but

1 the Forest Service, especially where we came out  
2 anywhere near objectively ahead. We get basically  
3 screwed.

4 OHV STAFF HEWITT: The Stewards of Sequoia  
5 provided many pages of documents that were  
6 scientifically peer reviewed and were scientific  
7 studies that were done to support OHV activity and  
8 recreation in the national forest in similar types of  
9 venues that you would find in the science synthesis.  
10 What I could do is look at those and then report back.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: So they're not related?

12 OHV STAFF HEWITT: They are related, yes. And  
13 that was one of the major comments that they had to the  
14 Forest Service is that they were not peer reviewed deep  
15 enough or had not looked at what they had provided.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. Thank you. Do we need to  
17 take any action at this point?

18 I think directing staff to continue look into  
19 it. And Chris is your resource, so we've got a  
20 scientist that's doing this.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: Look harder and try to  
22 comment.

23 CHIEF JENKINS: We'd be happy to continue to  
24 look into this more deeply, talk to more members of the  
25 community out here. My apologies not being better

1 informed walking in the door here. I feel guilty now  
2 that I got that darn award up there, and I'm a little  
3 behind the eight ball.

4 But we will engage for the forest and the  
5 community and come back to the next meeting with a lot  
6 more information.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: While we're talking about the  
8 Forest Service, Item C, Eldorado National Forest draft  
9 SEIS, is there any action we want to take on that?

10 Dan, you had something to talk about?

11 OHV STAFF CANFIELD: Dan Canfield, OHMVR  
12 Division. Following up on Garrett's presentation,  
13 Commissioners you have a report in your binders behind  
14 Tab No. 9. It's a business item. Basically  
15 summarizing, the Eldorado National Forest has 42 routes  
16 that are closed as a result of some court action.  
17 Eldorado National Forest has done some additional  
18 studies and published Supplemental Environmental Impact  
19 Statement, SEIS, which is currently out for public  
20 review for April 8th. This report is included in your  
21 agenda as a business item in case the Commission wanted  
22 to take action on the supplemental EIS during the  
23 comment period.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Interest in a subcommittee to  
25 take a look at this and draft a comment letter?

1           COMMISSIONER KERR:  Yeah, there should be a  
2 letter.  We could authorize you to write it for that  
3 matter.

4           CHAIR SLAVIK:  I could write it.  You guys could  
5 draft it.

6           COMMISSIONER KERR:  Is there any discussion?  I  
7 guess there's Alternative 3 and 4 looked kind of -- I  
8 don't know which the Commission is interested in  
9 recommending.

10          CHAIR SLAVIK:  Dan, you have a comment?

11          OHV STAFF CANFIELD:  Thank you,  
12 Commissioner Kerr.  The draft supplemental EIS does  
13 have four proposed alternatives ranging from no action  
14 to providing a preferred alternative, to provide folks  
15 the opportunity to comment on one of the alternatives  
16 or a modified version of one of the alternatives is  
17 often the comment.

18          CHIEF JENKINS:  So if you'd like to have us work  
19 with you, with the subcommittee to draft a letter from  
20 the Commission, all we need is to vote on that, that we  
21 would work with subcommittee and just the general tone  
22 of the letter the subcommittee would put together.

23          CHAIR SLAVIK:  Appoint a subcommittee first.  I  
24 would be happy to be on it.

25          COMMISSIONER CABRAL:  I'm not up on this

1 subject.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm not up on it either. As a  
3 subcommittee, what we do is look at the situation, talk  
4 to Dan, talk to Chris.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'm up for that.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're not going to do this right  
7 now.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: You're the Forest Service  
9 guy.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I got you there.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: You signed up for this. So we  
12 have a subcommittee.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: We have to also vote to send  
14 the letter. I so move that the subcommittee comes up  
15 with a letter and you're authorized to send it on  
16 behalf of the entire commission.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a second, I should say.

18 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Second.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a vote.

20 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: No abstentions. Motion passes.

22 So Slavik and Cabral are on the subcommittee.

23 And we have a timeline to deal with, April 8th.

24 **AGENDA ITEM V(D, E, F) - BUSINESS ITEMS**

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Items D, E, and F, look at these,

1 and I think we can actually hold these for a later  
2 meeting. I know we talked about the weekend meeting  
3 schedule. As it so happens, our next meeting is going  
4 to be the Hangtown Motocross, and we will meet on a  
5 Friday, and the field tour will be at the motocross on  
6 the Saturday. So we can bring the subject up. I know,  
7 Don, that was something that you're interested in.

8 DON AMADOR: I have a conflict that weekend. If  
9 you don't want to address it now, I'll just send my  
10 comments.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: I understand what your issues  
12 are, and I think they are other valid issues. We'll  
13 just have a short discussion, but we're running out of  
14 time right now. Several of us have got to get to  
15 Sacramento.

16 L.A. County Staging Area was another item on the  
17 business item here. And that was basically an FYI.  
18 Subsequently after we put this on the agenda, we found  
19 out that we really can't submit a letter in support of  
20 this, okay, even though it's a great project, we all  
21 love it. And hopefully we can do some things in the  
22 future to help further the cause. We need to have some  
23 OHV in L.A. county, a dire need for a long time.

24 Any closing comments by Commissioners?

25 Call for a motion to adjourn?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMISSIONER KERR: So moved.

COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Second.

CHAIR SLAVIK: Call for a vote.

(Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

CHAIR SLAVIK: Meeting adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.)