

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

September 20, 2013

Start time at 9:00 a.m.

Orange County Fair and Event Center  
Admissions Building, The Orange County Room  
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

IN ATTENDANCE:

**OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**OHMVR COMMISSIONERS Absent: None**

**OHMVR DIVISION STAFF:**

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director  
Phil Jenkins, Chief  
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief  
Kathryn Tobias, Chief Counsel

**OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS**

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

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

3 All Commissioners present.

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

5 Commissioner Patrovsky led the meeting attendees in the  
6 Pledge of Allegiance.

7 **AGENDA ITEM II - APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Approval of the agenda.

9 COMMISSIONER KERR: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Second.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: All in favor?

12 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: The agenda is approved.

14 **AGENDA ITEM III - APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES**

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: And now we will move to the  
16 approval of the minutes. We have two minutes to  
17 approve, the May 3rd and the May 17th minutes. The  
18 May 3rd meeting was the emergency meeting for Clear  
19 Creek. Can I have a motion to approve those minutes?

20 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: So moved.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: Second.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: So approved.

23 And the May 17th meeting, the regular meeting,  
24 do we have a motion to approve those minutes?

25 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: So moved.

1 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER KERR: Abstain.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: So moved.

4 **AGENDA ITEM IV - COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

5 CHAIR SLAVIK: Commissioner reports.

6 Commissioner Cabral, would you like to start? And then  
7 we'll move down the table.

8 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I'll keep it brief because  
9 we have a time schedule today. I just wanted to let  
10 the people know that I've engaged with the Forest  
11 Service on a number of different issues, and it's been  
12 a real good exchange. And I have to say I'm really  
13 excited about the attitude between the different  
14 agencies. And there's some areas we have been talking  
15 about, everything from the Statewide OHV Trail to  
16 reclassification of different types of roads and also  
17 volunteerism and just how we, as the OHV side, can help  
18 the Forest Service and vice versa. And I would have to  
19 say that we'll be seeing some bigger things coming, and  
20 I'll have a more detailed report in the future.

21 Other than that, I also had the opportunity to  
22 go down to the Clear Creek Management Area for an event  
23 to kind of showcase what's going on and give us a  
24 background on everything there. I went with  
25 Commissioner Perez. That situation is -- I don't know.

1 I guess I'll put it in plain English. It's kind of in  
2 this situation where the EPA kind of has the say on  
3 what's going on there, where everything is at, and they  
4 aren't going to budge.

5 So it looks like the legislative approach for  
6 the law change that Congressman Farr wants to propose  
7 is going to be the best avenue to be able to get that  
8 turned back into an OHV opportunity for Californians.  
9 And looking at the facility -- I've used it before.  
10 I've ridden there. But to look at it from a different  
11 perspective, like from a law/congress perspective or  
12 from a perspective of someone who doesn't know ATV,  
13 OHV -- it's just a waste of an area for it to be  
14 sitting there and nothing going on.

15 The whole community has been affected, and I  
16 really want to see that area be -- that situation  
17 change. So I just would like to urge anyone in the  
18 crowd that's interested in that area to contact  
19 Congressman Farr's office and to be proactive. To do  
20 nothing is not going to help the situation. It's going  
21 to be a political process to get that open again. And  
22 I think that's something that one needs to be engaged  
23 in that side of that.

24 I'll leave my report at that.

25 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: I'll keep my comments

1 very brief. I met with Ken Anderson, the assistant for  
2 my local county supervisor, Robert Lovingood,  
3 represents the First District San Bernardino County.  
4 And the County is going to be putting together its own  
5 OHV Commission to take a look at the existing ordinance  
6 and see how it can be approved or modified.

7 And I've also been doing some things trying to  
8 help the BLM's law enforcement program, which I retired  
9 from ten years ago.

10 That's about all I have to report.

11 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: On August 14th and 15th,  
12 Diana and I were scheduled to do a lot of meetings in  
13 Sacramento, so I was able to schedule a lot of meetings  
14 for us. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend  
15 meetings with the Senate and Assembly, with key staff,  
16 but Diana was able to attend, and she'll elaborate more  
17 on that.

18 Also, set up meetings with staff from the Latino  
19 Caucus and then we have a follow-up tour scheduled for  
20 October 3rd with key staff from the Senate Budget  
21 Committee, Catherine Freeman, dealing with Oceano  
22 Dunes.

23 The purpose of our meetings were to discuss the  
24 paycheck that the State needs to do for the Off-Highway  
25 Vehicle Division, and Diana was able to take letters

1 from the Department of Justice that just constituted  
2 that we're not out of line in requesting our paybacks.  
3 And I know in today's meeting we'll be discussing that  
4 effort, but I did want to alert the Commission that  
5 I've made contact and numerous follow-ups with both key  
6 staff and key members -- staff of Assembly and Senate  
7 Budget Committees to make progress on that effort.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: I don't have a lot to  
9 report, but I did want to share some personal  
10 experiences with the Commissioners and staff.

11 There is kind of a movement right now among the  
12 equipment manufacturers, in particular some of the  
13 other companies, to bring new riders into the sport,  
14 whether it be on-road or off-road, a lot of entry-level  
15 bikes being sold right now. I'm sure you're familiar  
16 with that. There is one from Honda.

17 So I've had a lot of people who have just  
18 actually gotten their motorcycle license that don't  
19 feel comfortable riding on the street yet that have  
20 asked me about opportunities to learn more how to ride.  
21 And, of course, a lot of those people don't own dirt  
22 bikes.

23 And so I think going forward, you know, we're  
24 sort of stuck with our existing facilities, maybe we  
25 will get a facility in San Diego one of these days, but

1 generally we're making improvements to our existing  
2 parks, which we have many wonderful resources.

3           And I'm just wondering if there is a way that we  
4 could eventually have some bike rental concessionaires  
5 or some kind of opportunity for first-time riders,  
6 whether they be licensed for the street or whether it  
7 be younger kids, to kind of get their feet wet in the  
8 sport. And I think if we could provide that in some  
9 kind of -- you know, a vendor that could do that for us  
10 or however we end up doing it, that we would benefit  
11 greatly, and we would be a greater service to  
12 California's motorcycle community in particular. And  
13 I'm assuming that some of the manufacturers would see  
14 this is a positive thing and might want to help us out.  
15 So a suggestion for a future initiative and agenda  
16 items.

17           Thank you.

18           CHAIR SLAVIK: First of all, I'd like to thank  
19 folks from the Sand Sports Super Show to allow us to  
20 come here and integrate our meeting into their events.  
21 It's a huge event. In particular, Don Murphy, who is  
22 kind of the brainchild of the thing, and Sean Parker,  
23 she's the left-hand person for Don. Amazing people,  
24 really put a heck of a show together. You'll get a  
25 chance to see that at the tour that you should sign up

1 for this afternoon.

2 Also, Bob Mason with American Sand Association,  
3 they both have a great story to tell. Bob Mason is  
4 going to be here after the close of the meeting today  
5 to give a short presentation on what the American Sand  
6 Association is all about.

7 Moving down, I went to a site visit at  
8 San Gabriel Canyon, which is an L.A. County run small  
9 park with OHV grant funds, and Rob Edelman, who is here  
10 today, who is kind of on the lead of that thing, and he  
11 had a lot of law enforcement and other folks there to  
12 talk about that. He'll give a short presentation here  
13 later on today.

14 I had an opportunity -- Brian Robertson invited  
15 me to come on the Rubicon in the Jeeper's Jamboree. It  
16 was an awesome opportunity. I guess we are going to  
17 have some pictures here that Debbie has got.

18 (Viewing slideshow.)

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: So this is coming down from the  
20 Tahoe side down Cadillac Hill. Go back there are for a  
21 second, if you will. Aaron Robertson, the second in  
22 command of State Parks, was on this tour as well with  
23 Deputy Director Chris Conlin and myself. Brian  
24 Robinson put on a heck of a show there for us. And  
25 I'll tell you, I have a lot of respect for Aaron

1 Robertson. He slept on the ground on the rocks in a  
2 sleeping bag. And I don't think we would have got that  
3 a few years ago from State Parks.

4 That was the sheriff if you just saw that real  
5 quick. He was guarding that trailer right there. We  
6 had great weather. About 500 people were down at the  
7 bottom of Rubicon Springs. And this is the  
8 interpretive folks. And that's Brian, The Bear,  
9 Robinson in that bear outfit. They were talking about  
10 how to deal with bears in the woods. And that was our  
11 sleeping quarters there. And that's coming out on the  
12 second day.

13 So really fun event, well attended. People from  
14 all over the world literally come to this event. This  
15 is a lookout point. That was a great opportunity. And  
16 I have to thank Brian and his team for helping to put  
17 that all together.

18 Tina Williams and myself -- Tina Williams is on  
19 staff up in Sacramento -- came down here when we did  
20 some pre-meeting work here for the Sand Sport Super  
21 Show. We had an opportunity to meet with Senator Mimi  
22 Walters -- and actually met with her staff, not the  
23 senator herself, but presented the OHV program tours  
24 that they had absolutely really no knowledge of what  
25 OHV was about within the State Parks system, very

1 little knowledge I'll say. But the staffer that we  
2 talked to, Martin Payne, is going to be here later  
3 today to make presentations actually to several of the  
4 nonprofits that are represented here today, just give  
5 them a little atta-boy pat on the back. They offered  
6 to do that, and we accepted that. We thought this  
7 would be a great opportunity.

8 I also attended another L.A. County meeting on a  
9 new park that L.A. County is trying to put forward.  
10 It's in the town of Little Rock, right outside of the  
11 little community of Little Rock. And once again Rob is  
12 going to do a presentation on that a little bit later.  
13 We had a meeting downtown L.A. about a week ago on  
14 that.

15 I have to say I sent invitations to several of  
16 the local legislators, personally contacted them to try  
17 to be here today. They're all too busy.

18 And last thing I have is I live real close to  
19 Huntington State Beach, and we all know that the  
20 General has been asking for State Parks to look for new  
21 ways for revenue. Well, there was a rave in Huntington  
22 State Beach. I had never seen anything like this.  
23 They were charging anywhere from \$55 to \$150 a head to  
24 get into this thing. They had people lined up all the  
25 way up and down Coast Highway. And when I went by just

1 the evening before it started, the parking lot was  
2 full. So I hope we got a good cut out of that. Maybe  
3 they wouldn't have to take money away from us again.

4 There's going to be some VIPs here in a little  
5 bit -- I consider them VIPs. Dan Knapp from L.A.  
6 Conservation Corps is going to be here a little bit  
7 later. I'd like you folks to kind of talk to them,  
8 especially some of the staffers. They actually have --  
9 part of their organization is based in Tehachapi. And  
10 if we get that Onyx acquisition going, they might be a  
11 good resource available to us, but he will be here  
12 later on today.

13 Paul Vitrano is here from ROHVA. And I'm going  
14 to mention Gary Higgins from American Honda is here,  
15 too. They're sitting next to each other. And then the  
16 staffer from Mimi Walters' office will be here later  
17 on, Martin Payne.

18 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: As Commissioner Cabral  
19 mentioned, we were on the tour of Clear Creek, and it  
20 was my first visit there, and I certainly was very  
21 appreciative of General Jackson, Deputy Director  
22 Conlin. It was a great tour for me, and I was very  
23 pleased with the level of support from Congressman Farr  
24 and some of the things that he said about the park and  
25 what he was hoping would occur there. And so that was

1 a great tour.

2 I recently read that I guess a tourist there  
3 found some benitoite gems, some sort of gem that was  
4 found there. Commissioner Cabral, I think we missed  
5 that, didn't find any gems when we were there. But it  
6 was definitely a great tour. Definitely agree with  
7 you, and there needs to be some follow-up and  
8 conversations to ensure that we've moving forward at  
9 Clear Creek.

10 I also attended the funeral for the late Paul  
11 Teixeira, who was the supervisor at San Luis Obispo  
12 County. He was a supervisor that I was working with  
13 who wanted to work with us. He wanted to resolve some  
14 of the challenges at Oceano Dunes. Unfortunately, he  
15 passed away. And I know that they haven't selected a  
16 replacement for him. So I think in the area, we're  
17 certainly looking forward to seeing if maybe we can  
18 continue to move forward at Oceano Dunes. But it was a  
19 huge loss for that county to lose him. He was someone  
20 who wanted to work with everyone and kind of move  
21 forward, and I do miss him. He was a great man.

22 Also, I've reached out to a lot of locals over  
23 the past year, but I made an extra effort to reach out  
24 to the director of the Sierra Club, Andrew Christie. I  
25 called him. I let him know that I was available if he

1 had any concerns. I know that he has written about me  
2 a couple of times, so I thought, hey, if you have some  
3 questions, please call me. I'd be more than happy to  
4 talk with you and work with you. And he said, yes, but  
5 he never really called me back. And so since he's  
6 reading the Commission meetings, I want to let him know  
7 I'm still available if he wants to give me a call. I'd  
8 like to talk to him.

9 And Commissioner Villegas mentioned -- I did  
10 miss you on that tour; you left me out there. But it  
11 was great to meet with legislators. I did ask about  
12 the repayment of the loans. I had some great  
13 conversations.

14 I also met with Deputy Director Conlin who  
15 provided me some great information, just a little more  
16 background on our history, and I did some of that  
17 reading. I also met with Chief Aaron Robertson. And  
18 as Commissioner Villegas mentioned, we do have a tour  
19 for Oceano Dunes set up for Catherine Freeman, who is  
20 an analyst for the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.  
21 So we're looking forward to taking her out and showing  
22 her one of our parks.

23 And there might be a couple of things, but I  
24 want to keep my comments brief, I think.

25 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I just want to thank

1 everybody for being here today. I don't have anything  
2 to report this time.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, Commissioners. It's  
4 really good to see the Commissioners engaged in what's  
5 going on out there in the real world.

6 The way this works, for some of you that haven't  
7 been here, we will have business items coming up.  
8 You'll see the agenda we have is available in the back  
9 of the room. And at the end of those individual  
10 business items, if you filled out the green form,  
11 you'll be able to -- and give them to Vicki. She's got  
12 a bunch of them already. They're in the back of the  
13 room. You'll be able to come up to the podium and,  
14 please, three minutes. That's something that we've  
15 decided a long time ago. We have to keep these  
16 meetings somewhat in order, and so we need to restrict  
17 your comments to three minutes.

18 Now, the business items themselves when the  
19 presenters come up, they have longer to make those  
20 presentations. When the public comment period comes,  
21 which will be right at eleven o'clock, as close as we  
22 can make it to eleven o'clock, if you've filled out the  
23 blue forms, you'll be able to come up and say basically  
24 anything you'd like. And once again restrict it to  
25 three minutes, but it doesn't have to be business

1 items. It's non-agenda items.

2 We are going to try and move this meeting along  
3 as quickly as possible because we're going to gavel the  
4 meeting at about 2:30 -- was that the time frame we  
5 looked at? We'll have a presentation by ASA after  
6 that, and then we will go on a tour. We're going to  
7 break the tour up into at least two groups, and we're  
8 going to meet at the green gate over here. So at the  
9 end of the meeting, we'll talk about that, right? This  
10 is a preliminary thing. If you guys are here, you  
11 folks are here, you're welcome to go on that tour.  
12 It's an awesome opportunity to see what's going on, and  
13 your green sticker funds are paying for it.

14 **AGENDA ITEM V - BUSINESS ITEMS - Triennial Report**

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: Moving along, business items.  
16 Tomorrow we have been graciously asked to participate  
17 in a meet and greet by the people who run the Sand Show  
18 here, and there's an area called the Courtyard. There  
19 will be signs directing you there. What we're doing is  
20 we're trying to engage the public that are at this  
21 actual show. And we're going to have two Commissioners  
22 and an expert at each table, and each table will be  
23 identified with a particular topic. It might be  
24 legislation, the acquisition -- I'm not remembering  
25 all. There are four topics, legal issues.

1           You're invited to come there and spend as much  
2 time as you'd like talking to Commissioners and the  
3 people that are at the table. And we're hoping for a  
4 good exchange of ideas. And our job here as  
5 Commissioners is to interface with you the public and  
6 turn that information back to staff. And then  
7 hopefully something will happen in Sacramento some day.

8           So having said that, let's move on to the  
9 business item. First one is the Triennial Report.

10           OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Hello, Commissioners, Dan  
11 Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presenting  
12 on the agenda business item for the Triennial OHV  
13 Program Report, my report, which we've also been  
14 referring to as the 2014 Report.

15           As previously reported to the Commission, this  
16 report is due to the Governor and the Legislature on or  
17 before January 1st, 2014, so coming up pretty quick.  
18 You have a report in your binders behind Tab No. 4.  
19 The report is also made available to the public on the  
20 back table. A preliminary draft of the 2014 Report has  
21 been provided to the Commissioners, posted up onto the  
22 Division's website, and I believe we have some copies  
23 for review on the back table as well for the public.

24           A Commission Subcommittee has been formed to  
25 help work on the staff report, and that Subcommittee is

1 Chair Slavik and Commissioner Perez. This preliminary  
2 draft contains content developed by several authors  
3 from the Division, the districts and the SVRAs. It  
4 also has several editors that have been working on this  
5 document as well. And this editorial work was ongoing  
6 right up until the point where we had to stop to print  
7 and publish it for the purpose of this meeting.

8 The report is a work in progress. Some  
9 representative photos have been provided, but ideally  
10 the final report will have a much stronger photo  
11 report. Several charts and graphic elements are under  
12 development. They just weren't far enough along to be  
13 in the preliminary draft. You'll see them in the next  
14 draft we review.

15 Additional content is also under development for  
16 Report Requirement 2 and 3. The content was not far  
17 enough along for the editorial process to be included,  
18 but, again, you'll see that in your next draft.

19 This agenda item is a business item on the  
20 schedule to allow the Commission to discuss the  
21 preliminary draft, receive public comment, and then  
22 provide direction back to the Division on how to move  
23 forward.

24 Of particular interest to the folks at the  
25 Division that are working on this document would be --

1 some items of particular interest would be a single  
2 overriding strategic theme that we could use to tie the  
3 various sections together. That would be very helpful  
4 if we could have discussion on that topic.

5 If there is any content in the preliminary draft  
6 the Commissioners believe needs to be further  
7 developed, that would be very valuable for us to hear.  
8 If there is information that the Commissioners believe  
9 needs to be in this report but you're not seeing it,  
10 let us know.

11 Also, as a follow-up to the conversation at the  
12 last Commission meeting, the discussion was that it  
13 would be desirable to have a summary document, a second  
14 document that would be more of a glossy executive  
15 summary in addition to the formal report that meets the  
16 legal requirement.

17 So as we're working on the 2014 Report, if  
18 there's certain content that the Commissioners think  
19 would be valuable to be put into that executive  
20 summary, that would be something great for us to hear  
21 as we start thinking about how that second summary  
22 document would look like.

23 At this point I'd like to turn it back over to  
24 the Commission for discussion and to receive public  
25 comment. I would suggest that when you get into the

1 discussion and the feedback back to the Division, you  
2 might want to tackle it section by section. We have an  
3 introduction. We have an overview, and then section  
4 one, two, three, four, five, six. It might help  
5 provide some structure for the discussion and the  
6 feedback.

7 That was all I had. If you have any questions,  
8 I will be happy to answer them.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, Dan. Obviously, this  
10 is a huge undertaking.

11 For the people in the audience who maybe have  
12 not had an opportunity to see this report, the last  
13 report, it's a very comprehensive document that pretty  
14 much has details of the complete program, the OHV  
15 program in California. If you get a chance to ever go  
16 through this thing when you have some time, it's  
17 astounding how much there is going on in California  
18 relating to OHV.

19 So having said that, anybody want to start  
20 discussion on this report? Anything they'd like to see  
21 different?

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: I just had one comment. As  
23 I was going through the document, I wanted to see more  
24 about attendance, and so I thought -- you know how you  
25 have sort of a graphic at the very beginning about each

1 SVRA. So, for example, Oceano Dunes, tons of people,  
2 that would be nice so have that fact quite upfront.  
3 And then I was actually curious to compare how  
4 Hollister attendance relates to Carnegie, et cetera,  
5 et cetera.

6 So I'm assuming we want to put things in the  
7 best light. So I know we had a little dip in  
8 attendance a few years ago, and I'll leave that to  
9 staff to consider that issue, but I do think we should  
10 know what the public participation is that we bring to  
11 the various SVRAs.

12 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Perhaps a comparison  
13 chart?

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: Something about attendance,  
15 something easy to understand if somebody is searching  
16 us on the Internet or legislator is reading this  
17 document.

18 And, by the way, my congratulations on a job  
19 well done so far. I think this is a very valuable  
20 reference document and one that I'll keep close at  
21 hand.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think that's a good point.  
23 Just looking at Clay Pit here, for instance, that  
24 attendance information could be right there in that  
25 little green box. It would be easy place to put it.

1 I was told yesterday that Oceano Dunes has twice  
2 the visitor count of San Simeon, one of the crown parks  
3 of California. I think that's an astounding number,  
4 and I would like to see that up front somewhere, too,  
5 like in the introduction saying this is what OHV is  
6 about in California, real popular activity.

7 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Should attendance be its  
8 own section, just like Dan said, some kind of graphic  
9 and some kind of comparison to see? Instead of putting  
10 it on the individual pages of the individual parks,  
11 have it a separate --

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: A summary.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: You can have that, too. But  
14 I think just like you're going to meet somebody -- you  
15 know, what is the description of me. I'm  
16 six-foot-five, blue eyes, 210 pounds.

17 It's like what's the elevator pitch on  
18 Hollister, so many thousand acres. It's got this many  
19 people that go to it every year. At least get it  
20 there, and then do what you're talking about possibly  
21 more detail.

22 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Let's do both and then at  
23 the next draft, Commissioners can take a look at it and  
24 determine if you like where we are headed.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: And that's a good point for the

1 executive summary, too, I think.

2 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I was going to say that  
3 could be in the executive summary, because typically if  
4 we're going to be showcasing our parks, that's what  
5 folks are going to want to see quickly. How many,  
6 attendance, who, usually that's what they want to know.

7 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: How much money.

8 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Sure, that as well. I  
9 actually took the time to compare the previous report  
10 with this one, and I was pleased to see it was shaved  
11 by 50 two-sided, or 100 pages, so that was well done.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's not finished.

13 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Exactly, then I heard you  
14 said they're going to add some pages back. But I'm  
15 glad to hear you say, Dan, that you are going to add  
16 some pages back. I sort of miss some of the maps.  
17 There was one in particular that I really liked that  
18 was one -- I can't find it right now, but it's the  
19 California map with all of the SVRAs. That one is  
20 one --

21 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: That will be included in  
22 the next draft.

23 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I'm not sure if the other  
24 maps -- they seem helpful. I'm not sure if they're  
25 necessary, but definitely that one of the SVRAs would

1 be a good one.

2 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I haven't had the  
3 opportunity to read it word for word yet, but I was  
4 wondering if there's a plan, or if it's in here and I  
5 haven't seen it, as far as having an economic impact of  
6 OHV use in the State of California.

7 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: In the introduction  
8 section of the report is a brief feature on the  
9 economic impact. I think it's one that could be beefed  
10 up, but it's near the front of the guide, and it  
11 touches somewhat on the visitation and some of the most  
12 recent economic impact reports that have been  
13 conducted. And so that's in the introduction section  
14 of the draft. I think it could be further developed.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, because I think  
16 that's a pretty hot topic right now. Especially in the  
17 rural areas, that's a very important issue. For them  
18 to have that information available to them would be  
19 beneficial to them.

20 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: I agree completely. I  
21 believe the current draft talks about things like the  
22 Jeepers' Jamboree and the various bits on the Rubicon  
23 that brings folks to Placer County, El Dorado County,  
24 or the King of the Hammers, which brings folks to San  
25 Bernardino County and the community of Twentynine

1 Palms. That's mentioned, but I think we could expand  
2 upon that.

3 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: And also I agree with  
4 Commissioner Kerr, this is a real nice document you  
5 have so far. It's very good. Thank you.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Just following up on that, I  
7 would say I read that economic information in there,  
8 and it seemed a little confusing. Somebody may take  
9 some of those numbers and say, getting this number over  
10 here but they've got another number over there in the  
11 billions here. It needs to be maybe kind of  
12 constructed more so that we -- so it's defensible, I  
13 guess would be the word.

14 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: We could do that, more  
15 logical construction. And, again, I think a chart or  
16 graph would be going in there, too, to help. A lot of  
17 times that helps folks to wrap their mind around the  
18 content.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: I want to thank the Motorcycle  
20 Industry Council for providing some of that  
21 information.

22 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Yes, thank you. They  
23 were very helpful. Thank you, Chair Slavik, for  
24 putting me in touch with them.

25 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I would just like to say I

1 would really like to see the photos you've included to  
2 highlight the family aspect of OHV, because that is a  
3 huge part of who we are and what we do. And I'd also  
4 like to see the pictures you have of the natural  
5 resources, the wildlife and such that exist in the  
6 parks. So I like that, that's good.

7 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: So some more of that?

8 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Yes. You've got to see  
9 motorcycles in there; that's what it's about. It's  
10 good to see the other side.

11 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: It's all about the  
12 balance.

13 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I was pleased that you  
14 included the natural resources for all of our parks  
15 because it dovetails with some of the information that  
16 we'll be talking about today with our general plan  
17 updates. And if there is any additional information,  
18 like best management practices, for each of the parks,  
19 maybe that should be included in here because we do so  
20 much work at our parks.

21 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Definitely, I think that  
22 can fit into Report Requirement No. 4 where we talk  
23 about resource monitoring and restoration work at the  
24 SVRAs. And perhaps a discussion of how Hungry Valley  
25 does their monitoring, how that's different than how

1 Carnegie does their bird monitoring, that type of  
2 discussion?

3 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I think that will relate  
4 to the uses of the park and how we go about being good  
5 stewards of our parks.

6 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Very good.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: I didn't read every word of it  
8 either, but I did come across a mention of cultural  
9 diversity. I'm not sure exactly how it's stated there.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: Cultural resources or  
11 diversity?

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Diversity as far as people that  
13 are visiting the park, and I think it might be  
14 something that we want to look at for the Hispanic  
15 community, for instance, how much more they are  
16 engaging in this kind of activity. And I know that's  
17 pretty important in California, but that could be  
18 something right up front, who are our visitors and  
19 what's the mix.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: What do they look like.

21 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I thought that possibly  
22 could be done during analysis of attendance. Since  
23 we're already asking to be included on that, I thought  
24 about that but I thought I would ask it off-line.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: An example of that, L.A. County,

1 their San Gabriel Off-Highway Vehicle Area is probably  
2 80 to 90 percent Hispanic attendance. And that's a  
3 cultural shift from 15, 20 years ago, for sure.

4 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I think that's a trend  
5 for a lot of our parks, and this report will be going  
6 to the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife, and the chair  
7 is Latino, and he's from Los Angeles. We also have to  
8 know our audience and who will be receiving this.

9 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: And I want to agree with  
10 Commissioner Murphy, we can maybe show that with some  
11 pictures with maybe more diverse crowds, kids. I'd  
12 like to see more of that, as well.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Are we hitting it hard enough  
14 about where we don't have places to ride? Going  
15 through this document, we touch on it, but I wonder if  
16 we need to hit that harder.

17 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Possibly, based on the  
18 Commission's direction. The Report Requirement No. 6,  
19 it's like other relevant program latent environmental  
20 issues that have arisen since the last program report.

21 Currently there is a discussion of the  
22 Twentynine Palms Military Base expansion into Johnson  
23 Valley, some of the issues that we're experiencing with  
24 air quality. And perhaps that section could be one  
25 where we could expand upon the trend in reduction of

1 opportunity.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: I kind of think it needs to be up  
3 front, Dan, in the introduction where you're kind of  
4 painting the picture, especially for the executive  
5 summary, that we have these parks, we have this  
6 acreage, we have places for people to ride -- how many  
7 people are in California now?

8 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Thirty-eight million.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: We have 38 million people, and  
10 we've determined something like 14 percent of those  
11 people are engaged in OHV activities at some point.

12 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Yes.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: We have those numbers. And so  
14 what we have doesn't even close -- especially in the  
15 rural areas especially around here. The highest  
16 population of green sticker purchasers are in L.A.  
17 County and Orange County, and there is no place for  
18 them to ride, almost no place.

19 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Very few.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'd like to see that hit pretty  
21 hard.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: I agree with Paul. So, for  
23 example, we know that San Diego County is underserved,  
24 and there is probably a way to graphically show the  
25 green sticker registrations and then co-locate that in

1 a graph with the facilities that we operate.

2 Now, I agree with Commissioner Slavik. We could  
3 always use more acreage, but I think what we need to do  
4 is get very specific, because this is really a  
5 document, in my mind, that will be used in approaching  
6 the legislators and dealing with some of these issues  
7 at a state government level. So we could say, okay,  
8 look here is how the registrations lay out and here is  
9 where the facilities are, we clearly have a deficit in  
10 your district or in your part of the state. And then  
11 maybe we can finally get a couple of parks here in L.A.  
12 and also in San Diego. So I think that's the point.  
13 And to do that, you don't want to bury it in the other  
14 section.

15 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Understood.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: You want to create a summary  
17 of registration and facilities around the state.

18 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: It sounds like great  
19 content for the executive summary document.

20 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Just to add to that, and  
21 if everybody else is in agreement, my opinion is that  
22 we should couple that with the expansion that has  
23 happened in OHV use in the last 10, 15 and 20 years,  
24 because we need to show the reason why we need more  
25 area and because the areas that we do have are being

1 heavily impacted by increased use. And from an  
2 environmental point of view, it's going to be easier on  
3 the environment if we're able to disperse that activity  
4 out over a larger area.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Actually, I think I'd like  
6 to dovetail a couple of ideas together with this, and  
7 that is I think discussing a need for more urban-type  
8 parks instead of rural parks.

9 And I think that what Commissioner Kerr was  
10 speaking about earlier with his comments about the  
11 beginners and children as far as having an area that  
12 they can ride, I think the dirt bike training center  
13 that exists at Prairie City is a good example of  
14 something that could fit into urban areas. I think  
15 that's something that's a big need, to be able to train  
16 the youth and beginners on not how to operate the  
17 vehicles properly and to know how to read terrain, but  
18 to know how to be responsible as far as the environment  
19 and have good stewardship of the land and such.

20 And like in the executive summary, that would be  
21 a good place to point out an area of potential growth  
22 of the OHV program. We would get our most bang for the  
23 buck as far as educating people and being able to get  
24 them to be safer when they're out riding.

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: Was there a reason to not include

1 Clear Creek in the last Report Requirement No. 6 where  
2 you had the Johnson Valley? Was there a reason we  
3 didn't put Clear Creek in there?

4 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Not particularly.  
5 Certainly, this would be a great opportunity. If that  
6 is something that you'd like to get added in there, we  
7 can add a discussion on the Clear Creek issue.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: What do the Commissioners think  
9 about that? If you look back at that section, they  
10 talk about some of the big environmental issues facing  
11 the program, and we had a whole meeting just for that.

12 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: That's where it would fit  
13 logically.

14 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I think that should be in  
15 there.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Well, you may have a comment.  
17 Are we waving a flag we don't want to wave?

18 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I think the point of  
19 this report is to provide an update on our parks.  
20 Clear Creek is a partnership that we have with the BLM.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: Johnson Valley is in there.

22 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: It's an update on the  
23 system that does include the SVRAs, the BLM land, the  
24 Forest Service and local parks. So the report does  
25 cover the statewide system.

1           COMMISSIONER MURPHY: We need to keep it on the  
2 table.

3           CHAIR SLAVIK: It might be something that Farr  
4 could use.

5           COMMISSIONER KERR: You can pick your battles.  
6 I think we can probably make headway on the urban parks  
7 in San Diego, but it's going to take an act of Congress  
8 to fix Clear Creek.

9           COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Keep it in the  
10 conversation.

11          CHIEF JENKINS: If I may, so we had talks with  
12 BLM about the potential future of Clear Creek and where  
13 it's all going. I think it would be fair -- what I  
14 might suggest to you all is that we just mention in  
15 there a bit about how we've gotten to where we are,  
16 just as a little note of this is where we are in the  
17 process. Because the word we're getting from BLM --  
18 and, Chris, correct me if I'm wrong, we were all in  
19 that same meeting -- is they are where they are because  
20 of health regulations and trying to make sure that  
21 they're protecting the health of the community. So as  
22 a public agency responsible for public health that's  
23 where things have gone.

24           They haven't completely ruled out the potential  
25 in the future, based on some of the suggestions that

1 various members of the community and Division have come  
2 up with about ways to potentially mitigate. They  
3 haven't ruled out the possibility of looking at future  
4 opportunity there if everything can be solved.

5 So it is worth, I would suggest, keeping it in  
6 the conversation, but not in a pushy kind of way, more  
7 as there is a potential for future opportunity if all  
8 of these things can be resolved, if EPA concerns can be  
9 addressed, et cetera. That way at least it's there as  
10 a footnote.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: Maybe with the numbers of people  
12 that did recreate there in the heyday, too, and now  
13 they have nowhere to go.

14 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think I would say that  
15 falls in line with your comments about exploring other  
16 opportunities, looking at where rider density is versus  
17 where opportunities are, making the point without  
18 belaboring it that we do have examples of where we've  
19 had encroachment or we've had closures of some areas,  
20 and as a result that's compressing the lands that we do  
21 use.

22 That allows you then to put more information on  
23 that probably in the thick report that we're doing,  
24 kind of the data heavy report, and then you could make  
25 some appropriate comments in the executive summary

1 somewhere, kind of eye catchy things of over the past  
2 three years we see that rider opportunity has decreased  
3 by this percentage.

4 We are looking for opportunities. The  
5 opportunities we see that have the greatest potential  
6 are closer to population density centers where people  
7 already have green stickers. We'd like to open up more  
8 opportunity for them. And some of the things that  
9 Breene said, maybe there are opportunities with  
10 motorcycle new rider training or some things like that  
11 that we haven't fully explored, but we need to start  
12 taking a look at. So does that make sense?

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: We need to move on. If anybody  
14 has any closing comments on the report?

15 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Would you like to open it  
16 up to public comment?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Sure. Commissioners, we're good  
18 with that?

19 Public comment on the Triennial Report only,  
20 please.

21 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON TRIENNIAL REPORT**

22 DAVE PICKETT: Good morning, Commissioners,  
23 Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee.

24 I've printed out the draft myself and have been  
25 taking a quick look. I haven't read the entire

1 document word for word, but I think it's a great start.  
2 It is a draft. I had a couple of comments that I'll be  
3 passing on to Mr. Canfield for consideration, but since  
4 we're here and we are talking about it, I'll throw out  
5 a couple of things.

6 One is the comment that Teresa and Diana made.  
7 I think there needs to be more emphasis on education  
8 within this document. We only get a shot every three  
9 years, and that would be follow the money. More  
10 clarification and detail on the outstanding loans so it  
11 can be addressed as people like myself go to the  
12 Legislature and talk to these folks. Being able to  
13 point to it, saying we've got \$200 million. We have a  
14 billion dollar budget and the Governor is talking about  
15 a surplus, write me a check, that type of direction.

16 Bureau of State Audit guidelines, maybe an  
17 appendix in the back to show how many audits have been  
18 done going back to the early one in '76, which was  
19 mentioned in the 2011 report.

20 Grants, emphasis on our partnerships and the  
21 total dollars that have gone to BLM and United States  
22 Forest Service so we can show that California residents  
23 are benefitting from these partnerships.

24 CHP, again, through green sticker and red  
25 sticker registration fees, that percentage that goes to

1 CHP, which indirectly we really don't get a lot of  
2 benefit unless there is a fatal, and then the leading  
3 law enforcement agency in that situation, but it is  
4 \$4 million a year after year after year, after year.

5 And clarification of the legal definition of  
6 fungible and non-fungible funds, which Senator Leno  
7 used at the Senate hearings a couple of years ago that  
8 took the \$10 million off the top. That's in AB 95, and  
9 there is no sunset. But if you go back and look at the  
10 text of the subcommittee hearings, it said it could be  
11 reviewed for removal. I would like to see the  
12 Commission move forward on that, perhaps place emphasis  
13 in the 2014 Report.

14 Thank you.

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

18 From some of the discussion by the  
19 Commissioners, I'm encouraged about what the content of  
20 the report will be. I'd like to highlight three areas  
21 that I find very important that I'll be looking at.

22 One of them is social impacts. This deals with  
23 attendance, which was mentioned, but it's also who is  
24 the recreationist that is out there and participating.  
25 A good clear description of that would be very

1 important.

2 Economic issues, the advent of OHV recreation  
3 has a significant impact on economics within the state.  
4 Those economics extend from the local community where  
5 people live out to the rural communities where people  
6 recreate.

7 Then there's one other big one that really bears  
8 a lot of attention, and that one is a description of  
9 the Statewide Trail System, which is inclusive of  
10 SVRAs, the BLM and Forest Service OHV areas, and the  
11 trails that are on the public lands managed by Forest  
12 Service and BLM. Commissioner Kerr mentioned the fact  
13 of acres. Well, it's not always in terms of acres.  
14 It's got to be acres and the lost opportunity with  
15 changing land management issues, but it's also miles of  
16 trail system, because some of the open areas do require  
17 acres of land for recreation, but there's also miles of  
18 trail systems that are a very important part of the  
19 overall trail system within the state.

20 And, lastly, when you look at this is that I  
21 would encourage you look at some of the pressures that  
22 will be coming forth that will potentially adversely  
23 impact the recreation opportunities, such as pending  
24 wilderness designation bills, which will take trails  
25 out of the public use availability.

1           And to wrap it up, like I said, the  
2 socioeconomic issues are very important, along with  
3 keeping in mind it is a state trail system that has a  
4 significant impact and interaction with federal  
5 partners and local partners.

6           Thank you.

7           ED WALDHEIM: Ed Waldheim, past commissioner,  
8 ten years on the Commission working on the grants, and  
9 I congratulate you folks being up here. Sorry I've  
10 been gone. I've been doing other things. I've been  
11 working on the ground where the difference takes place,  
12 where the rubber meets the road.

13           On this proposed, so the 165 pages, I just  
14 downloaded and just briefly wanted to echo what John  
15 Stewart said about a state motorized trail system. I'm  
16 so absolutely delighted that Sara has been assigned to  
17 work on this program. Thank you, Paul, and thank you,  
18 Chris, for having her work on that. It's long, long  
19 overdue.

20           East County project, page 43, Dan, I would like  
21 you to please remove the derogatory or negative  
22 comments on the second paragraph. The area there is  
23 well managed. It is not "not imagined." I take great  
24 offense that you continue to say that you're going to  
25 come and save the day for us. We don't need you to

1 save the day. We need you to help us where we have  
2 deficiencies, and we have deficiencies from law  
3 enforcement. So to say in this report that by having  
4 you be in there, you're going to make the thing better,  
5 those words need to be changed a little bit.

6 The other thing is the OHV program. For you  
7 Commissioners who may not realize, the opportunity for  
8 the State of California is not through the SVRAs.  
9 Eighty percent of the opportunity is on public lands.  
10 Eighty percent of the landmass is on public lands, not  
11 SVRAs. I can take all of the SVRAs and put them in  
12 Jawbone/Dove Springs, 211,000 acres, I can put all the  
13 SVRAs in Jawbone, and I do all of the trails on that.  
14 I manage 1200 miles of trails. I cover over a million  
15 acres for the Jawbone/Dove Springs for the Bureau of  
16 Land Management.

17 Let me tell you that SVRAs are important, yes,  
18 but they should not be a total focus of this report.  
19 Our opportunity is in the public lands, and we keep  
20 missing that boat terribly. Without the public lands,  
21 we would be in one big hurt. So this report needs to  
22 highlight that in graphs. It needs to highlight the  
23 success stories of the Grants Program that  
24 Sixto Fernandez and his staff is running. There is no  
25 better staff than those folks on the Grants Program.

1           We are not playing up to the successes that we  
2 have. Friends of Jawbone and our staff would be more  
3 than happy to provide you documents of successes. Dan  
4 Canfield can get ahold of Sundance Media, and he'll get  
5 all of the brass, all of the statistics, before and  
6 after pictures. It's an incredible success story that  
7 we know how to manage public lands.

8           That needs to be shown here, because the  
9 legislators do not like to give money to the federal  
10 government. They don't understand the federal  
11 government owns the land. All we're doing is helping  
12 to provide funds to recreate in the area. It's a good  
13 partnership, but the legislators need to understand  
14 that. And this report has to really highlight the  
15 importance of the public lands.

16           Thank you.

17           JIM BRAMHAM: Jim Bramham, former commissioner  
18 as well, and always difficult to follow Ed.

19           But I actually wanted to take up his cause on  
20 the visitation, the economic benefits of the areas that  
21 are supported by grants and cooperative agreements. I  
22 think that needs to be highlighted in this document.  
23 When we did this Triennial Report when I was on the  
24 Commission, we tried to emphasize that, not to the  
25 exclusion of the SVRAs, but certainly as a common cause

1 for recreation. They're huge to the rural economics.

2 And Paul Slavik said the 14.7 percent of the  
3 state participants in the OHV recreation. That was the  
4 largest easy sale we were ever able to use to the  
5 Legislature, because they did not recognize how many  
6 people in the state of California used OHV recreation.  
7 And that simple number -- and I would hope that we  
8 would research that number to a current number to find  
9 out what the percentage of Californians are that  
10 participate in OHV recreation.

11 The other one is the ancillary benefits of OHV  
12 recreation to the tax base of California. The DMV  
13 registrations that go not only through green sticker  
14 but the tow vehicles, the RVs and so on. The sales tax  
15 that's generated by the sales of those vehicles that  
16 goes into the General Fund.

17 And we know how much gas is used for OHV because  
18 we have a gas tax study that supplies the economics to  
19 this. An easy calculation will give you the amount of  
20 sales tax that's generated from the sales of that fuel  
21 that do not go to our program, they go directly to the  
22 General Fund for the County and the State, and I would  
23 hope that we can put all of those into this report.

24 Thank you for your work.

25 TOM TAMMONE: Thank you. Tom Tammone, speaking

1 as an individual.

2 Ed Waldheim's comments about the SVRAs, I  
3 recently moved to San Diego County, and Ocotillo Wells  
4 is a major opportunity there. I would say it's one  
5 short landmass at the time being limited to the sand  
6 sports, the latest fight, which really sort of drilled  
7 home just how important it is to the County.

8 I wish the County would get involved in the city  
9 governance out there, would actually get involved with  
10 providing some opportunity. I'm glad to see that the  
11 Division is moving in that direction, and it needs to  
12 be expanded on. North County San Diego, like in the  
13 Carlsbad, Tri-City area, there's nothing. I work in a  
14 dealership, and a lot of the guys there have bikes,  
15 dirt bikes. They're out riding them somewhere. I  
16 guess I'll call it a no contest trespass basis. There  
17 is little opportunity up there. It needs to be  
18 explored.

19 The sheriff's department out there keeps asking  
20 for law enforcement money, and there's no opportunity.  
21 I'd like to see some balance in some of these counties  
22 that -- Riverside County, too, they're offering no  
23 opportunity but their law enforcement people are out  
24 there begging for money to deal with the problems they  
25 have.

1           Need to strive for more of a balance there. And  
2 the city and the county governments need to get more  
3 involved with what we're doing. Where I live in the  
4 complex, there are a lot of guys that have dirt bikes  
5 in their garages and no trailer or trucks to move them.  
6 They're out riding them somewhere. I hear them start  
7 it up; I hear them leave. I haven't asked them where  
8 they're going yet, but they're going somewhere.

9           So we need to sort of be a little more realistic  
10 and get some of these county and city governments  
11 involved in providing some recreation. And as far as  
12 the federal land, there's some BLM crossover with  
13 Ocotillo Wells. There's Glamis and Forest Service,  
14 North County and Palomar Ranger District, there is  
15 basically one level-two road that you can ride on, and  
16 that's basically it. So definitely a lot of work needs  
17 to be done, especially in Orange County and San Diego.  
18 Thank you.

19           CHAIR SLAVIK: It's almost ten o'clock, probably  
20 be a good time to take a quick ten-minute break. How  
21 is that? Then we will come back and try and get  
22 through the Deputy Director's Reports and public  
23 comment at eleven o'clock.

24 (Returned at 10:11 from a break beginning at 10:00.)

25 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A) - DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thank you very much. First  
2 off, I want to welcome everybody here. I want to give  
3 a very big thanks to the Commission for supporting us  
4 in all the ways that you do, for providing us that  
5 critical oversight, and also for your interest in  
6 things. I know all of you get out on the road a lot.  
7 You check on things, and even your presence in some of  
8 these areas, be it State Vehicle Recreation Areas or  
9 out in the federal land where we have the program  
10 going, that's invaluable. It really shows that you  
11 care.

12           I want to thank all of our hosts here. We've  
13 got quite the laundry list, the Sand Sports Super Show  
14 folks, the American Sand Association, United Desert  
15 Gateway, the Orange County Fair Event Center that  
16 hosted us here today in this beautiful building. I  
17 want to thank the OHV staff who again exceeded  
18 expectations in putting this together, kind of a  
19 distant venue and something new for us on kind of a  
20 commercial place like this.

21           I also want to thank all of the public  
22 attendees. Thank you all for coming on out here. If  
23 you stay, you get a little bit of a reward, because you  
24 do get a tour of the Sand Sports Super Show. I  
25 understand many of you have come from a long way away.

1 Your input is invaluable, and thank you so much for  
2 coming here.

3 I also want to thank our partners. We've got  
4 folks from Bureau of Land Management here, and Forest  
5 Service in particular gave us a big showing. We've got  
6 the California Director of Public Services here, Ramiro  
7 Villalvazo. And I want to thank you, Ramiro, for  
8 coming on out here and making this presence. We really  
9 appreciate you taking the time out of your day to do  
10 this. So thank you again to everybody for your  
11 participation.

12 We are going to try and make this an efficient  
13 meeting because we do have the tour coming up later on  
14 today, but that is not to the exception of public  
15 comment. And I would remind you again, although it is  
16 not considered a public forum, for those of you that  
17 are attending the Sand Sport Super Show tomorrow and  
18 any of your friends are going to be there, please let  
19 them know a meet and greet will be out there. That is  
20 a listening venue. That is an opportunity for you to  
21 provide direct input to the Commissioners as well as  
22 the key staff that will be out there. I'll be there.  
23 A lot of us will be sitting at the tables, so a good  
24 opportunity to talk to us one on one and give us your  
25 thoughts in more detail than three minutes up at the

1 microphone that you get today, okay?

2 So, again, thank you very much for everybody's  
3 participation. I think first up we've got budget from  
4 Maria.

5 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) - GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE - BUDGET**

6 OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: Good morning,  
7 Commissioners, Maria Mowrey, OHV Administrative Chief.  
8 I'm here to give you a brief update on the budget.

9 The 2013/14 budget was signed by Governor Brown  
10 on 2/27/2013. It provides \$59 million for support of  
11 the Division and district SVRAs. \$26 million was  
12 appropriated for local assistance grants and  
13 cooperative agreements, and no new projects were  
14 approved for capital outlay; however, there were two  
15 projects that were re-appropriated, including  
16 \$30 million for a Southern California opportunity  
17 purchase and the continuation of the Carnegie Road  
18 Reconstruction Project of \$600,000. Of note also,  
19 there has been the extension of one of the loans back  
20 in 2010. The \$21 million loan was extended for the  
21 repayment from June 30th, 2014 to June 30th, 2016.

22 Included in the report, which you have in your  
23 binder and also copies in the back, we provided an  
24 update of all of the capital outlay projects that are  
25 currently underway, and that concludes my report.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions on the budget?

2 COMMISSIONER KERR: So why was the Hollister  
3 Hills project delayed until next year? It's funded in  
4 this budget, but why wasn't it done this summer?

5 OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: I have Matthew Allen  
6 here. He can speak to the Hollister project.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: Because that's a whole --  
8 another year we've got to wait for this water system,  
9 sewer system.

10 DISTRICT MANAGER ALLEN: Matthew Allen with  
11 Hollister Hills, District Services Manager.

12 When the Department of Finance approved to go  
13 out to bid for the project in August, the bid process  
14 is a three-month process which would put us into around  
15 November for construction start date, which is also the  
16 start of our busy season. And because we're impacting  
17 all three campgrounds in the Lower Ranch, we asked if  
18 we can put it off until spring to start the bid  
19 process. And then the construction will start in  
20 June when the park has very low visitation and hardly  
21 any impact to the visitors.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: So this was the Finance  
23 Department that delayed your bid process?

24 DISTRICT MANAGER ALLEN: We asked the Department  
25 of Finance if we could delay.

1           COMMISSIONER KERR: The delay to August, which  
2 basically makes you miss the window.

3           DISTRICT MANAGER ALLEN: As long as it goes out  
4 to bid this fiscal year, so we're going to bid sometime  
5 in March, and the construction will still start in  
6 fiscal year 2013/14.

7           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: So we can't ask for the bid  
8 until we get the money. We didn't get the money, so  
9 it's one of those things. Timing-wise it works out  
10 better for them to do it --

11           COMMISSIONER KERR: I agree with that. It's too  
12 busy in Hollister in the summer anyway.

13           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: But the good news is we got  
14 the money. We're going to be able to do the project.  
15 That's the good news. In fact, Hollister made out  
16 pretty darn well this year as far as the funding.

17           COMMISSIONER KERR: Yeah, I was pleased with the  
18 Governor's budget. The problem is you didn't get the  
19 money until August.

20           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: One of those quirks of when  
21 we get awarded, so.

22           CHAIR SLAVIK: Question I have about capital  
23 outlay, that \$30 million I assume for the Onyx  
24 purchase, is that going to be enough? And we're  
25 probably going to talk about that later.

1           OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: Yes, that will be  
2 another report that Dan gives, but that money was  
3 re-appropriated for the Onyx purchase.

4           CHAIR SLAVIK: And that's going to be sufficient  
5 when we go back and reevaluate that property,  
6 reappraise it?

7           OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: I think for the  
8 current purchase it will be sufficient.

9           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We will get into more  
10 specifics when Dan gives the reports. But as far as  
11 we've been able to project, that's the right amount for  
12 now.

13           COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I was just wondering if  
14 there was any more detailed information on the loan  
15 transfers, other than just that the date moved.

16           OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: Yes, I think in your  
17 binder there is a copy of -- it's called, "Addendum A,  
18 OHV Trust Fund Loans Transfers and Redirects." It  
19 actually lists all of the amounts, the language from  
20 the budget acts and repayment dates.

21           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: And that's a really good  
22 tool if you are in a position where you're able to talk  
23 to some of our legislators. It's a really good tool to  
24 use because that kind of lays out the whole legal  
25 discussion of the loans and when they can be paid out

1 and what the terms are and everything else.

2 It is our intention, and we're getting backing  
3 from the Department on this, to go back and come up  
4 essentially with a repayment plan for the loans. I  
5 think all of us understand, nobody is going to come out  
6 and pull a check out for \$131 million and just hand  
7 that over in one day. But we can come up with a  
8 fiscally responsive repayment plan.

9 And that is going to be critical for us. And if  
10 we don't do that, then we're going to start showing red  
11 on our accounts, and we're very concerned about that.  
12 And it won't show red for a few years, but we want to  
13 make sure we're being fiscally sound, so we're going to  
14 be going back to the Legislature and basically trying  
15 to hold people's feet to the fire to try to get this  
16 loan repayment done.

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Thank you for the  
19 report, and thank you for the additional information  
20 that you provided on the budget. That was really  
21 clear.

22 I just wanted to know maybe for going into the  
23 new fiscal year -- we're already in it, going into the  
24 new year in January or maybe in our December meeting,  
25 if you could kind of paint the picture of the projects

1 that are pending, the projects that are in queue, the  
2 projects that will be included in this fiscal budget,  
3 like some of them were mentioned, and then the projects  
4 that -- just where they're at, if I'm making myself  
5 clear.

6 OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: I think you are.

7 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Kind of like a big  
8 picture so we have context. Because the information  
9 that you gave here said that there are major projects  
10 and minor projects. And just kind of a clarification  
11 in terms of what does minor projects mean. Is it still  
12 that they need to go to DGS or what's that process?

13 OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: Oh, sure, I can have  
14 that spelled out a little bit more.

15 Unfortunately, if there are projects in the  
16 works and we do not have appropriation for that, we  
17 don't know what projects are going to be given to us  
18 until after the Governor's budget is --

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: Right, but kind of painting  
20 that picture, this is what we have and this is what we  
21 need.

22 OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: Our needs, our  
23 wants, desires.

24 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Yes. And I know that  
25 our needs are probably going to be as you included in

1 the report of like your minor projects or your major  
2 projects, and those are funded or not funded, but just  
3 kind of paint the picture of what we have been  
4 receiving. And I know you're trying to do that in  
5 writing, but maybe like in a pie chart or something.

6 OHMVR ADMIN. CHIEF MOWREY: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER KERR: So, Chris, I kind of feel  
8 like this project out in the Mojave has been pushed  
9 forward. I know that was a major goal of everybody,  
10 including the General, to make sure that money got  
11 re-appropriated. Unfortunately, now that's taking all  
12 of the oxygen out of the room, and now we have a  
13 situation where no other acquisitions were in the  
14 budget this year. And I don't live in San Diego  
15 County, okay? So this is more I'm speaking in my  
16 fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of San Diego  
17 County.

18 When are we going to do something about  
19 Bottle Peak, and what strategy are we going to take on  
20 that? Do we want the local government to apply for an  
21 acquisition grant? I think we need to do something in  
22 San Diego County and potentially in L.A. County, as  
23 well. And I just wonder how we're working on it, and  
24 can we get everybody pushing the same direction on  
25 these acquisitions so we can open up at least one more

1 park in Southern California sometime in the next five  
2 years.

3 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thanks, Breene. The Onyx  
4 Ranch purchase is not to the detriment of the other  
5 ones. Those are still on the list. We are still  
6 looking at them. We're looking at them for opportunity  
7 purchases. Dan can get into the specifics of where  
8 they are on there.

9 The simple issue with the Onyx Ranch, we had  
10 that money, we needed to utilize it, and this is a good  
11 purchase for us. This opportunity, this window, is  
12 going to shut for us pretty soon, not just for the  
13 funding but for several things that lined up pretty  
14 well, the cost of the land, backing from the BOD on  
15 this, the support from several groups like the Sierra  
16 Club because of what we're doing to protect some of the  
17 wildlife out there. So good opportunity time for us on  
18 that, not to the exception of some of these other  
19 places which we're still looking at and we're still  
20 trying to line up funding for. We're still trying to  
21 line up programs. So I would reassure that we're  
22 looking very heavily at that.

23 And as far as the Department is concerned, while  
24 they have sort of a moratorium right now on creating  
25 new parks, they have not done that to us. We are being

1 encouraged where we see opportunities to go forth and  
2 try to find those. And the General's concept is that  
3 he wants very much to open up more urban-type parks,  
4 more places where people can get into the system close  
5 in the city, so we have a lot of backing right there.

6 So it's really more of a mechanics issue right  
7 now, just trying to get all of the things in place and  
8 be able to do some of these other acquisitions. We're  
9 looking at that, and Dan can discuss more of that in  
10 detail.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: There's a couple individuals in  
12 here -- Ed Waldheim, Bob Hamm, and Jim Bramham -- I  
13 think that have been here for a long time and know how  
14 hard we've had -- we've tried to get places in  
15 San Diego. I mean there were places there that looked  
16 really good and got shot down for the most bizarre  
17 reasons. It's not that the Division hasn't been  
18 trying. And if you talk to those folks down there,  
19 they may not know the big picture. But, Ed, I've been  
20 there, right? One was right on the border.

21 ED WALDHEIM: The board of supervisors and the  
22 city council people, those are the ones that killed it.

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: It was the local politicians. We  
24 had places right on the border where we could have been  
25 an asset to the security of this country, and they

1 wouldn't let us go in there.

2 Anything else on the budget?

3 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I just wanted to say I  
4 enjoyed this chart. I like these.

5 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: It lays it all out.

6 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes, it does. It's great.  
7 And I'm certainly in favor of providing expansion  
8 opportunities for our OHV recreationists; however, at  
9 times I have to think about: What about Clay Pit? I  
10 know we completed the general plan and the follow-up  
11 with what happens to that particular area, because it  
12 seems to me like we've got the Carnegie Tesla area.  
13 And at some point, I'd like to see some of these areas  
14 kind of completed. And not that I'm not against  
15 expansion, but sometimes it's like maybe we need to  
16 take care of what we need to take care of now, I mean  
17 our current parks. Just a thought.

18 CHIEF JENKINS: And that's a really good point,  
19 and just know that we are developing plans. So once  
20 you all approved the General Plan for Clay Pit, we  
21 began working with our service center to take those  
22 concepts and turn those into concrete projects. Once  
23 we have them laid out, we really have a handle on the  
24 costs and the permitting and all of the various things  
25 that would have to be done, you know, project-specific

1 CEQA, all of those things, then we'll submit it through  
2 the budget process and try to get it funded.

3 We are in that pipeline. But you can see a real  
4 definitive, much more concrete in this case -- actual  
5 concrete example of that. If you were to go out to  
6 Heber Dunes, after you all approved that plan for Heber  
7 Dunes, we jumped right on that. They're well into the  
8 project there of creating a new visitor serving area,  
9 new support facilities, a lot of great stuff going on  
10 in Heber Dunes.

11 So point taken, and we are working on it, and  
12 we'll perhaps give you a more detailed update in the  
13 future so you guys can see what the results of your  
14 efforts were there.

15 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Good to hear that. Thank  
16 you.

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: This is maybe a little bit  
18 of a reach here, but I'm concerned kind of with the  
19 overall, the big picture of this. I just don't see how  
20 sustainable the OHV program is currently, especially  
21 when the State also is using us kind of us a bank  
22 account at times. And I know that we have the green  
23 sticker program. That's a partial part of the funding  
24 of this, and I also know that a lot of the OHV users in  
25 the state of California don't have green stickers

1 because they are driving a street legal vehicle. Now,  
2 when it's a four-wheel drive truck or a motorcycle,  
3 they don't have the -- even if they choose, I guess  
4 they can dual register the vehicle, but that creates a  
5 lot of confusion at DMV, because I've been there and  
6 done that.

7 And I think that it would be wise if we could  
8 come up with a way to create a funding stream for those  
9 types of vehicles that are applicable with -- through  
10 DMV, some type of license plate, specialized plate or  
11 something that would be able to mimic what the green  
12 sticker does so to continue to be able to generate some  
13 more funds from actual users, not from everybody, but  
14 something along those lines. So that's something I  
15 wanted to -- like I said, a little bit of a reach.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: Finally a vote for the  
17 special license tags.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: I just had a thought about we  
19 were talking about urban parks, we keep talking about  
20 urban parks. We've talked about them for years and  
21 years. Why don't we put together some kind of an  
22 action team or some kind of a process that can address  
23 the acquisition of urban parks in some of these big  
24 counties, these big urban counties, where we have a  
25 team that can go in and sit down with the supervisor

1 staff, whatever, make presentations, talk about the  
2 need, if the funding source is available for them,  
3 et cetera, et cetera. Because there is a lot of brown  
4 fields out there, a lot of industrial parks and stuff  
5 where we can find a couple of acres. I know they're  
6 there, but nobody has really made a big effort, at  
7 least from our standpoint that I can remember, to  
8 really make that a cause celebre, if you will.

9 CHIEF JENKINS: When we get to the Grants  
10 report, I think there's three projects highlighted that  
11 are looking at that sort of thing. So we'll describe  
12 that a little bit more when we get there, so another  
13 good point, point well taken.

14 Perhaps we can work with you more closely. We  
15 do send teams around the state, both from Grants and  
16 law enforcement, and meet with local community leaders  
17 about opportunities to address concerns. In other  
18 words, we are often meeting with law enforcement  
19 because they're seeing illegal use and like to develop  
20 legal use or meeting with county officials who are in  
21 the same position.

22 We've had some of that going on in a background  
23 way constantly throughout the program, but I think I'm  
24 hearing from you is we might want to highlight that,  
25 put a little more emphasis be that. So we'd be happy

1 to work with you on that.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: So are we going to take public  
3 comment at the end of the budget or end of this whole  
4 section?

5 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think we're going to do  
6 it at the end of the whole section.

7 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) - GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE - EASTERN**

8 **KERN COUNTY ACQUISITION**

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: So next is Eastern Kern County  
10 Acquisition.

11 Thank you, Maria.

12 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Hello, Commissioners.  
13 Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager,  
14 presenting the report on the Proposed Eastern Kern  
15 County Land Acquisition, the project formerly known as  
16 Onyx Ranch. A report is provided in your binder behind  
17 Tab No. 5, second blue divider.

18 The Division is making great progress towards  
19 our acquisition. As Maria Mowrey identified, the  
20 funding for the acquisition was re-appropriated in the  
21 13/14 Budget Act. The Division is working through the  
22 state acquisition process and, as we work with staff,  
23 with California's Public Works Board, to move towards  
24 their approval of the project.

25 We're finalizing the CEQA EIR, and that will be

1 published very soon. And as we move forward with the  
2 acquisition, that was my main comment. But I would  
3 like to point out tomorrow at the meet and greet inside  
4 of the Sand Sports Super Show, one of the tables there  
5 will be a main topic of opportunity. I would encourage  
6 the public and Commissioners to engage, and we can  
7 discuss this project in that venue, as well.

8 Any questions?

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Moving on, we spent a lot of time  
10 on this in the past. Thank you.

11 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) - GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE - Oceano**

12 **Dunes PMRP UPDATE**

13 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Oceano Dunes.

14 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: Good morning,  
15 Commissioners. I'm Brent Marshall. I'm the new  
16 district superintendent for Oceano Dunes District and  
17 here to give you an information update on the  
18 Particulate Matter Reduction Plan in San Luis Obispo  
19 County.

20 You have the report in your binder. It is  
21 behind the third blue tab there, a general overview and  
22 history. As most of you are aware, we have about 3,600  
23 acres in the dunes complex under our purview, about  
24 1,500 of that is open for off-highway vehicle use. And  
25 we closed a little bit more of that for the return of

1 the snowy plover habitat, as well. We have -- a  
2 little bit less than a third of that area is open to  
3 off-highway vehicle recreation.

4 The Air Pollution Control District identifies  
5 the OHV use in this third as the primary source of  
6 elevated particulate matter; therefore, they issued a  
7 rule in November 2011, which we refer to as Rule 1001.  
8 This rule established a rigorous compliance schedule,  
9 and failure to meet the schedule can result in fines up  
10 to \$1,000 a day.

11 We haven't recognized any of those fines yet  
12 because OHV and APCD staff are working to address the  
13 concerns outlined in Rule 1001, and today we have met  
14 all of the tasks outlined by the compliance schedule.  
15 So that was worked on with a tremendous amount of  
16 effort.

17 That includes projects with the temporary  
18 monitoring towers and equipment that you see here.  
19 Beautiful Oceano Dunes, makes me want to head up north  
20 right now. So you can see some of the technical  
21 equipment there and some of the -- just briefly I'll go  
22 off script here real quick, and I'll also be available  
23 afterwards for questions.

24 But we've got a Coastal Commission permit to do  
25 a temporary monitoring site. Temporary is identified

1 as trailers and things that can move. So you see  
2 things with raised platforms with wheels up in the air.  
3 But because we're experts in the dunes, and anybody  
4 that has been out there -- I know we have quite a few  
5 people, but those dunes are very dynamic. So there's a  
6 wind shear that's going on underneath those. So  
7 because of the sensitive monitoring equipment, it had  
8 to be completely perpendicular and very specific.

9 So what you see there, then, is four beams that  
10 are driven 12 feet into the ground to make sure as the  
11 wind shear occurs that those tires aren't resting on  
12 the sand and then tilting, thereby negating the  
13 scientific information that we're receiving.

14 So, again, I can answer more questions on that  
15 if you would like. So there's some sand moving right  
16 there, as it should in an open sand sheet that's been  
17 there over a thousand years.

18 So we didn't receive any additional staff, but  
19 there were significant costs associated with this  
20 process, including purchasing equipment, permits from  
21 other agencies as I referred to, and retaining the  
22 services of contractors to collect and assess some of  
23 this data.

24 So the time period has closed from the temporary  
25 monitoring stuff. So right now, as we speak, we are

1 removing some of the equipment, and we are analyzing  
2 the raw data. We don't have anything available at this  
3 time; however, once we are able to present something,  
4 we'll be available online as well as in a future  
5 report, if you so request.

6           So despite our longstanding successes that we've  
7 had over the last couple of years since November 2011,  
8 there are some concerns about future compliance  
9 schedules and deadlines, and less than reasonable  
10 agency review time periods is one example. So there  
11 might be something in the rule that says you'll  
12 apply -- I don't want to pick on any one entity, but  
13 referring to the Coastal Commission, which has a very  
14 tough job and they go through a lot of different  
15 filters, you might say you apply for this permit and  
16 then the next month you start on the project. Well, if  
17 the Coastal Commission doesn't approve that, and as we  
18 all know, it can take 90 up to 180 days -- sometimes  
19 even nine months to get on their agenda, then that  
20 would put us outside of the compliance of the rule.

21           So we are submitting our permits, and we've done  
22 our completed staff work, and now the next step is on  
23 an agency outside of our purview; however, we are held  
24 accountable for that and, as I said, could receive  
25 fines. It's a complex process but we are working

1 through it.

2 Another concern is the inclusion of Rule 302,  
3 which falls under that 1001 rule, and that was narrowly  
4 passed by the Air Pollution Control Board on  
5 December 5. So this rule includes a requirement for a  
6 permit to operate, and permit fees could bring with it  
7 an additional cost of approximately \$50,000 a year in  
8 operating expenses.

9 This is a concern that has been elevated to a  
10 fairly high level of state government and the Resources  
11 Secretary has been briefed on issues surrounding this,  
12 as well. Currently, the AG's Office, as stated here in  
13 the report, is filing a petition to the Court of  
14 Appeals requesting a stay of our pending appeal in  
15 order to conduct mediation with the California Air  
16 Resources Board. And some of those suggestions may  
17 include -- and, again, this is conjecture here, but  
18 there are other options that have proven very efficient  
19 and cost-effective, such as MOUs with other agencies.

20 So we have additional SVRAs in the state, which  
21 I'm not an expert in those areas. I'm an onsite  
22 manager for Oceano Dunes, but I do understand that  
23 there have been much more efficient and have been able  
24 to provide public service in a more expeditious manner,  
25 and that's what we're here for.

1           So in summary, despite the concerns of the  
2 timeline and the legality of Rule 1001 that has kind of  
3 precluded us from providing the best public services  
4 that we could and best business practices -- the rule  
5 was based on contested and questioned scientific  
6 analysis.

7           But despite all of those concerns, we've met all  
8 of our deadlines and requirements to the agency. And  
9 the success that has been achieved by the innovation  
10 and the dedication of Oceano Dunes staff, which I'm  
11 very proud to present here today -- tremendous effort  
12 over the last couple of months with the 40-plus  
13 permanent employees and dozens of seasonals being  
14 dedicated to this. We're still busy this summer.  
15 Their workload didn't decrease, but we were able to  
16 meet the timelines.

17           And also the tremendous effort and support of  
18 Division staff. And it was just too many contracts and  
19 too many irons in the fire. Our admin staff was able  
20 to contact Maria's staff, and she was able to help us  
21 with getting some of these contracts in place so we  
22 could get stuff on the ground. So all of that support  
23 is greatly appreciated. And we wouldn't have the  
24 success we've had without their cooperation and also  
25 the cooperation of very concerned and external allied

1 agencies, because this is a precedent-setting  
2 situation, and the outcomes will affect all of us in  
3 the room and everyone in the state at some level.

4 I'm confident we're going to move forward with  
5 the best science and policies to assure positive  
6 outcomes. At the end of the day there are people on  
7 the mesa that have concerns about the air quality, and  
8 we're a public agency, and we're concerned about that,  
9 as well. We're going to be instituting this wind  
10 mapping that we've had out there. We're going to be  
11 efficient and effective in helping our neighbors  
12 downwind.

13 If you have any questions, I'm available. And  
14 also I'd to invite everybody out there to the dunes.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: And you'll be available at the  
16 round tables tomorrow, correct?

17 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: I'll be at the meet  
18 and greet. That's from 11:00 to 2:00. I'll be at the  
19 resources area; although, I'm not obviously a resources  
20 expert, I've gotten a crash course in management. And  
21 we will have some people with credentials to be  
22 resources experts. And I can also talk about the  
23 management. I have a very complex situation with many  
24 agencies and many political entities and significant  
25 public input in the area.

1           So happy to answer any questions, as well.

2           COMMISSIONER PEREZ: I don't know if you would  
3 be able to answer this question or not, but with  
4 Rule 302 and its recent passing, the permit says that  
5 it does not regulate the operation of the park. So I  
6 guess my concern is when I read permit to operate, in  
7 the future if it was ever revoked, could it ever be  
8 seen as a permit to not operate? I mean the perception  
9 of the permit to operate I think is a bit of a concern  
10 for me.

11           DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: As I said, this is  
12 precedent setting, so this is of a concern to a lot of  
13 folks. I will say that it's obviously above the level  
14 of the onsite manager, but I'm participating in those.  
15 And Director Conlin has been in conversations, and we  
16 have legal on there, and Kathryn is giving us great  
17 advice moving forward.

18           And I don't know if Deputy Director Conlin would  
19 like to speak on that.

20           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: In fact, I would. Thank  
21 you. So the language of the permit itself really even  
22 as defined by the Air Pollution Control Officer in the  
23 last meeting is more semantics than real.

24           Our concern is much more with Rule 1001, which  
25 defines the SVRA as a pollution-creating entity in and

1 of itself, and then states that there has to be a  
2 permit to operate that state entity. That's what's the  
3 greatest concern, and that's the unprecedented part  
4 that we're hearing from on Brent's side. And that's  
5 why it's caught the attention of Natural Resources. It  
6 has caught the attention of CARB, California Air  
7 Resources Board, and the Attorney General and several  
8 others. So this has implications not only for Oceano  
9 Dunes but across the state for state-owned entities,  
10 any state-owned entity, be it a park, be it schools, I  
11 mean anything.

12 So it's one thing to issue a permit for a piece  
13 of machinery, and you can shut down the machinery and  
14 maybe it does have detrimental impact to your operation  
15 of a state entity, maybe it doesn't. It's a whole --  
16 another deal to state that a state entity in and of  
17 itself, a park, is a pollution-creating entity and  
18 therefore has to have a permit to operate.

19 So that's the reason why what we would prefer to  
20 do, as it has been done in Ocotillo Wells and at  
21 Hollister Hills, is simply operate under a memorandum  
22 of understanding and try and mitigate whatever dust  
23 we're creating in a common sense kind of way.

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: So I actually saw your RP  
25 for the equipment on Bid Sync and good to see where all

1 of that money went.

2 So where are we on this? Because this has been  
3 like an open warfare between -- not that -- we've sort  
4 of been on the defensive here. Has the General agreed  
5 to take this to court? Are we paying the permit fee?

6 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Right now we're looking at  
7 the permit and the fee, and that's being looked at by  
8 our attorneys as well as those at CARB and the AG. So  
9 that's a legal matter, and I'm not going to get into  
10 the specifics on that.

11 However, we continue to dispute. And when we  
12 applied for the permit, I have a letter of protest on  
13 there, again stating our claim that we do not see a  
14 permit to operate as being valid.

15 COMMISSIONER KERR: Why are we applying for it?

16 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Honestly, we had to apply  
17 for it or we would have wound up starting to pay a fine  
18 because we would have not been in -- we would be in  
19 violation of Rule 1001, which we've already gone to  
20 court on, and the court has come back and said  
21 Rule 1001 is valid. That's being appealed. We're part  
22 of that appeal. But in the interim as a state entity,  
23 we really don't have the luxury --

24 COMMISSIONER KERR: The first round went against  
25 us?

1 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: The first round went  
2 against us, and now it's being appealed.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: And what's CARB's interest?  
4 Are they on -- they would appear to be on the Air  
5 Pollution Control Board's side, wouldn't they?

6 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: CARB is a state entity  
7 under Natural Resources, so they are looking on this  
8 statewide, and that's where their concerns are. This  
9 is something new. This is, again, a local entity  
10 issuing a state entity a permit to operate, so.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: So does Metcalf need a  
12 permit from the Bay Area Quality Management District to  
13 operate an OHV park?

14 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That would be why we would  
15 be concerned. So that's where we probably don't want  
16 to go.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: Forget the urban parks.

18 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: So you can see why we're  
19 very concerned about this.

20 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: At the local level,  
21 probably a lot of folks here know, the Air Resources  
22 Board -- or I forget the acronym, here in this county  
23 they have concerns about fire pits, and there was some  
24 people that were weren't happy with that, and some  
25 people were happy. And you can see how that question

1 was raised. It was addressed, and six months later we  
2 have a substantial outcome for the benefit of  
3 everybody.

4 Here, we're talking about a rule that was  
5 established in 2011, and we're still working through  
6 these regulatory processes. So that's just an onsite  
7 example where you can work cooperatively and receive  
8 outstanding outcomes.

9 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I am wondering how many  
10 other parks do we have that operate under an MOU?

11 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Specific to the SVRAs, we  
12 have two others. Ocotillo Wells and Hollister Hills  
13 have memorandums of understanding with their local Air  
14 Pollution Control Districts for mitigation of dust, so  
15 this is the exception to that.

16 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: And obviously you made  
17 reference to that.

18 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Absolutely.

19 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: And we currently have  
20 a few MOUs with Five City Fire and some other entities.  
21 We're very successful with them. It's a standard  
22 operating procedure that we implement on a regular  
23 basis, and we're very familiar with that and  
24 comfortable with that process.

25 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: One last question, and

1 it's probably a rhetorical one, and probably you all  
2 know more information about this than I do.

3           Where is the community? When you reference the  
4 Air Quality Management District with the fire pits,  
5 there was just an abundant outpouring of "anti"  
6 sentiment against the Air Quality Management District.  
7 So where is the community for -- I mean where are the  
8 people?

9           COMMISSIONER KERR: Voters?

10           COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: The voters, the  
11 off-roaders, the people who this may be an issue.

12           DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: There's a lot of  
13 not-in-my-backyard kind of thing going on. We  
14 appreciate the need for this and the millions of people  
15 that come to Oceano Dunes on a regular basis and enjoy  
16 the recreation. But because of the information that  
17 they've received over the last couple of years, there  
18 is a --

19           COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: This is a park that's  
20 been open a really long time.

21           DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: In the '70s it was  
22 appropriated. It was a legislative mandate in  
23 the '70s, and we celebrated our centennial about four  
24 or five years ago, just before I arrived. And I've  
25 been at the dunes for over four years now. So there's

1 been off-highway vehicle activity in there for over 100  
2 years.

3 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: So there is a real struggle  
4 in the community as you're getting to. Obviously,  
5 there's two million people a year utilizing Oceano  
6 Dunes. It's a tremendous economic stimulus to that  
7 place.

8 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: People go there just for  
9 that.

10 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Right. In addition to the  
11 fact -- that's just not OHVers, people that want to  
12 drive on the beach and camp on the beach. This is one  
13 of their rare places you can still do it on the  
14 California coast.

15 So there is that dynamic, and then there are the  
16 people that are up on the mesa who are -- there is dust  
17 up there. Now, the question is what has changed over  
18 the years? We know some things definitely have  
19 changed. We know that the level of OHV ridership or  
20 the size of the area being used for OHV riding has  
21 dimensioned greatly over the years. It used to be just  
22 about the whole expanse of the beach area out there.  
23 And now it's narrowed up, and we're down to how many  
24 acres? I always get this one wrong.

25 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: 1,500 acres.

1           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: 1500 acres that are being  
2 ridden where at one point it was virtually the entire  
3 beach area that was opened. So we know that's  
4 diminished.

5           We know that the dust has been a situation  
6 that's been an issue literally for thousands of years.  
7 We've got reports that go back to the 1800s of  
8 surveyors talking about the dust, agricultural surveys  
9 that talk about the dust.

10          We know that up on the mesa, the population has  
11 increased. And with that population increase, there  
12 has always been a deforestation that's been going on, a  
13 significant deforestation. So we suspect that what has  
14 happened is not so much that OHV ridership is creating  
15 a lot of dust, but in deforestation, they are now  
16 feeling the effects of that dust much more that's been  
17 there ever-present. But our problem is that the Air  
18 Pollution Control District has decided that we are the  
19 cause.

20          So part of what Brent's folks have been doing is  
21 a very detailed wind mapping to really take a look at  
22 the problem. Are we causing the dust, or is this a  
23 natural occurrence, as we compare places where there's  
24 OHV ridership and where there is not. And then try to  
25 come up with common sense mitigation factors. If we're

1 causing some of the dust, how do we mitigate that?

2 Our concern is that since we've kind of been the  
3 only scapegoat that's been named is that no matter what  
4 we do, we'll never be able to stop the dust because  
5 this is a naturally-forming dune complex that's the  
6 result of a combination of tides, waves and dramatic  
7 wind that comes around the point. So it's there for a  
8 reason. There's a couple-mile long dune because of  
9 wind. So trying to stop that is going to be an issue.

10 We've partnered with Desert Research Institute.  
11 We're partnering with Scripps Institution of  
12 Oceanography to take a look at it, all of the big  
13 brains that can possibly get into it. So it's an  
14 issue. Two concerns: One is we do honestly want to  
15 try and help do our part to help the folks up on the  
16 mesa, but we also have a requirement to operate a state  
17 park that's a recreation area, and we're going to do  
18 that, too.

19 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Final comment, I think you  
20 guys are doing a great job, Brent. I wanted to commend  
21 you for your work and staff's. I've been out there  
22 numerous times. I think it's an enormous challenge. I  
23 just want to thank you for all that you guys are doing  
24 out there.

25 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: Thanks, I'll pass that

1 along to staff. Like I said, it's been a huge team  
2 effort, everybody from admin to the boots in the sand.

3 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I'll second that, what she  
4 said, very good job. I know it's a lot of work, a big  
5 job to tackle, and it looks like you guys are hitting  
6 all of the marks and doing everything you're supposed  
7 to do, so thank you.

8 DISTRICT SUPT. MARSHALL: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you. Good presentation,  
10 and may God be with you.

11 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Well said, Paul.

12 **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Non-agenda public comment.

14 JIM BRAMHAM: Good morning, again. I just  
15 wanted to bring you up-to-date on the Imperial Sand  
16 Dunes Recreation fee structure that we brought up at  
17 the Redding meeting. We've worked substantially with  
18 the Bureau on trying to come to some agreement on that  
19 fee process. Unfortunately, we don't really believe  
20 that the Bureau listened quite as well as they should  
21 have, but they have now implemented new fees for the  
22 Imperial Sand Dunes. They will be the buzzword at this  
23 Sand Show, as many of the people who arrive at this  
24 Sand Show who have annually bought a permit to operate  
25 there are going to find that their annual permit has

1 gone from \$90 a year to \$150 a year. There's going to  
2 be a lot of outcry. You will be hearing this all day  
3 today and tomorrow.

4 And part of the reason that was given for this  
5 increase was that we did not receive -- or Imperial  
6 Sand Dunes did not receive enough grant funding from  
7 the green sticker program, and that needed to be made  
8 up by individual participation in the fee program at  
9 the dunes. There's going to be a tremendous amount of  
10 heartburn at this show about how that occurred, why it  
11 occurred, why the BLM was somewhat tone deaf about the  
12 concerns.

13 They did come up with a process by which you can  
14 buy two permits on the Internet at the same time that  
15 keeps the increase down to about 12 percent. But for  
16 the person and the vast majority of people who  
17 recreation there have purchased their permits as they  
18 come into Imperial County or from the Arizona side as  
19 they come into the Yuma area, there are situations just  
20 like fishing licenses where you can pick up your permit  
21 on the way, that's how they purchased them. Those have  
22 gone from \$25 to \$35 if purchased on-site. So there is  
23 significant increase in the cost to recreation at the  
24 Imperial Sand Dunes, and I just want you to know that  
25 will be a subject that you will be listening to during

1 the show.

2 JOHN ELLIS: John Ellis, good morning, ladies  
3 and gentlemen. Thank you for having this meeting here  
4 at the show. It makes it real nice, convenient. I'm  
5 glad you can see the people who are going to be here.

6 Glad you can be here tomorrow to have the round  
7 table. You'll get to see how many people and variety  
8 of people that will be here. All these businesses at  
9 the show started out as small businesses, and a lot of  
10 them still are.

11 The tourism we have in this state, especially  
12 for all of our rural counties like Imperial, up and  
13 down the Sierras, Kern County, we survive -- a lot of  
14 these industries survive and these people in these  
15 communities survive because of our in-state tourism.  
16 People go out on the road, and what you spend at home  
17 is what you spend when you get there. People go out to  
18 enjoy getting away from the big city. Basically we  
19 have big cities when we go out there sometimes. Look  
20 at Ocotillo Wells during the busy holiday weekend,  
21 Glamis Sand Dunes. But these are all people getting  
22 along together and helping each other, enjoying the  
23 family aspect of the sport, and it's a very important  
24 aspect of it.

25 I've been off-roading since I was probably about

1 eight years old. My father had a dune buggy. We'd go  
2 out to the Colorado River from over in the central area  
3 and had a lot of fun. And kids are still doing it  
4 today. My kids grew up doing it. That's where I  
5 taught them to drive. They learned how to operate a  
6 vehicle safely in the dirt and sand in a motorcycle or  
7 dune buggy before they got on the road. With some  
8 people that we have out here, their only experience is  
9 driving in a parking lot and hoping not to run over the  
10 parking cones. I think they're a lot safer drivers  
11 than that.

12 It's a very important part of our economy. We  
13 can't see it suffering more than it already has. We  
14 are constantly hit up by people closing areas for  
15 whatever reason. The dust pollution measure, that's  
16 one that Imperial County is dealing with, especially  
17 Glamis Sand Dunes. They're right across the border  
18 from Mexicali, one of the largest cities in Mexico,  
19 absolutely no police control whatsoever. The two  
20 rivers come north out of there. The New River and  
21 Alamo are basically open cesspools, and we have to deal  
22 with it on our side of the border, but that's a  
23 different fact.

24 Please do what we can to help us save the rural  
25 parks -- the urban parks, excuse me. You already

1 addressed part of the issue. Some of it is county  
2 supervisors. We had one lined up in San Diego back  
3 about 15 years ago, just outside of Lakeside. If  
4 you're familiar with the area, you know it's very  
5 close. Twenty minutes from downtown and you're there.  
6 It wasn't a big area. It was off the main road. There  
7 was nobody close. The closest home was a quarter of a  
8 mile away. It wasn't going to bother anybody, but the  
9 county supervisors in that area got upset because they  
10 weren't conferred with first. The funding and  
11 everything was lined up, and it was ready to go, and  
12 that supervisor killed it, and she's lost a lot of  
13 support from the off-road community down there for that  
14 reason. So please keep your job, and thank you for  
15 have the meeting here at the show so you can meet these  
16 people.

17 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36. First  
18 of all, thank you so much for your efforts of looking  
19 heavily and deeply into these historical financial  
20 issues, and your attempts to get our trust fund shored  
21 back up. Also, thank you to you Commissioners that  
22 have gone above and beyond, meeting with the  
23 legislators, interface, trying to education them, and  
24 to prop up the program that it's a good family program.  
25 I hope you're emphasizing it's 40 years old and

1 user-fee paid. That's a biggy.

2           There were two congressional field hearings that  
3 took place in Northern California, one in the  
4 fairgrounds up east of Amador County and another one up  
5 in Auburn. Both are related to the United States Fish  
6 and Wildlife Service and the yellow-legged frog. The  
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were tasked to be the  
8 agency that figured out the solution on this plan to  
9 protect the Yosemite toad, as well as the yellow-legged  
10 frog.

11           A lot of the documents appear to be flawed,  
12 especially since most of the effects on the frogs  
13 killing them off was a virus, documents that didn't  
14 have information relating to that but other effects.  
15 The cattle industry, recreation, loggers, ranchers, and  
16 especially the 17 county boards of supervisors that all  
17 by resolution are fighting back on this. That's why  
18 it's been elevated up to the court system.

19           Congressman LaMalfa and Congressman McClintock  
20 made it quite clear that this is huge. It's a monster  
21 when more than 25 percent of the state's counties all  
22 file resolutions wanting to fight this back because the  
23 socioeconomic impact is devastating. About 95 percent  
24 of the folks that were at these meetings basically told  
25 U.S. Fish and Wildlife to go somewhere.

1           Also, I attended a California Air Resources  
2 Board meeting. I know one representative from the  
3 Division was here. It relates to the fuel permeation  
4 rules that are coming, and the OHV smog implementation  
5 starts in 2018. This is going to be huge. When I  
6 asked about my two five-gallon GI cans that I bought at  
7 Wal-Mart that sit in my garage, along with a couple of  
8 million other people in this state, how is that going  
9 to be handled, they have no answer on that. This is  
10 going to be a huge issue down the road that we're going  
11 to have to face.

12           Thank you very much.

13           JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners.  
14 John Stewart with California Association of 4-Wheel  
15 Drive Clubs. The state recreation, OHV recreation  
16 program is an important item, and it's so important  
17 that the state legislature almost 40 years ago set  
18 aside a specific program for it.

19           In this day and age now, we are faced with raids  
20 on our budget, and I appreciate the efforts that the  
21 Commission and the Division have taken to stop the  
22 raids and shore up the budget. I think one thing  
23 that's got to be looked at here is that our -- some  
24 natural events that are occurring, such as the Rim Fire  
25 which has destroyed a major portion of the Stanislaus

1 Forest, has created some situations where significant  
2 portions of the state trail system are in jeopardy and  
3 could possibly be reconditioned or restored out of  
4 existence, and the Rim Fire is not the only one within  
5 the state.

6 And I would encourage the Division to look at  
7 some methodology within the Grants Program whether they  
8 can either increase the amount of grants available  
9 and/or come up with a special category such that  
10 forests that are suffering or others who have trail  
11 systems that have been damaged by natural events such  
12 as these fires that can receive some type of priority  
13 just so that we do not lose trail systems that we  
14 already have. Let's protect what we have.

15 And along that lines is the Forest Service  
16 Region Five is undergoing a massive forest-wide  
17 assessment throughout all of the Sierra Mountains,  
18 Sierra Forest, and they're in the process of developing  
19 new management plans with Sequoia, Sierra, and Inyo  
20 leading the way. These plans do incorporate a big  
21 socioeconomic impact section within them, and a very  
22 important component of the forest is recreation.

23 And to this extent I would encourage the  
24 Division to become involved in the early stages of  
25 these forest plan revisions in order to help us protect

1 the recreation opportunities that do exist.

2 Thank you.

3 MESONIKA PIECUCH: Hello, I'm Mesonika Piecuch.  
4 I'm speaking on behalf of ORV Watch in Kern County and  
5 for the Alliance for Responsible Recreation folks.  
6 There are a dozen of us who are like minded, and we are  
7 trying to protect public and private lands from illegal  
8 off-road vehicle abuse.

9 If you've seen our recent Posca Motorsports  
10 video -- it's on our YouTube channel, 4 ORV Watch, the  
11 Posca brothers who own Posca Motorsports in Lancaster,  
12 California, filmed themselves on Mr. Toad's Wild Ride  
13 riding through Bureau of Land Management closed areas  
14 and on the federally-protected Pacific Crest Trail.

15 And there is a very good update to what started  
16 out to be a bad story. The Posca brothers apologized  
17 for their behavior. They are now sharing maps where  
18 it's legal to ride in Kern County and telling people  
19 who they ride with and their customers where it's  
20 appropriate to go. They're also posting in their  
21 business a large map of SVRAs and legitimate trails on  
22 where to go, which has been just really awesome of them  
23 and really big of them to admit that what they've done  
24 was a bad thing and bad example for everybody.

25 And I'd also like to commend Mike Lair, State

1 Parks Superintendent. He did a great job helping us  
2 out. And Captain Diane Welton of the U.S. Forest  
3 Service investigated this incident, and CORVA was  
4 awesome. They lent us a tremendous amount of support  
5 with their take-no-prisoners approach and their  
6 zero-tolerance approach to illegal off-roading. And  
7 that's much appreciated. So this really shows that  
8 when people work together and have common ground, that  
9 all recreation types of activities can be enjoyed.

10 Thank you.

11 ED WALDHEIM: Thank you. Ed Waldheim for CTUC,  
12 Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage.

13 Two issues I have: I forwarded to the Chair the  
14 Parks Forward Commission that has been going around  
15 town, and they have totally excluded us. There is  
16 nothing from OHV on there. And I've been told that the  
17 OHV Division has deliberately been excluded from  
18 participating in this program. So it may be wrong  
19 information, but it kind of worries me because when  
20 these little commissions come on and they start doing  
21 their little thing, I've been there, I've done that,  
22 Bob Hamm has been with me. That's why we created the  
23 Off-Highway Vehicle Program back in 1982, and it became  
24 original -- the first commission started in 1983. We  
25 did that because we never got a fair crack at things

1 with the State Parks Commission. We're kind of a  
2 stepchild. I think they are in the Dark Ages. We're  
3 the enlightened ones, but they think it's the other way  
4 around. But people make fun, that's why I'm so  
5 delighted that the Division has its own building, has  
6 its own thing. The General is the boss, but you still  
7 have your own autonomy to be able to do things. So if  
8 that is wrong, I want to make sure that we don't get  
9 zapped by this Parks Forward Commission.

10 The next issue I have is the DRECP, the Desert  
11 Renewable Energy Commission Program that the BLM will  
12 be talking about. This is the big gorilla that nobody  
13 really attacks, nobody really takes great advantage of  
14 it or looks at it very clearly. Mr. Kenna, he is part  
15 of the program, he and I kind of got sideways there at  
16 one of the meetings when he first got to be a director,  
17 you know, you should protect us, you should help us to  
18 make sure we do not lose what we have.

19 Ladies and gentlemen, right now in front of you  
20 52 percent of the public lands in the California desert  
21 have some type of a designation. It's been taken for  
22 wilderness, desert wildlife management, parks, national  
23 parks, and so forth. When they get through with us  
24 next year, they will have gobbled up 92 percent of the  
25 California desert. We will have eight designations.

1           We are very fortunate that CORVA has Randy  
2 Bannis working on the program, and we have brought up  
3 the issue of recreation, trails recreation. It is in  
4 the plan. They have told us that they will keep the  
5 trails in there, even though it's a management area,  
6 conservation area, but our trails will be saved. The  
7 key is we have to stay on the trails. Key number two,  
8 we have to sign the trails, and we have to police them.

9           So there's an awful lot riding on this that  
10 unless we behave, unless we stay on those designated  
11 trails, we are going to lose it. That's why I've been  
12 kind of anal in insisting, as Mesonika said, no  
13 prisoners, i.e., if you go off the trail and you break  
14 the fence and you go through it, I want you arrested.  
15 I want the motorcycle taken away from you, you're put  
16 in jail forever. I have no tolerance for illegal  
17 riders.

18           Thank you.

19           TOM TAMMONE: Thank you. Tom Tammone, I'm  
20 speaking as an individual.

21           I heard Dave Pickett bring up the subject of the  
22 emissions legislation. I wouldn't even call it  
23 legislation. It's something that CARB ARV is doing.  
24 And I really hope that they're including people in this  
25 that have knowledge, like such as some of the smog

1 technicians and stuff that are OHVers that know what  
2 these devices do and know their shortfalls and know  
3 what's practical as far as the legislation that they're  
4 trying to enact here. Because I don't want to see us  
5 get shut out on stuff that isn't going to work and just  
6 add expenses to the equipment. So they're kind of  
7 operating that they're going to do in the field long  
8 periods of storage, you know.

9 Just some knowledge of this, I just got  
10 certified through the Bureau of Auto Repair smog  
11 technicians. I know a little bit about this. And they  
12 should be talking with field people that are somewhat  
13 knowledgeable of these devices and what they can do and  
14 what they can't do. Thank you.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: That ends public comment.

16 Any comments from Commissioners --

17 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I'd like to comment  
18 on something. I just kind of would like to address the  
19 smog issue that's been brought up.

20 I have been personally involved in the  
21 motorcycle industry for many years and also in the  
22 racing industry. Now, I hope -- I want to be clear  
23 with everyone that there's production vehicles from the  
24 manufacturers that meet all of the latest CARB  
25 standards for street use that are -- vehicles are

1 high-tech, have more performance and are lighter than  
2 they have been in the past when they didn't meet those  
3 standards.

4           So I'm completely confident in the fact that  
5 with the limitless technology and fuel injection that's  
6 available and upgrading the vehicles that we will be  
7 able to meet these smog standards, which would be, I  
8 believe, good for the environment, and also we would  
9 have better performing vehicles. Yes, it's going to  
10 cost us a little more money, but in the long run, it's  
11 going to be a benefit. Also, it's going to take away a  
12 little bit of ammunition for the environmental folks  
13 that would be looking at us and saying we're gross  
14 polluters when, in fact, we'll be having regulations  
15 that -- like I said, they're easily met.

16           You can look at any performance street bike and  
17 see that they meet those standards, and it's not at all  
18 going to affect our off-road vehicles to where they're  
19 going to perform negatively. So I just want to be  
20 clear that that's the direction it is, and it already  
21 exists, so.

22           CHAIR SLAVIK: I'd like to kind of address a  
23 comment Mr. Waldheim made about what's going on in the  
24 State Parks. Since General Jackson has come on board,  
25 there has been a complete change, from my perspective

1 and I think most of the Commissioners will agree, in  
2 the attitude of State Parks and the relationship with  
3 the Division. We get a weekly newsletter from General  
4 Jackson. And every single week there is something in  
5 there positive about OHV. I never saw that before in  
6 my history with the organization.

7 I think you can see as you just hear the folks  
8 that come here today, there are the staff that are  
9 here, the deputy director and chief that are here, and  
10 all of the people that work for them are just --  
11 they're 100 percent behind what we're doing as a  
12 recreational pursuit.

13 I want to make sure the public understands that.  
14 We're the interface between you and the agency. And  
15 it's a new day out there, and we want to make sure that  
16 we continue that momentum, that we get some of these  
17 challenges we've had solved, that we get some new parks  
18 online, new urban parks online, we get Onyx going.  
19 It's a better day than it was -- than it looked like  
20 ten years ago, I think, I really do. I think some of  
21 the old timers -- Ed is shaking his head over there,  
22 and I know Bob Ham and Jim Bramham, they've seen it.  
23 They've seen it when it was pretty tough to be up here  
24 as a commissioner and trying to deal with the issues  
25 and not having any support from Sacramento. So that

1 was just my two cents' worth. It's a different day,  
2 folks.

3 So moving on back to the Deputy Director's  
4 reports.

5 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) - GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE**

6 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Just let me add on to  
7 reassure everybody, on Parks Forward I think I would  
8 take the opportunity to talk to my district  
9 superintendents, because all of them and myself and the  
10 Chief have met with the Parks Forward Commission. We  
11 sat in on the seminar and had a good session there  
12 actually in conjunction with all of the district  
13 superintendents in the parks, but I would absolutely  
14 reassure you that we are linked at the hip with those  
15 guys.

16 Now, if I were to tell you that I knew what  
17 their charter was, right now I don't, because they're  
18 still forming that. This was an entity that was  
19 created by the Legislature. So that's the challenge,  
20 trying to come up with their charter.

21 What we hope that they're going to do is be  
22 start of a strategic aspect for us, helping us with our  
23 linkage with the government, with other large entities  
24 throughout the state, and kind of paving the way so  
25 that we could do things better, things like the loan

1 callback, things like trying to break some of the  
2 bureaucracy that we've got and trying to do the  
3 operations we need to do, the acquisitions, the  
4 management, all of that. That's what we're hoping for,  
5 but we'll see what comes out. They are a group of  
6 heavy hitters, and we're excited that they'll be in our  
7 corner.

8           The second thing, Ed is right, the DRECP is a  
9 big deal, big deal. But to reassure everybody here, I  
10 sit on the DRECP next to Jim Kenna. I'm the  
11 representative for State Parks on that board. So to  
12 give you a feel for how much they trust OHV, I'm the  
13 guy that represents all State Parks on that board right  
14 now. So, yes, it's going to be a big deal.

15           The exciting thing is it's creating interagency  
16 processes that we've never seen before, integration  
17 between Fish and Wildlife, the federal lands, some of  
18 the corporate entities that are going to be moving in  
19 there. Those processes are going to be pretty  
20 interesting, and when they come out and this thing  
21 starts getting active, there are lots of opportunities.  
22 You said, Ed, recreation absolutely came to the  
23 forefront up there, and they're trying to cherish that,  
24 and that's why we sit here is to make sure that we  
25 maintain what we've got and we don't lose any of that.

1 So thanks for bringing that up. That's an important  
2 point.

3 Last thing I'd say is from the folks getting up  
4 and talking, not to steal the thunder of the  
5 Commission, but if I had to give a theme for this  
6 particular Commission meeting, it's public/private  
7 bonding; it's this concept of how we operate together  
8 both on the federal side, a lot of the agencies that  
9 are here. You know, we had Mesonika get up and give a  
10 good indication of how people can work together to get  
11 rid of renegades and put people back on trails. You  
12 heard Ed talking about how important that is, as well.  
13 I've heard several of you get up and -- Jim Bramham  
14 encourages the same thing. It's great to hear all of  
15 this. This is what we need. This gives us great power  
16 when we go up in front of the Legislature and we try to  
17 do things, the fact that we have a unified force here.

18 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) - GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE - SVRA**

19 **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

20 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Thank you, Deputy  
21 Director. Hello, again, Commissioners. Dan Canfield,  
22 OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presenting the report  
23 on the status of the SVRA general plans.

24 The report is provided in your binder behind Tab  
25 No. 5, the fourth blue divider. The Division and the

1 SVRAs are very busy with three active SVRA general plan  
2 projects: The Prairie City SVRA in Sacramento County,  
3 Ocotillo Wells SVRA in Imperial and San Diego Counties,  
4 and Carnegie SVRA in Alameda and San Joaquin Counties.

5 The Commission has previously indicated their  
6 desire to be more involved in the general plan  
7 processes, not just be involved at the end once the  
8 plans are finalized. And I do anticipate at the next  
9 regular scheduled meeting of the Commission, the  
10 Carnegie SVRA preferred planning concept will be  
11 available for public review, so I'm looking forward to  
12 that opportunity to have the Commission discuss, accept  
13 public comment, and weigh in on that project.

14 And then the other ones will be following behind  
15 that, and that will be the new -- kind of the new goal  
16 will be that as we move through the general planning  
17 processes for the SVRAs, that as Commission meetings  
18 come up, anything that's active in the general plans  
19 that are up for public review, I'll bring that as part  
20 of this report. My hope would be that will allow the  
21 Commission and the public to be more involved through  
22 those processes, not just at the end.

23 In addition, tomorrow at the meet and greet at  
24 the Sand Sport Super Show, we'll have a table  
25 designated to the SVRA general plans, and I'll be there

1 to accept comments and provide information to anyone.  
2 And I would encourage the Commissioners and public to  
3 engage in that process.

4 I would be happy to take any questions on the  
5 SVRA general plans.

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: I have one on Prairie City.  
7 Do we have to update the general plan before we can do  
8 any acquisition there?

9 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Not prior to the  
10 acquisition but prior to changing the land use of an  
11 acquisition. So if we purchase land next to an SVRA  
12 and don't change anything that's going on there, that's  
13 okay. But we need to update the general plan if we  
14 want to accommodate changes of land uses, i.e.,  
15 recreation, development or conservation.

16 COMMISSIONER KERR: When is the Prairie City  
17 plan going to be updated? I know you're sort of  
18 talking about it, but is that in here?

19 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Prairie City SVRA General  
20 Plan is the last one -- the most recent one to come  
21 online. The general plan EIR notice of preparation was  
22 issued -- it's in the report. I don't have it off the  
23 top of my head.

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: June 18th.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: When is it going to be

1 finished?

2 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: It will be finished when  
3 it comes before the Commission for review. It's really  
4 kind of hard to project that far out. Target would be  
5 calendar year 2015 for the Prairie City, that's the  
6 last one in line.

7 And right now if you visit the Prairie City  
8 General Plan website, which is  
9 PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com, there is a visitor-use  
10 survey right now. So folks that visit the park will go  
11 on the project website and indicate how often do you  
12 visit, what type of vehicles do you bring, how many  
13 types of vehicles do you bring normally, those types of  
14 things. Prairie City is in the preliminary phases  
15 compared to Carnegie and Ocotillo Wells, which are much  
16 further along, even though it doesn't seem that way  
17 sometimes.

18 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I had a question on  
19 the Carnegie SVRA. I attended the meeting that was  
20 on -- the June 10th meeting.

21 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: And I'd like to know did  
23 you guys get some attendance figures of how many people  
24 showed on that?

25 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: 205 was the number of

1 people that we had at Tracy High School, 205 folks.  
2 And then after that, members of the public had through  
3 mid July to go onto the project website,  
4 CarnegieGeneralPlan.com, look at the same material that  
5 you saw when you went to the meeting yourself and  
6 provide comments, and we received over 800 comments.

7 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: That's great.

8 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: It's staggering, to some  
9 degree.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: The one thing that I was  
11 kind of surprised about was the ratio of OHV supporters  
12 compared to people that were against the OHV expansion  
13 in the Tesla Park area. The media -- because I'm from  
14 the Bay Area and I have seen a lot of the media reports  
15 about that, and it seemed as if it was going to be -- I  
16 was anticipating like a 50/50 type mix or something.  
17 And I saw there was more like -- I counted 12 people in  
18 a group that were part of the people that weren't  
19 interested in anything happening at the park.

20 So I was wondering if you had any numbers on  
21 that as far as the percentages of how many people were  
22 in support of the general plan?

23 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Just my anecdotal  
24 observations were consistent with your numbers.

25 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Okay. Because, once

1 again, my observation was that the general public  
2 then -- I pointed out to one of the people that were  
3 against the expansion that they were severely  
4 outnumbered in that event. He didn't like that  
5 information as I presented it to him.

6 It was clear that the public really wants to see  
7 something -- want to see that park move forward and not  
8 only expand but also see it be more environmentally  
9 responsible. So I think that was the two big issues  
10 that were addressed that I had brought up to me at that  
11 meeting.

12 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: That was a common theme  
13 that we heard through the hundreds of comments that we  
14 received, as well.

15 CHIEF JENKINS: Let me add that we purposely  
16 don't track pro versus con because the whole intent of  
17 the public meetings like that is to generate ideas from  
18 the public. And so what we're really looking at is the  
19 range of ideas, not how many people support this versus  
20 how many people support that.

21 I mean there is a role for that kind of analysis  
22 in the overall look about how you're serving the county  
23 and how you're serving the community. But on those  
24 specific community meetings, we never want it to appear  
25 that you need to like rally the troops so we can get

1 more of this group or more of that group. We're trying  
2 to keep that as a very unbiased opportunity for  
3 everybody to come in and feel welcome no matter what  
4 your point of view is.

5 Sometimes those minority points of view really  
6 highlight issues that we might have overlooked. So I  
7 just wanted to caution that on those public meetings --  
8 the same thing is going to happen at the Ocotillo  
9 General Plan. There may be some groups that don't want  
10 to come in, feeling like they may not be welcome, and  
11 we really want to lay out that welcome mat, that we  
12 want all of those views put on the table, because  
13 that's the place to sort them out before we start  
14 forming concrete plans.

15 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I think that's very  
16 important, to get the other views certainly, but I also  
17 wanted it to be in the public record that there was a  
18 significant amount of people in favor of it being  
19 expanded rather than having the park brought up to  
20 higher environmental standards.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think what you are referencing  
22 is the East Bay Regional Park's survey that said only  
23 two people in the whole county wanted OHV. There was  
24 some really insignificant number that they perpetrated;  
25 am I correct? They skewed it in the opposite direction

1 almost on purpose.

2 COMMISSIONER KERR: Why are we in a battle with  
3 East Bay Regional Park? We are State Parks. We seem  
4 to have solved our problems at a state level. What are  
5 we going to have to do with these guys, because this is  
6 not a productive activity we're engaged in. We've been  
7 waiting to expand that park for ten years.

8 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I'm meeting with them in  
9 about a week, and it's going to be myself and all  
10 senior leadership in Parks. We're going to talk about  
11 things and figure out what -- we don't need to be  
12 throwing rocks at each other. We're all trying to do  
13 the same thing --

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: There's -- I've been out  
15 there plenty of times. This is not like...

16 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: And we're about balance and  
17 recreation, so we're not denying people from their  
18 opportunities to recreate. I think we just need to go  
19 in and talk about that, make sure they understand, and  
20 they also need to understand what ownership means, so.

21 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: With that, I've had some  
22 discussion with some staff at the East Bay Regional  
23 Park about some concepts, and I think the Division --  
24 there is a little bit of Division amongst the staff as  
25 far as the opinion of what they think should happen in

1 that area and that I think it's politically motivated  
2 at a higher level possibly is what -- kind of the  
3 discussions that we had. So I just wanted to point  
4 that out since you're going to be having a meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Did I hear you say there  
6 was going to be a follow-up meeting on the general  
7 plan?

8 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: For Carnegie?

9 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: Yes.

10 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: At the June meeting that  
11 Commissioner Cabral attended, three planning concepts  
12 were presented -- a range of concepts were presented.  
13 And then we took input on that through mid July, and  
14 now the general plan team is taking a look at all of  
15 this input and then framing it into a preferred  
16 concept, which will go back to the public. And that's  
17 the one I'm hoping will be -- timing-wise will work for  
18 that next Commission meeting.

19 And basically we'll go back to the public and  
20 say, we've heard what you had to say based on our range  
21 of concepts, and now we have our preferred concept. It  
22 will be another sounding board, another opportunity for  
23 folks to say what we got right and what we got wrong.  
24 That becomes the basis of the general plan.

25 COMMISSIONER PEREZ: And you said before our

1 next Commission meeting or around that time?

2 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Off the top of my head,  
3 it will be scheduled to be released in October, but a  
4 time period will extend beyond that for public comment.  
5 I'm hoping that will get into that November scheduled  
6 meeting.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: So are you suggesting -- or maybe  
8 you don't want to suggest -- that we have a Commission  
9 meeting in conjunction with that timeline maybe  
10 on-site?

11 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Not my suggestion.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: I know it's not your suggestion.  
13 But does it sound like a good idea?

14 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: I'm neutral on the  
15 subject.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: We did have a meeting there not  
17 too long ago.

18 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I don't know that we have  
19 to be on-site. I think the November meeting we were  
20 looking at down south, so I think that still is valid.

21 But what Dan is trying to get at is it's  
22 fortuitous that the next meeting is going to be during  
23 that open comment period. That's an opportunity for  
24 you to take a look at what their current proposal is.  
25 It's an opportunity for you to provide comments both as

1 a commission, as well, obviously, as individuals.

2 And that's getting back to what we were talking  
3 about earlier, any comment to us is valued because it  
4 provides a different perspective. We would take 800  
5 comments. We would take 800 times that if we could get  
6 it just to get all of the opinions because that helps  
7 us formulate a solution.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: I just wanted to add: I  
9 heard that the public wanted you to expand the park,  
10 but they also want more environmentally responsible  
11 management. That's sort of been the history at  
12 Carnegie, you know, open riding areas and the -- I  
13 think you're headed towards more of a managed trail  
14 system at Carnegie, which seems to work down in  
15 Hollister. I don't see any reason why it wouldn't work  
16 at Carnegie, as well. What I'm getting is you're going  
17 to come back to us at the next meeting with the draft,  
18 and we'll be able to adopt this, say, early next year?  
19 Is that what I am hearing?

20 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: Spring 2014 would be my  
21 guess for the last --

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: Once we adopt it, then you  
23 can go and start building stuff.

24 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: We can start working in  
25 the state process to obtain funding and do preliminary

1 plans.

2 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Not too different than in a  
3 corporate entity, we'll create a general plan. That  
4 general plan is designed to last 30 years, but then we  
5 create a master plan, and the master plan is the, no  
6 kidding, what are we going to build there, what is it  
7 going to look like, what's the architecture and  
8 infrastructure going to look like. So we do that with  
9 the service centers, and then that goes through the  
10 budgeting process.

11 The critical one to get is the general plan,  
12 because now you've got the framework in which to build.  
13 And then as we can get the money as we can create the  
14 infrastructure, we do it.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: So the Commission's engagement in  
16 this process will be that November meeting in a  
17 different site, but we will have a presentation. Maybe  
18 we should set aside some specific time to deal with  
19 this issue.

20 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Well, we will take a look  
21 at it. Again, the Commission doesn't write the general  
22 plan, but the Commission approves the general plan.  
23 This is your opportunity to become much more familiar  
24 with it, understand where we're going with it, so that  
25 then when you see it again for approval it's not a

1 surprise.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: What I'm getting at is if we  
3 spend more time on this general plan -- because it's a  
4 big deal. Carnegie is a big deal. It's been going on  
5 a long time. We would want to be engaged with it as a  
6 Commission, and this is our opportunity.

7 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That would be great. We  
8 need to let our lovely stenographer take a break. So  
9 if we can do a quick one?

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: Five minutes.

11 (Returned at 11:45 from a break beginning at 11:35.)

12 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1) - GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE -**  
13 **GRANT REGULATION CHANGES/AWARD UPDATES**

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're at the grant regulation  
15 changes and award updates.

16 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: Hello, Commissioners. My  
17 name is Noelle Nichols. I'm a grants administrator  
18 within the Division, and I am here, as you mentioned,  
19 to give the grants regulations update as well as the  
20 Grants Program update. Vicki has handed out a new  
21 report that is going to replace the reports that are  
22 under Tab 5 Section A-1, your fifth blue page. In  
23 addition, there are reports on the back table.

24 So we made some updates, as you know, to the  
25 regulations this year. We took a lot of changes, a lot

1 of information that was taken from the past Commission  
2 meetings, from members of our public, and we have sent  
3 out our regulations for our second public update,  
4 second 15-day review. That process is going to  
5 actually end September 23rd, so that is Monday. So if  
6 you have any comments, if you have any suggestions, we  
7 encourage you to get them in.

8 Our proposed changes are summarized on your  
9 update. We expect to be able to submit our final  
10 regulation package in October in the Office of  
11 Administrative Law. That hopefully will be ready in  
12 time -- they will be ready in time for our upcoming  
13 grants cycle.

14 Are there any questions I can answer regarding  
15 the update for the regulations before we move into the  
16 program?

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: My understanding is the Forest  
18 Service had a budget reduction because of the fires,  
19 the recreation budget, and we're talking about shutting  
20 down the government here now on the news here in the  
21 last couple of days. So how are these kinds of things  
22 are going to affect us in our program?

23 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: Well, in all honesty, I  
24 don't think we really know. We're kind of all in a not  
25 so sure position right now. Did you want to...

1           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Obviously, our federal  
2 partners have had some real challenges here lately, not  
3 only due to sequestration, but, as you mentioned, the  
4 forest fires. I'm sure Ramiro will probably discuss a  
5 little bit of that or his team when they get up. BLM,  
6 again, has some challenges also on the funding side.

7           So what that has done, it has probably -- well,  
8 we've know for a fact, it's created much more urgency  
9 in our Grants Program. They rely on it much more. In  
10 fact, I recently signed off on a letter pledging our  
11 continued support, as best we can, that we will to the  
12 best of our abilities continue to keep the funding up  
13 for Imperial Dunes to help BLM with that as they went  
14 in and tried to make a case for keeping that open and  
15 ensuring that they continued to support it.

16           So I think that's the great concern that we  
17 have, you know, that our federal partners are looking  
18 at us going, hey, we are on life support right now, we  
19 really need your help. And where we can -- I mean they  
20 still have to meet the requirements of the grants  
21 cycle, but where they can, we're trying to do  
22 everything we can to help them out.

23           Sixto is out in the field talking to these guys  
24 about how to submit their grants, trying to help them  
25 out to make sure they fully understand the program. We

1 have an initiative that we're working with the Forest  
2 Service to try and get some of the restoration grants  
3 used. We're trying to reach out to other nonprofits to  
4 get that money harnessed, as well. So those are some  
5 of the things we're trying to do to help them out, but,  
6 yes, you're right, it's going to become a problem for  
7 them in the future.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions about grants?

9 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, I have a question on  
10 proposed revisions, the one for providing an avenue for  
11 the State to recoup funds if grant funding development  
12 projects are not available for long-term OHV  
13 recreation. What is the scenario, how does this  
14 work -- I guess maybe this might be a legal question --  
15 but if it was a forest closure due to the lawsuit or  
16 something along those lines, how is that going to  
17 affect the funding of an area that had OHV funds?

18 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: And you hit the nail on the  
19 head. I mean each one of these scenarios is going to  
20 have to be something that we sit down and we talk  
21 through with our partners.

22 The concept was that if we are providing grants  
23 with the understanding they're going to be used for  
24 long-term purposes, long-term infrastructure, that if  
25 that was closed down for some reason, that we would be

1 looking for a pro rata return on the funding, not  
2 obviously in entirety because certainly they provided  
3 some OHV use in the interim, but we would be looking at  
4 that.

5 But those considerations would be made. There  
6 are certain -- there may be closures. There may be  
7 things that are triggered that are completely outside  
8 the hands of that agency. So we would have to look at  
9 each situation under its own merits.

10 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Because in concept I  
11 really like the idea so the stuff remains available and  
12 open. But in probably not of a reality world, it would  
13 sure be nice if we could transfer that to whoever the  
14 people were that sued and the closed area and were  
15 financially responsible for that. I don't know if  
16 that's possible legally.

17 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I like that world, too, but  
18 I don't think we're there.

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: I had a quick question. On  
20 the 10 percent requirement on your operation  
21 maintenance funding, so how does that affect like  
22 Metcalf or somebody like that?

23 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: Well, as you know, as part  
24 of the operations and maintenance umbrella, there are  
25 all these different kinds of the sections. And there

1 is a requirement that ground operations gets kind of  
2 the bulk of the money. For something like Metcalf,  
3 which usually comes in for ground operations-related  
4 projects, it really isn't going to affect them.

5 But when we look at development, we look at  
6 acquisition, when we look at planning, we want to be  
7 able to make sure that there is enough funding for them  
8 to be able to come in and compete against some of the  
9 larger areas. And so when we enacted this or thought  
10 about doing this, we want to make sure that we have the  
11 ability to have more dollars available. And hopefully  
12 it's going to make everybody really happy.

13 COMMISSIONER KERR: I don't understand that  
14 explanation a lot. So let's just say we're getting  
15 \$500,000, whatever it is, for operations, and we don't  
16 have an opportunity to acquire any more property. Are  
17 you saying you're requiring some planning documents  
18 about facility improvements to be part of what we spend  
19 the money on?

20 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: No. If there are not  
21 enough projects or not enough things that come in to  
22 make up the 10 percent -- I may not be answering your  
23 question again -- that money is going to go into the  
24 larger project to help fund other projects.

25 If there are only a few acquisition projects

1 that came in that did not require 10 percent of the  
2 funding, it would go again in a larger pot that may  
3 help provide funding for development projects or  
4 planning projects where there was not enough money  
5 before, as well as in part for ground operations.

6 CHIEF JENKINS: Commissioner, this was done  
7 partly in response to a concern you had raised in the  
8 past about adequate monies being available for  
9 acquisition.

10 COMMISSIONER KERR: Yeah, that's fine.

11 CHIEF JENKINS: So by holding this 10 percent in  
12 those three categories, we're trying to make sure if  
13 there are these smaller acquisitions that can fit into  
14 the Grants Program, we don't have to go outside, that  
15 we're locking that money aside and saying, yes, that's  
16 one of the priorities based on input from you all.

17 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I had something similar,  
18 a question just around that. So let me know if I  
19 understand this correctly.

20 Is the 10 percent, is that for grants that are  
21 given, part of the grants, 10 percent of that grant is  
22 for O&M, or is this a category that will be considered  
23 only operation and maintenance, and people can apply  
24 for it?

25 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: So the category of

1 operations and maintenance is broken out into four  
2 subcategories, which is grant operations, development,  
3 acquisition, and planning, as you know. So the 10  
4 percent goes to those three. They're already existing.  
5 It's something people applied for on their own. I'm  
6 sorry, I don't think I'm understanding what you're  
7 asking.

8 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: I will read some more.

9 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Are you talking about  
10 10 percent of 50 percent?

11 CHIEF JENKINS: Exactly. So when we get our  
12 grant funding, we have the first big cut where it goes  
13 50 percent to Operations, 25 percent to Restoration,  
14 25 percent to Law Enforcement, five percent to  
15 Education. That's the big split 50, 25, 20, and 5. So  
16 within that 50 percent, up to 10 percent of that can  
17 now go to this particular subcategory.

18 COMMISSIONER KERR: So that would provide  
19 additional opportunities for local jurisdictions and  
20 nonprofits or whatever to apply for acquisition grants?  
21 I guess the nonprofits aren't eligible for acquisition,  
22 right?

23 CHIEF JENKINS: Correct, nonprofits couldn't do  
24 acquisition.

25 COMMISSIONER KERR: So provide additional

1 entities or local agencies to do acquisition.

2 CHIEF JENKINS: We wanted to improve those small  
3 agencies to be more competitive in the market, if you  
4 will.

5 COMMISSIONER KERR: That's a good thing.

6 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: Are there any other  
7 questions that I can pass off?

8 Okay. So looking forward in the Grants Program  
9 update, as I'm sure you remember during our last  
10 meeting in May, we were in the middle of scoring our  
11 final grant applications. I'm happy to report that we  
12 have made our final recommendations.

13 The categorical breakdown of the awards is  
14 listed on the update -- or of the dollars are listed  
15 there. In addition, there's a summary report, as well  
16 as a final awards list, included in your binders. This  
17 is what the summary looks like.

18 In addition, as something we discussed earlier  
19 where the ability of -- we want to see local parks and  
20 urban parks. On the update at the bottom there are  
21 three projects that are highlighted. A part of Public  
22 Resources Code section 5090.24, paragraph F indicates  
23 the OHMVR Commission has a responsibility to review all  
24 plans for new and expanded local and regional vehicle  
25 recreation areas that are funded through the Grants

1 Program. These are three projects that came in this  
2 year that meets that criteria.

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Can you tell us where you are in  
4 the binder?

5 OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: I'm sorry, the second  
6 update, which is your second blue page. Again, it's  
7 the one Vicki gave you underneath Tab 5, Section A-1,  
8 blue page. It's the second page.

9 That pretty much concludes my Grant Program  
10 update. Again, I will answer any questions that you  
11 may have.

12 COMMISSIONER KERR: There was a mention earlier  
13 that the sand dunes folks got shortchanged or whatever;  
14 they had to raise their rates. We're going to hear a  
15 lot about that tomorrow?

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Imperial Sand Dunes.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: Imperial Sand Dunes, they  
18 raised their rates to 150 bucks, so we're going to hear  
19 about it. So at one point we had a Grants Program  
20 that's down to \$10 million or something. Now it's  
21 \$21.1 million. So I guess we were successful in  
22 backfilling the Grants Program, right?

23 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: We didn't backfill so much  
24 as in the last FY we only had \$10 million. So we were  
25 only able to give out proportionally that \$10 million

1 as opposed to the normal amount, which was \$25 million.

2 What we did, though, is we allowed the grant  
3 cycle to continue so the people that put in for that  
4 grant cycle last year, we considered their grant cycle  
5 when we got the new budget this year, and we awarded  
6 \$21 million worth of grants in that new grant cycle.  
7 So in the user community, what they saw was that it  
8 seemed like they were not getting money, then all of a  
9 sudden they did get money on the new FY.

10 They should have been taken care of. So it was  
11 fairly transparent for them. They went through a  
12 couple of uncomfortable months, but fairly transparent  
13 to them. But in reality, their FY amount was  
14 significantly less last year than it was this year.  
15 And it's our intention to award the next FY again at  
16 the beginning in July of next year, so.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: So you smoothed it out?

18 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Essentially we smoothed it  
19 out. We had a little bit of wiggle room.

20 COMMISSIONER KERR: Why are we responsible? Why  
21 is it our fault that these rates went up in Imperial  
22 Sand Dunes?

23 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I don't know that it's our  
24 fault that the rates went up. We've been consistently  
25 funding them. I'm not sure that's the rationale.

1           COMMISSIONER KERR: I'm not blaming you. I just  
2 want to know what to say.

3           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: That we are committed to  
4 Imperial Sand Dunes, that we funded them, and that  
5 we're committed to funding them as best as we can based  
6 on what the Legislature gives us, at consistent levels  
7 with what we've given to them in the past. And that's  
8 basically what was in my letter.

9           CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

10          OHMVR STAFF NICHOLS: Thank you.

11          CHAIR SLAVIK: So that ends under program  
12 reports, Section A, and we can take public comment --  
13 let me just remind folks what we went through in the  
14 last hour or so. We went through the budget, the  
15 Eastern Kern County acquisition, Oceano Dunes update,  
16 SVRA general plan update, and then just recently the  
17 grants regulation changes and award update.

18          So moving on now -- we've just received our  
19 lunch. Now, obviously you guys didn't get lunch. How  
20 are we going to deal with the public being able to eat  
21 while we eat?

22          DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: First off, what I would  
23 suggest there's still two more parts: Legislative  
24 update and public safety update to the director's  
25 report. I suggest we power through, get those two and

1 then do public comment after that. During public  
2 comment if people want to grab something, we can do  
3 another quick break, and then we will go into the  
4 reports from BLM, Forest Service, and Los Angeles  
5 County Department of Parks. Does that make sense?

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: I guess we'll have to.

7 We did talk to him about, Jane, if you could go  
8 after the Forest Service, was that all right with you?  
9 Ramiro apparently has a phone call that he's beyond.

10 So we're going to continue to move. Legislative  
11 update is next, public safety update. After that we  
12 will take public comment on all of those items.

13 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(2) - LEGISLATION UPDATE**

14 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,  
15 Commissioners. Tina Williams, Public Relations and  
16 Communications. For my time, I'm going to give you a  
17 brief legislative update. My report is located at the  
18 back of the room for the public, and I believe Vicki  
19 just passed out my report.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: What tab is it under?

21 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: It goes under Tab A-2,  
22 the blue one. I ask that you turn to page 3 of that  
23 report. The California State Legislature finished up  
24 business September 13th, 2013. We're proud to say that  
25 Senate Bill SB 234, which is on page 3, was signed by

1 the Governor and chaptered.

2 That concludes my report unless you have  
3 questions.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: So SB 234, just to paraphrase  
5 that, it was the side-by-side legislation.

6 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: Also known as the ROV law  
7 or bill.

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: Is Martin Payne in the audience  
9 yet? So Mimi Walters, Senator Mimi Walters that I  
10 talked about earlier, participated in passing this --  
11 she authored the legislation.

12 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think so, yes.

13 OHMVR STAFF WILLIAMS: Yes, she did.

14 CHAIR SLAVIK: Which corrected some issues that  
15 previous legislation had left uncorrected.

16 Paul, you can come up here in public comment, if  
17 you will, and talk about this, address this a little  
18 bit. Have you signed a public comment at all.

19 So that's the one thing that we're bringing up  
20 here, and it's pertinent to the folks at this event  
21 today, the Sand Sports Super Show. And I just kind of  
22 want to highlight the fact that Senator Mimi Walters is  
23 the legislator here in Orange County, her constituency  
24 is part of Orange County.

25 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: And I would also highlight,

1 too, that tomorrow we will have a table up for law  
2 enforcement, and if people have questions as to what  
3 this means on the ground for actual law enforcement,  
4 what we're going to be looking at, they can certainly  
5 ask our rangers there about it.

6 CHAIR SLAVIK: Anybody have any questions about  
7 legislation?

8 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Good job of getting that  
9 done.

10 CHAIR SLAVIK: We will read it afterwards.

11 **AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(3) - PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE**

12 OHMVR STAFF LAIRD: Good afternoon,  
13 Commissioners. Mike Lair, with the OHMVR Public Safety  
14 Section, and I'm here today to give you the Public  
15 Safety update. You can find the report at Tab 5,  
16 sub-tab A-3.

17 It's been a busy year for us, but I'm going to  
18 highlight a couple of things that we think of  
19 importance. Our law enforcement classes continue to  
20 go. They're POST certified. We've reached out to six  
21 federal local agencies training 43 officers. The law  
22 enforcement classes are important for two reasons. One  
23 is law specific to OHV, and the other is consistent  
24 application of OHV laws.

25 Moving on to upcoming law enforcement and

1 deployments, we're always asked to come out and help,  
2 and we have two on the calendar. So far this November,  
3 Thanksgiving week, we will be down in the Red  
4 Rock/Jawbone area for a week helping out down there.  
5 We'll be with our outreach team, as well. So this will  
6 be a law enforcement outreach.

7 And we're in talks now with the Johnson Valley  
8 BLM to help them with the annual event of the King of  
9 the Hammers. We were there last year, and they've  
10 asked us to participate this year. Once again, we'll  
11 be there with not only the law enforcement team but  
12 with the outreach team.

13 Moving to grant allocations. I know I've talked  
14 about that. The final awards were out. We had 67  
15 applicants for a total award amount of just over  
16 \$6 million.

17 And that is the law enforcement update unless  
18 you have any questions.

19 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions for Mike?

20 Ed, are you happy with what law enforcement is  
21 doing out there?

22 ED WALDHEIM: We will find out in November. We  
23 don't know yet. So far no.

24 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I would suggest public  
25 comment.

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CHAIR SLAVIK: Public comment.

**AGENDA ITEM VI(A)(1-3) - PUBLIC COMMENT**

TOM TAMMONE: Tom Tammone speaking as an individual.

I've just got to say as far as the budget as far as the new governor, Governor Brown -- old governor/new governor, I've got to give credit when credit is due. It's been good for us on this budget. We still need to be pursuing it and definitely need to keep up on that, getting the projects in, and getting that money returned to the fund. The only Catch-22 situation, we can't get the money until we get the project. We can't get the project until we get the money. You guys seem to be doing a good job of doing what you can. Please continue.

Thank you.

DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36. We get three minutes for each one of those things or three minutes for all ten?

Carnegie GP workshop, I also attended that. It was well-attended, but what people were telling me is there's a lot of anger there about East Bay Regional Park District and their arrogance on this whole process and continuance of trying to interfere. I know there's a letter that the Deputy Director had sent. I

1 appreciate that letter very, very much. I hope they  
2 got the message. But that seemed to really override a  
3 lot of the meeting, was that focus on East Bay Regional  
4 Park saying that they were going to come in and take  
5 that area away. And I think that was one of the  
6 reasons for the high attendance and the number of  
7 comments that you're getting.

8 On the grant administrators report, Bullet  
9 Point 2, the 25-year lifespan of hard projects such as  
10 concrete vault toilets, that's been in play for a long,  
11 long time. Phil, you can help me here on this. I  
12 think we had a spirited discussion about the Clear  
13 Creek issue where we bought the permitted vaults and  
14 they were bulldozed, and I wanted the money back from  
15 BLM. That's a good thing that's going into place  
16 there.

17 On the Oceano Dunes thing, as I was driving down  
18 I-5, 40 miles before the Grapevine yesterday, great big  
19 huge sign: "Caution high dust area next 40 miles."  
20 And the Deputy Director mentioned something about  
21 Rule 1001. Does that apply to them? There's also  
22 another sign similar to when we had the meeting at the  
23 Oceano Dunes area. I forget when it was. Also, they  
24 have a sign in San Luis Obispo County that's doing  
25 citation of high particulate matter or dust. Something

1 is wrong there. Something is really, really wrong  
2 there.

3 The last thing is on the grants last year was  
4 confusing with the \$10 million and then the \$21 million  
5 got added into it. I want it on the record that  
6 \$2,821,293 for restoration projects was all that was  
7 approved and submitted. So since that's 25 percent of  
8 our entire budget, we've got to work on getting that  
9 additional money that just sits there decade after  
10 decade to be used elsewhere. It's desperately needed.  
11 I don't know if that can be changed legislatively. I  
12 will be looking into that for 2018 when the sunset  
13 kicks in to make the modification. But what are we  
14 going to do? We have a high percentage of your money  
15 going to that, and it's not being utilized because  
16 there are no projects.

17 Thank you.

18 JOHN STEWART: Good morning, Commissioners.  
19 John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive  
20 Clubs.

21 The program reports provided a lot of  
22 information, and I appreciate the detailed discussion  
23 about the Oceano Dunes issues. It helps clarify a lot  
24 of issues. And understanding, you know, there is a  
25 difference between rules and the memorandum of

1 understanding, still we are faced with pending issues  
2 even with the MOUs that need to be clarified in some  
3 manner, whether it be legislation or something, in  
4 order to protect the recreation areas that we do have.  
5 You can be assured that anywhere there is wind and  
6 desert and heat, there is going to be dust.

7           One thing -- maybe it's kind of a rhetorical  
8 question or comment -- not mentioned was that in the  
9 Oceano Dunes area, there is a refinery. And the  
10 refinery, the report out of the local Grover Beach  
11 newspaper indicates that there has been application to  
12 upgrade and expand the capacity of that refinery.  
13 Well, that refinery sits between the dunes and Nipomo  
14 Mesa. So to the extent that that's going to contribute  
15 to the increased traffic and increased dust is yet to  
16 be determined.

17           But overall -- and, again, the discussion about  
18 the budget, I reiterate some of the comments that I've  
19 made during the public comment periods, somewhere in  
20 the process here it is becoming more apparent that the  
21 Division should look seriously at maybe even  
22 restructuring the Grants Program or their funding  
23 stream somehow in order to provide for some kind of  
24 emergency pot, something that can be addressed and  
25 drawn on in order to help with the issues that do come

1 up, such as the forest fires and maybe even some  
2 litigation action, in order to protect the trail system  
3 that we do have now. It's paramount that we do protect  
4 our existing trail system.

5 Thank you.

6 ED WALDHEIM: Ed Waldheim, Friends of Jawbone,  
7 CTUC, and Friends of El Mirage.

8 On the grants, Ted, the proportions that they're  
9 doing now, it's okay the way they're doing it. If  
10 there are no grants for those projects, it goes back  
11 into the 50 percent as far as O&M is concerned. So if  
12 there is a no project, it doesn't get set aside. It  
13 rolls back into the program.

14 But I do think that along the way, Chris, we  
15 need to look at the breakdown. The 25 percent for  
16 restoration probably should maybe go down to 15  
17 percent, and that 10 percent saving should go to law  
18 enforcement. We desperately need law enforcement. Law  
19 enforcement is a weakness that we really have, but  
20 something we may want to look at.

21 And education, also, they're terribly wrong. We  
22 need to do a massive state education program that  
23 Daphne Greene tried to get going, but we never got it  
24 going. Everybody is doing their own little piece of  
25 education. There is nothing to put it all together.

1 We need a massive campaign that all of us can fall into  
2 without getting all these little bitty few dollars here  
3 and few dollars there, and we have nothing to show for  
4 it. So that's something that we need to work on it,  
5 too.

6 Also, I'd like to request that maybe sometime  
7 we'd be given the opportunity to show you what we're  
8 doing, Paul, with the Commission as far as the  
9 database. I finally got it to where I want it to where  
10 I have a history of all of the grants, have a history  
11 of what we're doing. We have it. It's going to be  
12 going on Google Earth for those specific people who  
13 want it. So I would like to have an opportunity to  
14 provide that to you in the next Commission meeting. If  
15 you want to, we can make a presentation to show you  
16 exactly where we're going in the new era moving  
17 forward.

18 The acquisition -- the acquisition, the only  
19 thing I can say in the minutes that I have, we were in  
20 support of it, East Kern County folks, everyone agreed  
21 with it. The only thing that became a stumbling block  
22 is that we do not want SVRA in East Kern. You will  
23 lose us all, the entire Kern County, you will lose the  
24 political power, you will lose everything you have if  
25 you insist on making an SVRA. We do not need an SVRA.

1           What we need is your cooperation, your help to  
2 have Bureau of Land Management be the manager. The  
3 areas that we use is less than 10,000 acres. The rest  
4 we don't even use. We're talking about the 25. We  
5 only use 10,000 acres. The rest you do whatever you  
6 want.

7           But we don't need heavy management. We don't  
8 need heavy expenses. We are managing very well, thank  
9 you, in that area for the BLM. I can't talk for the  
10 BLM statewide. I'm talking about what we do at the  
11 Ridgecrest office. We have it all under control. Law  
12 enforcement is our terrible weak point. We have not  
13 had good law enforcement there for two, three years.  
14 So the answer to you is no. We haven't gotten Brian's  
15 promise, but hopefully this year he would be able to  
16 focus and catch the bad guys. It's a handful of bad  
17 guys who are making it crazy for us.

18           Most of the people after three, four years, they  
19 get the message. They're starting to learn. It takes  
20 an education program for people to understand what a  
21 designated route system is. And so that's where we're  
22 at out there. So we definitely need the law  
23 enforcement in that area, but we do not want or even  
24 need an SVRA. And if you do, we'll have a big fight on  
25 our hands, so, please, don't even think in those terms.

1 Thank you.

2 JIM BRAMHAM: Mr. Chair, thank you for allowing  
3 me to follow Ed again. Yes, I appreciate that  
4 opportunity.

5 I want to apologize if I left the impression  
6 that it was your fault that fees went up at Imperial.  
7 It was the perfect storm of less grant money that was  
8 obviously done through the legislative process, the  
9 federal dollars being weaker, visitation being off, and  
10 so on.

11 But what the user on the ground -- the more or  
12 less, you know, Joe Six Pack, if you want to call him  
13 that, is going to see that his rates went up, and there  
14 is going to be questions of why that happened. And one  
15 of the answers to that is that there was less green  
16 sticker money. Now, why that was, how big of an  
17 explanation you want to give that -- and the Bureau has  
18 definitely used that as part of their sales tool for  
19 the increase -- and at the same time recognizing that  
20 that has been corrected, and so we appreciate that, and  
21 we appreciate the effort that the Commission and the  
22 Division have done on that.

23 Carnegie and Oceano have not just been plagued  
24 by NIMB, the not-in-my-backyard folks, but certainly by  
25 the CAVE people, citizens against virtually everything,

1 and they have been around for years, and they continue  
2 to be around for both of these processes.

3 My family dates their participation as in what  
4 was Pismo Beach and became Oceano Dunes in 1919 when my  
5 grandparents came in, and that was the first place they  
6 recreated in California. I have worked with five  
7 different managers, superintendents, of that area. And  
8 I appreciate the fact that those issues have become  
9 logarithmically greater through the years, and I look  
10 forward to working with Brent as we move forward in  
11 this process.

12 The California Association of 4-Wheel Drive  
13 Clubs is extremely disappointed in the Carnegie plan.  
14 We were participants early on. I actually made the  
15 motion when I was in one of those seats to purchase  
16 that piece of property. The promises that were made at  
17 that time to the four-wheel drive community, that that  
18 area would be used for not technical off-highway  
19 vehicle four-wheel drive recreation -- but more scenic  
20 SUV daily driver-type vehicles that would be able to go  
21 out, access that, picnic, do some different things. We  
22 mapped all of the routes that we could potentially use  
23 for that. And to see that all go away and not be  
24 addressed in the new plan was very difficult for us to  
25 see because we participated not only at the political

1 level, but we had people in the field trying to figure  
2 out how best to do that, and all of that information  
3 has gone away.

4 The regulation situation, the 10 percent, I just  
5 hope that I'm as clear as you are that that doesn't  
6 apply on a grant-by-grant basis, that it's a  
7 programmatic basis, that the 10 percent is a  
8 programmatic deal and that each grant doesn't have to  
9 comply with the 10 percent purchase and so on. I think  
10 that's where the confusion is, whether that's a grant  
11 by grant or out of that 50 percent. It's possible to  
12 have grants that use that 10 percent.

13 CHIEF JENKINS: It's 10 percent out of the 50.

14 JIM BRAMHAM: Right. Because there was  
15 discussion that it was 10 percent of each grant, and I  
16 just want to make sure that that's not where we are.

17 And the original thing was when I was on the  
18 Commission, we had folks who had misused the grant  
19 process to have development done on their public lands  
20 and then close them off to OHV recreation. We had a  
21 process by which we would just decrease their next  
22 year's grant funding by a proportional amount. I know  
23 that went away, but I agree with the idea that you  
24 should get your monies back.

25 Thank you.

1           COMMISSIONER KERR:  Could we clarify on the  
2  desert, on the Imperial?  So they didn't get a reduced  
3  amount of money from us, right?  Why is that word still  
4  out there?

5           CHIEF JENKINS:  I think what happened -- because  
6  remember we lived for a long time under the we only  
7  have \$10 million assumption because the new budget  
8  hadn't been approved and we didn't know when it was  
9  going to be approved and how much was going to be in  
10 it.

11           Once it got approved, we were able to direct the  
12 \$21 million.  So where they were planning on a  
13 \$10 million Grants Program and having to take proactive  
14 measures in case that's indeed what happened, in  
15 reality it turned into a \$31 million Grants Program.  
16 So they never suffered any reduction, but they had to  
17 plan for it, because for a long time as far as  
18 everybody knew we were on a \$10 million Grants Program.

19           COMMISSIONER KERR:  So now they're fat?

20           CHIEF JENKINS:  Now, they're adequate.

21           CHAIR SLAVIK:  Jim, before you go, I'd like to  
22 address comments about the general plan for Carnegie  
23 and the lack of four-wheel drive opportunities.  Is  
24 that something that we --

25           DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN:  I would tell you that as of

1 the last observation of the plan, that's not  
2 necessarily the case. The plan right now, all that's  
3 done is designated what level of activity is going in  
4 various areas. There are no trails or anything set up.

5 So I understand your frustration probably  
6 because it sounds like you guys took that next step and  
7 actually mapped out trails and everything. I would  
8 hope that somebody hung on to that because that may  
9 come in very useful when we actually put in trails.

10 But where we're at right now is we've designated  
11 areas based on soil sampling, based on we've done  
12 surveys of the ecology out there, the archeological  
13 sites and determined you can drive pretty heavily here,  
14 you should not be driving heavily at all there. That's  
15 what stage we're at. And correct me if I'm wrong, Dan,  
16 but that's about right.

17 OHMVR STAFF CANFIELD: That's right.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Have you seen that map, the one  
19 we're speaking about where the areas are set aside?

20 JIM BRAMHAM: Yes, and that completely negates  
21 the work we did. It doesn't negate it entirely because  
22 there are some routes that went into those areas, but  
23 the idea was that there was -- what we were sold on was  
24 there was already an existing branch of road network  
25 that was there that could be used immediately for OHV

1 opportunity, for four-wheel drive vehicles to tour that  
2 property on a regular basis because you wouldn't change  
3 the use that was already there. And by doing what  
4 you're doing, you're not staying with that agreement.

5 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: If it's a traditional road,  
6 I don't know that we've thrown that out yet. If those  
7 roads were already there, I'd have more faith in the  
8 program. I think we may not be getting rid of those to  
9 that extent. So work with us on it.

10 What we had to do was we had to come up with  
11 kind of the generic land use, what's the best use of  
12 the land. But if there were roads that were already  
13 there, I do not know that we've thrown that out as a  
14 use, so.

15 JIM BRAMHAM: I need to read further.

16 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: All right. Let's work  
17 together on it.

18 JIM BRAMHAM: Okay. Thanks.

19 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thanks.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: Mesonika.

21 MESONIKA PIECUCH: It's Mesonika. I'm  
22 representing Alliance for Responsible Recreation and  
23 OHV Watch in Kern County.

24 And, Commissioner Slavik, I know that you  
25 mentioned that numbers that are very important in order

1 that a document will be defensible. So with that in  
2 mind, we've had a problem with the DEIR for the Kern  
3 County acquisition. The numbers and the data that's in  
4 the DEIR is entirely conflicting with the numbers that  
5 the Kern County Sheriff's Department and Bureau of Land  
6 Management issued in their grant requests last year.

7 The DEIR points out that 35 visitors per weekend  
8 are expected to the new SVRA. That's just -- that's  
9 silly. We've heard today that SVRAs are highly  
10 impacted. They need more places to ride. So to  
11 suggest that only 35 people per weekend will be coming  
12 to the SVRA is just not realistic.

13 This is in contrast to the Kern County Sheriff's  
14 Department who said they had an increase of 369,507  
15 visitors from the previous year -- this is last year.  
16 And they say that riders continue to search for less  
17 impacted riding areas, increasing the dirt team's  
18 territory by 6,000 acres, and that the acquisition will  
19 stress already limited resources and increase law  
20 enforcement response time.

21 So we hope that that will be addressed in the  
22 new document, because this is entirely conflicting.  
23 And when it comes to mitigation, it says in the DEIR  
24 you don't need to mitigate law enforcement because  
25 nobody is really coming to the SVRA, and that's silly.

1 We know it's going to be packed, and it should be, with  
2 people enjoying themselves. It has to be honestly  
3 addressed so we can get the law enforcement to be able  
4 to help us out with the people who are going out off  
5 route and into our residential areas.

6 Also, I wanted -- I'm very thankful that the  
7 three parcels that were initially included in Caliente  
8 that were part of the acquisition has been removed by  
9 the seller. So Kern County Caliente folks will be  
10 really happy to hear that. They were pretty much  
11 biting their nails to see a huge route going through  
12 their cattle pastures. So that's about it.

13 Oh, in addition, we hope that the general plan  
14 for the Red Rock Canyon State Park will be completed.  
15 That's been on hold due to finances, and we strongly  
16 believe that that should be completed, in addition to  
17 the land acquisition documentation, because that was  
18 postponed years ago due to lack of funds. And now we  
19 need to giddyup on that because this will certainly  
20 affect the state parks.

21 So thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

22 HELEN BAKER: Helen Baker. I'm from the  
23 California Off-Road Vehicle Association, CORVA.

24 I would like to thank the Commissioners and  
25 staff for coming to Southern California to bring this

1 meeting down here. I thought the reports that were put  
2 out by staff were excellent, and the comments and the  
3 questions from the Commissioners were very insightful.  
4 I'm saying all of these nice things because we want you  
5 to come back. It's been a long time since you've been  
6 down here, and I do hope that your experience this  
7 weekend is rewarding and that the audience is  
8 sufficient that you do bring the Commission meeting to  
9 Southern California again. We really appreciate it.

10 I'd also like to invite you to come down in  
11 February to a little event that we have down here out  
12 in Johnson Valley called King of the Hammers. I think  
13 you'll find that fun and interesting, and we would very  
14 much like to have you as our guests for that.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Say hi to Harry for us.

17 HELEN BAKER: I'll do that. Thanks, Paul.

18 PAUL VITRANO: Good afternoon, Commissioners, my  
19 name is Paul Vitrano. I'm the executive vice president  
20 of the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association or  
21 ROHVA. ROHVA is the national industry organization  
22 representing the seven major manufacturers of ROVs,  
23 also known as side-by-sides, and we're dedicated to  
24 promoting the safe and responsible use of the vehicles  
25 and preserving their access to land and to the

1 enjoyment of the users. I had not planned to speak  
2 today, but I appreciate the offer from Chairman Slavik  
3 not only to attend but to address the ROV law briefly  
4 at least.

5 This is a law that was sponsored by ROHVA last  
6 year. One of the things that ROHVA does as an industry  
7 organization is develop model state legislation to  
8 suggest or offer to states throughout the country as a  
9 way to reasonably and responsibly regulate the use of  
10 these vehicles in order to preserve their access and  
11 promote safety.

12 The law was passed last year, and shortly after  
13 it was passed, there were several concerns raised by  
14 various aspects of the user community and caused us to  
15 open a dialogue with our friends in the user community.  
16 And I'd say when I showed up at this event last year,  
17 it was a much different reception and took the  
18 opportunity to listen to folks' concerns and understand  
19 where they were coming from and also to help share our  
20 perspective as an industry organization and how use  
21 laws fit into the overall protection of the activity  
22 and the continued viability of the industry.

23 So over the last year we've worked hard to  
24 develop some relationships with the folks who had  
25 concerns, had a lot of communication back and forth.

1 Really appreciate Senator Walters' leadership on  
2 getting the groups involved in an amendment bill that  
3 everyone could live with, even if they weren't entirely  
4 happy with. And we were proud as an organization to  
5 join with other organizations like the American Sand  
6 Association to support Senator Walters' bill and see it  
7 enacted.

8 So some of the concerns that were addressed a  
9 year ago now have been resolved, and we look forward to  
10 working not only with our enthusiast partners, but  
11 continue to work with the Division as well as the  
12 Commission to best represent what is the most positive  
13 and emerging aspect of the power sports industry, which  
14 are the side-by-side vehicles.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: And you're going to be with us  
16 tomorrow?

17 PAUL VITRANO: Yes, I will.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

19 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I would suggest that maybe  
20 we do a break and allow some people to grab some food  
21 if they need to, do a 10-, 15-minute break, and then we  
22 will have Forest Service come up and speak maybe?

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: Let's come back at quarter to  
24 1:00.

25 (Returned at 12:50 from a break beginning at 12:31.)

1 **AGENDA ITEM VI(C) - U.S. FOREST SERVICE REPORT**

2 USFS KATHY MICK: Good afternoon, Chair Slavik,  
3 Commissioners, Deputy Director Conlin, OHV staff,  
4 members of the public. My name is Kathryn Mick. I  
5 represent the U.S. Forest Service. I work out of the  
6 Pacific Southwest Regional Office in Vallejo.

7 I'm pleased today to introduce my public  
8 services director, Ramiro Villalvazo, who is  
9 responsible for recreation management and moving things  
10 forward in the regional office. We have recreation,  
11 wilderness, lands, wild and scenic rivers, cultural  
12 heritage under his purview. So with that I would like  
13 to invite Ramiro up to say a few words to you.

14 I'm not sure whether our report got included in  
15 your binder. I've heard not so, even though we did  
16 send it in. So perhaps we can find that, and then I  
17 would like the San Bernardino National Forest to give  
18 their quick presentation about their OHV area, and then  
19 I will have you put your helmets on, buckle your chin  
20 straps, and we'll just do my report quickly before we  
21 run out of time.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Actually, we're doing fairly  
23 well, so I don't want to rush you.

24 USFS KATHY MICK: But I did promise that I would  
25 speak very slowly. So with that, Ramiro.

1           USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: Good afternoon, again,  
2 Commissioners. It's great to see those of you that I  
3 have already met and meet those that I hadn't. Again,  
4 my name is Ramiro Villalvazo. I am the Director for  
5 Public Services, Recreation Lands and Special Uses, and  
6 a lot of things that Kathy mentioned. I'm very glad to  
7 be here. It's been very interesting hearing all of the  
8 comments and the topics you all are dealing with, which  
9 really land home for us, a lot of things that we're  
10 dealing with.

11           But most of all what I wanted to do was just  
12 reiterate for us, for the Forest Service especially in  
13 our region, just how much we value the relationship  
14 that we have with all of you, obviously, with the  
15 Division and with the Commissioners. And I would like  
16 to say that on behalf of Randy Moore, our Regional  
17 Forester, he understands the importance of the work  
18 that we try to do together. He understands, as I do,  
19 how much we wouldn't be doing if we were not working  
20 together. And to that end, we want to continue, and we  
21 look forward to our relationship improving and growing.

22           Recently, a few months ago, I had an opportunity  
23 to meet with Commissioners Kerr and Slavik in the  
24 Division office, and we talked about opportunities to  
25 improve the reports for this Commission, and Kathy has

1 been leading that and doing an outstanding job. I  
2 think at the last two meetings we've been involving  
3 local Forest Service folks, and at this meeting you  
4 will also hear from your local Forest Service folks.

5 Just a few weeks ago, Deputy Director Conlin,  
6 Commission Cabral, and Chief Jenkins came over to our  
7 office, and we talked about some of the things that we  
8 were mentioning today about the opportunities we have  
9 to expand our relationship.

10 As some of you may know, a big emphasis in our  
11 region is ecological restoration, and earlier someone  
12 was wondering about the situation with the fires or how  
13 that is affecting us. It certainly does affect us, and  
14 it affects us every year. And one of the biggest  
15 challenges we have every year is that if we haven't as  
16 an agency spent enough of our funding, our funding when  
17 the fires hit, then that funding gets pulled back. The  
18 only money that's really left available for us is to  
19 keep the doors open and cover salaries. But as you  
20 might understand, with money being pulled back, a lot  
21 of the work that is planned for restoration or working  
22 with partners or just being able to maintain and manage  
23 our recreation areas becomes a challenge. So that is a  
24 yearly thing.

25 This year has not been any different, but I can

1 positively report that due to an emphasis we've been  
2 making in the region to be more effective and efficient  
3 in spending our money, the effects on that in our  
4 region has been lessened, and we plan to improve that  
5 even more.

6           The Rim Fire, which you all I'm sure are very  
7 familiar with, over a quarter of a million acres in  
8 that fire, it's now 84 percent contained. That's the  
9 very good news. The bad news is that it's affected  
10 that many acres, and there will be critical restoration  
11 work that will be needed. And we have spent in the  
12 neighborhood of \$110 million just on that fire. So  
13 that's one fire. And we're not out of the woods yet,  
14 no pun intended. We have the rest of this fire season,  
15 and in Southern California especially well into  
16 November sometimes December with the Santa Ana's, the  
17 fires affect this area.

18           So the relationship that we have, I just wanted  
19 to elaborate a little bit, it's very symbiotic, as I  
20 look at it. It's very complementary. As land  
21 managers, we manage approximately 20 million acres in  
22 the state, and obviously our public loves to visit the  
23 national forests. They derive health benefits and  
24 welfare from it, and it's very well understood, and we  
25 want to provide that.

1           We benefit from the Division, from the  
2 Commission in terms of the funding, that we wouldn't be  
3 able to do a lot if it wasn't for that funding. And  
4 obviously there has been challenges recently with  
5 what's going on in the state, but hopefully we've  
6 reached a balance there, and we will be able to  
7 confidently know how much money is going to be  
8 available as we move forward.

9           At the same time, we also benefit tremendously  
10 and appreciate the volunteerism that comes out of the  
11 trail riders. It is incredible the amount of work --  
12 and you'll hear some of that from the San Bernardino  
13 folks, how much of that really obviously benefits the  
14 public in the long run -- at the end of the day  
15 benefits the public because they're able to enjoy the  
16 forest. But if it wasn't for our volunteers and the  
17 work that they do, we'd be doing less restoration, we  
18 would be doing less maintenance, less environmental  
19 education, less trail use education, knowing about the  
20 roads where we can and shouldn't be on, and all that,  
21 of great valley.

22           And we continue to have lots of challenges and  
23 agency challenges that we share with the State. A lot  
24 of times litigation is unfortunately always there,  
25 always being challenged. We have the responsibility in

1 our mission to try to balance the uses that occur on  
2 national forests, and there's always that issue of  
3 conflicts.

4 So I very much welcome the conversation that we  
5 had with Commissioner Cabral, Chief Jenkins and Deputy  
6 Director Conlin when we were talking about looking at  
7 potentially projects that we can work together with  
8 trail enthusiasts as well as environmental enthusiasts  
9 to demonstrate that working together we're actually  
10 going to get something positive done on both sides of  
11 the ledger, if you will. So looking forward to  
12 continuing to do that.

13 The other thing that I heard today that I  
14 violently agree with, that we should continue to  
15 emphasize, is the economic benefit of recreation,  
16 outdoor recreation, trail riding and that industry in  
17 general. You saw the outdoor recreation industry  
18 report that came out from last year. I think the  
19 number that they showed was \$346 billion, and that's  
20 not even including hotel revenues and all that. It was  
21 just how much outdoor recreation folks, folks that  
22 enjoy being on public land and in parks and all that,  
23 contribute to the national economy.

24 It is something that we need together to  
25 continue to emphasize. It's something that I, as

1 Director of the Forest Service in the region, try to  
2 point out to my colleagues that whereas the Forest  
3 Service used to be producing a lot of funds to the  
4 Treasury from timber, with that no longer happening  
5 that much, we have way surpassed how much goes to the  
6 Treasury with how much is delivered to the Treasury  
7 through special uses and for recreation.

8           And while I will be the first to tell you that  
9 we need to balance the other again, I believe -- before  
10 I was on this job, I was a forest supervisor on  
11 Eldorado National Forest for five years, and I  
12 personally know that we need to do a better job of  
13 taking care of our forests, also. And so I'm certainly  
14 looking forward to the day that as an agency we can do  
15 more out there to -- in advance of having to put out  
16 fires, do more so that we don't have such big fires  
17 that really do not benefit -- does not benefit  
18 anything.

19           I guess that's all I wanted to share this  
20 morning -- or actually this afternoon before my  
21 colleagues come back up, but I do want to share one  
22 other thing, kind of a feel-good piece of information.  
23 Next Saturday is Public Lands Day, as many of you know.  
24 And in advance of that, on Friday, the 27th, Randy  
25 Moore, Regional Forester, is going to sign a

1 proclamation in support of the California Children's  
2 Outdoor Bill of Rights.

3           Some you may know about that bill of rights.  
4 It's something that -- actually an idea that was born  
5 out of the Forest Service office many years ago. But  
6 the California Roundtable for Parks, Recreation and  
7 Tourism has adopted it and has been promoting it for  
8 several years.

9           So we're going to sign a proclamation, and I  
10 want to -- and I'll give this to Vicki so she can share  
11 this with you, but basically the proclamation, the  
12 Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights states that:

13                       "All children before the age of  
14                       14 should have an opportunity to play  
15                       in a safe place, explore nature,  
16                       learn to swim, go fishing --" listen  
17                       to this one -- "follow a trail, camp  
18                       under the stars, ride a bike, go  
19                       boating, connect with their past, and  
20                       plant a seed."

21           It's a very simple concept, but the idea is also  
22 simple in that the better job we do at having our kids  
23 be outside, educational benefits, health benefits,  
24 we're creating stewards of the land, kids interested in  
25 teaching their parents about the importance of taking

1 care of our public lands, and the benefits of spending  
2 time outside. So it's something that I'm glad we're  
3 doing.

4 And I'll get out of here, but any questions for  
5 me? I know we will have other reports, but anything  
6 specific?

7 COMMISSION MURPHY: I just had one quick  
8 question. In regard to the Rim Fire and the  
9 restoration projects that are going to take place to  
10 recover from that incident, I heard a news report this  
11 week or last week about how there was going to be  
12 extensive environmental evaluation from the impacts of  
13 the fire, and somebody else spoke earlier about the  
14 concern for existing trails suddenly being deemed not  
15 maybe environmentally correct.

16 What kind of commitment can you give us to make  
17 sure that that doesn't happen? Because we want to  
18 maintain what we have, and I'm sure the forest will  
19 grow back and be as green and nice as it once was.

20 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: Well, the forest will  
21 grow back if we do our job in the restoration.

22 But two points to your comment, your question.  
23 One is that immediately after the fire, we go in with a  
24 team -- what's called a BAER Team, Burn Area Emergency  
25 Recovery Team. They go in there and evaluate, what do

1 we need to do immediately and in the next few months.  
2 In our case, our Regional Forester has already told us  
3 we have a lot of important work to do, but restoration  
4 after this Rim Fire is going to be our top priority for  
5 a few months.

6 What that means is going in and finding out what  
7 we can do in advance of the winter weather coming. We  
8 can't do it all, obviously, but what is the most  
9 important critical work that we need to do to protect  
10 the watersheds, the streams, the rivers, that resource  
11 that feeds the reservoirs that supply water to our  
12 urban/rural populations, what are we going to do there.  
13 So that's immediately in front of us. But let me say,  
14 unfortunately with that effort, we get enough funds to  
15 do what's immediately visible, what we can do  
16 immediately.

17 The other long-term restoration, reforestation  
18 and all of that, is something that we absorb in our  
19 appropriated budget, and so we have to find ways of  
20 doing that. But specific to the trails, what I can  
21 tell you is that if we have designated trails and roads  
22 that are open, that were open before we did our Travel  
23 Management Plan, then there's a commitment to those  
24 routes.

25 There's also a commitment to routes that during

1 that process were identified perhaps as routes that we  
2 no longer were going to be needing or using. And I  
3 would just submit to you that in those that are  
4 appropriate and within our Travel Management Plans in  
5 our designated routes they will be -- not on the line  
6 like might be expected, like, oh, they are going to go  
7 away, but other opportunities that we have that we had  
8 already decided to restore or naturalize, then maybe  
9 this is an opportunity.

10 But I don't want to have folks believe that, oh,  
11 here is an opportunity to close a bunch of roads.  
12 That's definitely not the case. And if we were going  
13 to do anything like that, the fire would not be the  
14 excuse to do it. We would still go through a NEPA  
15 process to do that, and the public would have an  
16 opportunity to get involved.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Ramiro, you're not ruling out  
18 temporary closures in this situation, are you, because  
19 there is no more vegetation?

20 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: Might that happen?  
21 Absolutely.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: That could go on for several  
23 years?

24 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: Well, it depends on how  
25 long it takes to make sure that we're protecting the

1 environment.

2 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're in a drought situation, so.

3 COMMISSIONER KERR: I don't know if this is an  
4 appropriate time or the next person, but how are we  
5 doing on the Hungry Valley -- cooperation between  
6 the -- the connections?

7 And since the last time I met with you, I was  
8 able to go with some of our rangers in the area and  
9 actually connect to your property next to Hungry  
10 Valley. And there are some difficulties in navigating  
11 that connection with the vehicle that doesn't have --  
12 is not street legal. There's some legal problems. In  
13 fact, I think we might have been riding illegally.  
14 It's very difficult to connect with an OHV -- the trail  
15 is paved, and it looks like it might be an actual  
16 highway or something, whatever it is.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Street legal.

18 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: This is a good cue for  
19 me to exit stage left. I don't have the details of any  
20 of that, maybe Kathy or others.

21 COMMISSIONER KERR: Because I notice that Hungry  
22 Valley is now showing up more and more in the -- like  
23 it was in all of the truck guides going out there  
24 testing their trucks out at Hungry Valley now from the  
25 L.A. area, people like Motor Trend Magazine, people are

1 going out to our Hungry Valley facility.

2 And so I think it is gradually developing into  
3 one of our more important facilities, and I just want  
4 to make sure we're working on this issue.

5 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: I assume someone behind  
6 me would be able to answer that.

7 If you could indulge me, I have one other thing.  
8 A week ago Thursday, we received word of a fatality of  
9 a volunteer that's been working for a long time with us  
10 and I understand with the State, Shane Krogen. He was  
11 the president of the High Sierra Trail Volunteer  
12 Association, and he fell out of a helicopter helping  
13 Fish and Wildlife in some cleanup of marijuana areas.  
14 And so I just point that out, you know, may Shane rest  
15 in peace. He was a big loss to the folks that worked  
16 in that world of volunteerism. Because so many of what  
17 you all touch and what we touch involves our  
18 volunteers, I just wanted to, in respect to Shane,  
19 mention Shane's passing, which hit a lot of our folks  
20 quite hard.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: When the question came up about  
22 Los Padres' connection with Hungry Valley, you're going  
23 to exit stage left.

24 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: I don't know the  
25 answer.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: I understand you don't have  
2 specific information, but my concern was that it should  
3 be elevated -- that situation should be elevated to the  
4 leadership in Region Five.

5 That's been a long ongoing situation, and  
6 somebody needs to intervene in there. And I know the  
7 district ranger has the ultimate authority, those kinds  
8 of things, but at some point somebody's got to sit down  
9 and figure this thing out. We've been battling this.

10 I've recreated there since the early '70s when  
11 it was a no brainer to go from a nice parking area to  
12 ride up into the beautiful forest, come back to your  
13 truck. Now you can't do it, and it's forcing people to  
14 ride illegally. It's just something that would be  
15 great if we could raise that to the level of  
16 consciousness at Randy Moore's level.

17 USFS RAMIRO VILLALVAZO: Duly noted.

18 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you.

19 Thank you for coming, too.

20 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Thank you, Ramiro, really  
21 appreciate it.

22 USFS DEB COSTA: I'm Deb Costa. I'm with the  
23 San Bernardino National Forest, and they asked me to  
24 come and show you all a little bit of what we do. And  
25 we've talked about recognition of how valuable

1 partnerships are, and that's what I'm going to talk  
2 about a little bit, about our partnerships also.

3 (PowerPoint presentation.)

4 So just really fast for the folks that don't  
5 know the San Bernardino National Forest, so we're right  
6 about here. If you go up about 100 miles up to those  
7 green areas up there, that's the San Bernardino.  
8 That's the Cleveland. That's the Angeles up there. So  
9 we're about 700,000 acres.

10 And right now we have ten active grants with the  
11 State, about 1.3 million. And our partners, the  
12 Southern California Mountain Foundation, formerly the  
13 San Bernardino National Forest Association, they have  
14 four active grants and 1.8 million.

15 And in this presentation, everything that's in  
16 red is our partners, and everything that's in yellow is  
17 the Forest Service, just so people don't get confused.

18 So the ground operations, everybody kind of  
19 knows, that's what really keeps us going. We do  
20 42 miles of trail maintenance, a lot of the hardening  
21 of our crossings. We do 169 miles of green sticker  
22 roads, and then we maintain all of our facilities and  
23 our work centers with those funds also.

24 And we do the habitat monitoring program. Right  
25 now we have about 28 sites that we monitor, and the

1 soil monitoring for all of the grants, and then it pays  
2 for our staffing to help with all of our volunteers  
3 also.

4 One of the really important partnerships that we  
5 have is the Adopt-a-Trail Program. This last 2012, we  
6 got 18,000 hours from these folks, and the program  
7 manager that runs this asked me to help you understand  
8 that now they're getting all these nontraditional  
9 groups. It used to just be a lot of the OHV clubs, but  
10 now there's a lot of other people that want access to  
11 these lands also. So now everybody has kind of buddied  
12 up. For this example, they had the Marine Corps, the  
13 Historical Society, the team education, geocachers, and  
14 then Honda and Yamaha, a lot of other groups, but 52  
15 clubs altogether.

16 They've also developed this Adopt-a-Trail Junior  
17 Ranger Program, and you can see on the right-hand side  
18 there that they construct trails. They do emergency  
19 roadwork, a lot of windblown trees. When you talk  
20 about -- when we close for these fires -- and a lot of  
21 times we do have to do closure for a year just to allow  
22 the vegetation to return, but then there's still a lot  
23 of downed trees on the ground. I can speak for them on  
24 the San Bernardino National Forest that a lot of these  
25 groups have come in, and they're the ones that are

1 actually clearing the trails so we can open these areas  
2 up as fast as possible. It's really important.

3 They also help us with the oversight drains and  
4 maintaining crossings, so this whole Adopt-a-Trail  
5 Program has been really, really beneficial to us. And  
6 these are just some photos of what they do. They're up  
7 here with sandbagging. These are clearing the  
8 oversight drains. They do these armoring below the  
9 drains so that when the water drains down, we don't get  
10 a lot of erosion. They're also out just clearing rocks  
11 and stuff from the trails.

12 Here is an example down at the bottom there.  
13 That's exactly what happens with the fires. After  
14 about seven years, the trees fall over, and then it's  
15 just constant maintenance of needing to clear those  
16 trails for public safety. We've also got windblown  
17 trees. That's a green one that came down. So they're  
18 out and about making sure that the trails are open for  
19 everybody.

20 One of the other programs that we have with the  
21 grant money is the program field manager does these  
22 educational tours twice a year, and he says that they  
23 are so popular that he can only advertise them about a  
24 month ahead of time or he will get like 400 cars  
25 showing up to come out there. So we're really trying

1 to continue to be big on education.

2 We also do special-use permits. We've been  
3 really careful now to try and inform the permittees  
4 that they do need a permit and the rules of the game.  
5 And then we're also out there at the events checking  
6 for compliance and trying to promote a good program.

7 Did you have a question?

8 CHAIR SLAVIK: He was thinking you were talking  
9 statewide there were so many big numbers here. I said,  
10 no, it's right here.

11 USFS DEB COSTA: If you do have a question, just  
12 raise your hand, and we'll talk.

13 So the law enforcement grant, again, that's  
14 really important, and I'm glad to hear that everyone  
15 else is thinking that this is as important as the San  
16 Bernardino does, too. It's super important, with  
17 everything that we have going on, that they're out and  
18 about, that they have vehicles that they can access  
19 these trails and get to these places where the riders  
20 are. They're very good with citations, but they also  
21 do make a lot of educational contacts and stuff, too.

22 So this year we've upped our program to 129,000  
23 that was approved this year. And in that we've asked  
24 for more temporary patrols just so that we've got more  
25 people on the ground so that we can do more education

1 when people are out there. And the law enforcement,  
2 what they asked me to express, too, was that they're  
3 trying to be out there more for big events and  
4 holidays, too. They're trying to make a higher  
5 presence.

6 Everyone always wants more staging areas, more  
7 trails. This year we are completing the environmental  
8 analysis for three new staging areas. One of them  
9 would construct 13 new miles of 50-inch trail which  
10 seems to be what everyone wants, motorcycle trails and  
11 then to designate nine miles of existing trails, and  
12 then restore some of the unauthorized routes that are  
13 in there. So we expect that decision by the end of  
14 September.

15 And then we also have another staging area a  
16 little bit farther to the east, and that will access  
17 15 miles of trail. And then this one is interesting,  
18 we allowed it to occur -- this is the Mojave River. So  
19 we allowed it to occur in there. The decision for that  
20 one is do we make it smaller and try to mitigate being  
21 in the river, do we bring it out higher up on the land,  
22 and we've got two alternatives for that. That's  
23 another one that -- our decision, we should have that  
24 by September 30th.

25 We've talked a lot about restoration today. We

1 do have a big restoration program on the San Bernardino  
2 National Forest. These last two years we've completed  
3 three big projects, and we have four additional ones  
4 that are ongoing. And one of the reasons that it is so  
5 important on the San Bernardino is -- this is a map of  
6 our threatened endangered species on the forest, and  
7 I'm going to read these numbers. Sixteen threatened  
8 and endangered wildlife, 21 plants, 29 sensitive  
9 wildlife, and 92 sensitive plants. With off-highway  
10 vehicle it's not that we avoid those at all costs.  
11 When we're planning new things, we do do that, but we  
12 do try to mitigate around them. And so it's important  
13 as we're planning all these new trails, planning these  
14 new trailheads, to restore some of these areas and then  
15 that allows us to do more work.

16 One of the newest projects that we've done is we  
17 were able to get -- in GIS we were able to get 400 of  
18 our restoration sites in GIS on map books with before  
19 and after photos and forms that we go monitor these.  
20 And so the State has given us so much money over the  
21 years, what we've asked for this time was money to go  
22 back out, make sure that these sites are still  
23 restored, that the closures are still in effect, and  
24 that we're mitigating the erosion problems. So that's  
25 been a really big process that we've been doing this

1 year.

2           This is another one. This is an OHV staging  
3 area that was designated in an old borrow pit, but we  
4 never delineated around it, and you can see how it  
5 expanded, and we've had a lot of erosions occurring  
6 over here. So these are some before and after  
7 pictures. So this is kind of what it was looking like.  
8 We have a lot of extra rock from a dam -- a road that  
9 we constructed. So we brought the rock up here, and  
10 then we designated a new trail in there. We also made  
11 a small trail that was a training. So as we restored  
12 some areas, we also opened two trails in there also.  
13 And these are just some examples. This is kind of what  
14 it looks like, and then after a couple years, we've  
15 kind of stopped the erosion.

16           These are just some examples. I don't know how  
17 much time we have. I'm probably running over. But we  
18 use a whole lot of help. We try to not make it very  
19 unsightly. There's a couple of different schools of  
20 thought. I kind of like to restore something like  
21 this, where you just drive by it and you don't even  
22 know it's a restoration site. Other people are like,  
23 no, you need to do a whole lot to show that we are  
24 doing more work. Unfortunately, we do have to put  
25 these yellow cages up because out in the desert the

1 animals will eat all of the plants that we plant.

2 That's why you see those out in the desert.

3 So the really cool thing, the restoration  
4 partnerships. So we would not be able to do all of the  
5 great work that we do without the Southern California  
6 Mountains Foundation. They have been a huge partner  
7 with us for a number of years, and what they do is they  
8 bring in all of the volunteers on the ground to help us  
9 with our projects. And we do planning. We have  
10 volunteer days once a month, and we've had this for  
11 years where the groups come in and help us restore.  
12 And they also have the Children's Forest Youth Program,  
13 and so they're teaching these kids to come in and do  
14 forest management.

15 And one of the big things that they've really  
16 helped us with is now they have Urban Conservation  
17 Corps so when we have a really big restoration project,  
18 it's not just me and my crew out there building a  
19 fence. We have a big crew that can actually get a lot  
20 of work done, and we call these for the intensive  
21 projects. That's been a really big help to us in the  
22 last couple of years. And they've worked really hard  
23 to be able to get these crews for us and to be able to  
24 sustain them.

25 So you can see the amount of money that they

1 have on three restoration projects now. They're really  
2 big on helping us with the monitoring. The Clay Horn  
3 one we haven't started yet. Again, this is at Cactus  
4 Flats. You can see they're bringing in Yamaha, and  
5 they're also helping us. So we have a lot of the OHV  
6 community that's helping us on projects, too.

7 And so this is an example of one of the  
8 projects. This is the OHV route up here. This was a  
9 meadow we were trying to restore, but it was a dry  
10 creek. So you would be driving along the road, you  
11 would see this dry creek bed, and all of the OHV  
12 enthusiasts would come down into the meadow. So we had  
13 them help us. We planted a bunch of dead material  
14 there to kind of disguise it and then put some signing  
15 up and did some education, and sure enough it healed.

16 The other thing that the Southern California  
17 Mountains Foundation -- they engage a lot of youth with  
18 their Children's Forest, so they're helping us to  
19 collect seeds. They grow plants for us. They take  
20 care of the plants. And these are our facilities.  
21 Just very quickly, so the association has their own  
22 greenhouse and grow their own plants for these  
23 restoration projects. We have seedbeds. We can grow  
24 trees and collect seed and then grow it out and bulk  
25 it.

1           This is the greenhouse that we have at Big Bear  
2 that the state grant provided for us in 2004. So this  
3 was like a \$17,000 greenhouse, so we grow all of our  
4 material here. And we also have a nursery down in Lido  
5 Creek. So the Big Bear houses 6800 feet, and that  
6 grows all of the high-elevation plants.

7           We also have a seed storage container, and this  
8 contains the seed cache for the whole forest. All of  
9 our seeds are collected locally. These are some  
10 pictures I'm going to go through. I have two more  
11 slides left, okay?

12           So safety and education, this is a big  
13 partnership with the association. It's been 20 years.  
14 I'll let you read all of that. So 22,000 service hours  
15 annually, 200 active volunteers, these maps that you're  
16 seeing, those were produced by them. And you can see  
17 it's all about education, 2,000 students annually in  
18 the Right Trail Program. They provide educational  
19 kiosks, free sound checks, dealer liaison programs, and  
20 they educate users on the trail.

21           And then what we want you to go see while you're  
22 here, this is their new mobile education trailer, and  
23 so what they have -- they take that to trailheads.  
24 They take that to events like this, and then they have  
25 all of the maps and the education for the kids and all

1 of that in there.

2 So thank you very much.

3 USFS KATHLEEN MICK: So as you can see, the San  
4 Bernardino National Forest, along with the other 17  
5 national forests in the state, are doing good things  
6 with the grant funds. And we're going to continue on  
7 the tradition of trying to bring the local folks in to  
8 actually share with you what they are doing since there  
9 has been so much discussion about funds and whether  
10 they're being spent to advocate or protect OHV  
11 opportunities and recreation. So we're going to  
12 continue to do that and share with you just the good  
13 work that the United States Forest Service is doing  
14 with the gas tax funds and the green sticker funds that  
15 we're given.

16 So with that you have a copy somewhere in your  
17 binder, and I couldn't tell you where to share that  
18 with you, of just the outline of the stuff that I was  
19 going to quickly talk about.

20 So the first thing that I wanted to do was just  
21 give you an update on the travel management, and that's  
22 all of the subparts. And so you have a background  
23 piece in there that refreshes your memory in case  
24 you've forgotten about what each of the subparts are.

25 So I'll start with Subpart A, and what's

1 important for the OHV community and for recreationists  
2 in general, environmentalists, and the OHV Division and  
3 Commissioners to pay particular attention to is that we  
4 have something called Subpart A. It's one of the three  
5 subparts of the 2005 Travel Management Rule, and as  
6 part of that we're starting to embark on the first  
7 space of Subpart A, and that's the travel analysis  
8 process. And what that is is that it's an analysis  
9 that will include interacting with interested parties,  
10 members of the public, counties, and et cetera, and  
11 it's to talk about our road system.

12 At the end of that analysis process, we will  
13 yield a report. It will be called the Travel Analysis  
14 Report. You might see the acronym TAR. And that  
15 report is not covered by NEPA. It's not NEPA. It  
16 doesn't make a decision, and it doesn't change a single  
17 thing on the ground. What it does is it contains a  
18 methodology for the analysis, the things that the team  
19 thought about when they did the analysis, and it will  
20 contain maps that, like these spreadsheets, will  
21 outline opportunities for changes to a national forest  
22 transportation system. Those opportunities will then  
23 be probably prioritized and moved forward to make  
24 changes on the ground, and those will then become NEPA  
25 documents and proposed actions and ultimately decisions

1 on the ground.

2 So as you start to hear about Subpart A and the  
3 areas that you're interested in, I would encourage you  
4 to participate. I would encourage the OHV Division to  
5 dedicate someone, whether it's Dan Canfield or someone  
6 else, to play close attention to it so that you know  
7 what we're doing, how we're doing it, and why it's  
8 being done. And that way if you have questions from  
9 the community, you'll be knowledgeable and you'll know  
10 who to deal with, not only myself at the regional  
11 office, but the folks out on the ground, and that you  
12 understand that Subpart A has a couple of phases and we  
13 are in the first phase.

14 Then we're also still working on Subpart B,  
15 which was the route designation. We're particularly  
16 proud of the fact that we finally -- although we  
17 exceeded our deadline considerably, that we've  
18 completed the first phase of that. The Tahoe National  
19 Forest will soon be issuing its motor vehicle use map.  
20 They've completed it. I'm not sure whether they've  
21 started to give that to the public.

22 So we've got Phase 1 under our belt. Whether  
23 you liked it or you hated it, it's done. Cross-country  
24 travel is now prohibited throughout the state unless  
25 it's in an area, and we're moving on to now identifying

1 where things might have been done well and we can  
2 improve them and where things might have been done not  
3 so well and we can improve them.

4 So we are kind of over going backward. We're  
5 about moving forward and trying to figure out if we  
6 didn't get it right the first time, how we can go in  
7 and systematically fix it knowing that nobody is going  
8 to get everything, but hopefully there will be  
9 something for everyone.

10 With that said, there's a couple of highlights.  
11 The Six Rivers National Forest has a project on the  
12 Smith River NRA, the National Recreation Area. They're  
13 doing an EIS. And it's likely the public that are  
14 interested in that area will see that draft EIS come  
15 out probably in October. It was supposed to come out  
16 sometime this month, but they're a little bit behind  
17 schedule.

18 The Stanislaus National Forest is still working  
19 to conform to the court decision they had on their  
20 travel management and dealing with how to express their  
21 analysis of the minimization criteria in our Travel  
22 Management Rule and working forward with that.

23 The Eldorado National Forest just recently met  
24 with a lot of their appellants on their 42 route  
25 project. The new forest supervisor, Lauren Crabtree,

1 worked with the County, the environmental community,  
2 some of the user community, until all of the appeals on  
3 their decision were settled. And so the forest is  
4 again moving forward on their Record of Decision that  
5 was based on their supplemental EIS. And so I believe  
6 that, if they haven't already, they will soon be  
7 opening about 24 of the 42 routes, and then that leaves  
8 I think approximately 18 that they have some further  
9 work to do that will come online over time.

10 That over time piece is in some cases for  
11 certain routes could be a year or two, and then for  
12 other routes it could be more lengthy, and that's going  
13 to be dependent on their ability to garner funds to  
14 move forward on the projects they need to do to get  
15 routes out of meadows and conform with the standards  
16 and guides of their forest plan.

17 So then the last part of the Travel Management  
18 Rule is Subpart C, and this one is a little more  
19 difficult, so we can dedicate more time to it at  
20 another meeting if people desire. I think since we're  
21 at the Sand and Sports Show, there's probably not a  
22 whole lot of people that are interested in snow stuff  
23 in the room but maybe, besides us and the Division.

24 We had some litigation in the region. It was  
25 filed on November 3rd of 2011. The Regional Forester

1 talked about it with his staff, and we kept an eye on  
2 what was going on at the OHV Division. Their  
3 litigation is currently I believe in appeal and still  
4 awaiting a court date. So you've got some balls in the  
5 air now, so you've got some things going on. You've  
6 got the OHV Division EIR over here. It was upheld in  
7 court but now it's under appeal but no court date, so,  
8 who knows, maybe it will be upheld again, maybe they  
9 won't. We don't know what that means.

10 The Forest Service was sued over here in the  
11 region in 2011, and we've been talking about it for a  
12 long time trying to figure what to do. And then kind  
13 of over here nationally we had a lawsuit against the  
14 Forest Service in our Travel Management Rule specific  
15 to Subpart C, and we lost that litigation.

16 So nationally we had things claimed, statewide  
17 we had things claimed, so the Regional Forester made a  
18 decision that we would settle the lawsuit against us  
19 with the plaintiffs, and that is public record. I  
20 think some of the language for the settlement is out in  
21 the public already. And so basically what we said we  
22 would do is that for the forests that were concerned,  
23 and we had 11 of them that were of concern, that as  
24 part of the settlement for five of the forests -- and  
25 those are the Lassen, the Plumas, the Tahoe, the

1 Eldorado and the Stanislaus -- that we would do NEPA to  
2 determine which routes will be groomed and which routes  
3 won't.

4 And so we will be doing what we're calling in  
5 our settlement as appropriate NEPA, because we're not  
6 going to predetermine what type of NEPA that will be,  
7 but that we're going to do appropriate NEPA that will  
8 identify snow trails for grooming on those said named  
9 forests and that activity such as ploughing relating to  
10 parking lots, trailheads, would also be analyzed as  
11 part of the effects analysis and that the analysis  
12 would consider a range of alternative actions that  
13 would result in varying levels of use.

14 The other part of that is that we're on a tight  
15 timeline. We've got to have a draft of these NEPA  
16 documents by May of 2015 and ultimately have final NEPA  
17 and decisions issued no later than November 30th of  
18 2015. We have the ability to modify those dates if we  
19 have to enter into consultation with Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service or other entities, but the time clock has  
21 started ticking for us.

22 The last part of the settlement is that we've  
23 agreed that the plaintiffs and/or the intervenors,  
24 which were the snowmobile groups, have the ability to  
25 submit alternatives in our NEPA documents as long as

1 they meet the scope of what we're doing and they do it  
2 within the proper time frame. And if they don't meet  
3 the scope, then we go back to them and tell them, hey,  
4 this isn't what we need, and they have 30 days to give  
5 us what we need to meet the purpose and need, and we  
6 can move on. So that's what's kind of going on in  
7 travel management.

8 As John Stewart mentioned, we've also got  
9 something called Forest Plan Revision. Right now we  
10 have three forests that are interacting with our new  
11 planning rule. Those are the Sierra, the Inyo and the  
12 Sequoia. Again, it's very important for the  
13 Commission, members of the OHV community and the OHV  
14 Division to be engaged in this process. We've  
15 mentioned it several times, and I believe at the last  
16 meeting we had one of our staff come in and do a piece  
17 about Forest Plan Revision and the assessments that we  
18 were working on. As we speak, things are ticking.

19 So the Sierra National Forest assessment was  
20 open for public review and input, and that time frame  
21 just concluded. The Inyos will open up on or about  
22 sometime next week for public review and input and will  
23 probably be open for about 30 days. And then the  
24 Sequoia is also available on their website now and is  
25 open for public review and input. So, again, it's

1 important that those folks that are interested in how  
2 those forests are going to address OHV recreation, that  
3 they pay attention to those.

4           Pretty much the assessment right now is, again,  
5 the non-NEPA piece, and what it does is it outlines the  
6 existing condition of what's going on on a national  
7 forest. The part that you would want to pay more  
8 attention to is Chapter 9. That's the recreation  
9 section of a multi-chaptered document. Unless you  
10 really like heavy reading, I wouldn't recommend reading  
11 the whole thing. I would just focus on Chapter 9,  
12 which deals with recreation in general and will have  
13 things specific to motorized recreation.

14           You'll see in your agenda that the San  
15 Bernardino was here. They did a great job. The  
16 Cleveland, due to my failure in communication, wasn't  
17 able to attend, so hopefully at the next meeting we  
18 have in Southern California, the Cleveland will be able  
19 to come and do a presentation for you, if you're  
20 following your agenda that I provided.

21           The next thing I want to talk about, we have a  
22 lot of heavy lifting going on at the Forest Service, so  
23 we're not just sitting around with our feet on the desk  
24 eating bonbons. We have a lot of heavy stuff going on  
25 right now that interacts with trails and interacts with

1 motorized recreation, a lot of heavy planning.

2 If you Google the GAO Trails Report, you'll find  
3 the Government Office of Accountability did an audit on  
4 us nationally, and they did a report called, "Forest  
5 Service Trails: Long and Short-Term Improvements Could  
6 Reduce Maintenance, Backlog and Enhance Systems  
7 Sustainability." That's a mouthful.

8 So I provided to Vicki a handout for all of you.  
9 It's a summary highlight sheet. I'd encourage you to  
10 read it. It gives kind of an outline of what the GAO  
11 found nationally, why they did this study and what  
12 their recommendations are. Those recommendations will  
13 then be responded to by an action item response by the  
14 chief of the Forest Service that's approved by the  
15 Department of Agriculture, and then we'll kind of have  
16 our marching orders of how we're going to address  
17 dealing with the audit.

18 The basic story that you'll read about is that  
19 much like a lot of things in the Forest Service, we  
20 have too many things and not enough money to take care  
21 of it, and our trail system and road system is kind of  
22 at the center of it. We have 158,000 miles of trails  
23 nationally, and we just can't afford to take care of it  
24 all.

25 So over time you will probably see a move to do

1 some trail master planning to find out what we have,  
2 what's being used, what's not being used, what the  
3 public wants, what we can get rid of, and perhaps what  
4 we can create that would better get at public need,  
5 again with the theme of environmental protection,  
6 financial sustainability, and knowing that we just  
7 can't be all things to all people.

8 As you start to look at the GAO information, if  
9 you have more questions, like I said, it's something we  
10 can cover at another meeting, but for the sake of time,  
11 I won't go into any more of the details about that  
12 right now.

13 The next thing that could affect the OHV  
14 community depending on where you sit, could be  
15 beneficial, could not -- I think some of that might be  
16 perceptual or philosophical viewpoints. But I told  
17 Paul that I would address it because AMA came out with  
18 a press release that dealt with something we did  
19 nationally called -- some new U.S. Forest Service CEs,  
20 which are categorical exclusions, categories. And we  
21 had 17 of them and now we have 20. We added three.  
22 You can best find it by going to Google and looking for  
23 the Federal Register Notice. It was Volume 78 for the  
24 record, No. 177, published on Thursday, September 12th  
25 of 2013.

1           Again, Vicki handed to you from me a news  
2 release that we released to the public that will be  
3 informative for you to read. I also gave you a list of  
4 frequently asked questions that can also be found on  
5 the national website for the members of the public that  
6 don't have them, if there is not enough in the back of  
7 the room, and that will tell you what we did and why we  
8 did it.

9           Basically, we added these CE categories so that  
10 we could improve the agency's ability to restore lands  
11 affected by all kinds of things, in particularly by  
12 roads and trails, structures and things like that. So  
13 the category that would probably most interest the OHV  
14 community is the one that allows us to -- with the  
15 categorical exclusion, not an EA and not an EIS, allow  
16 us to do on-the-ground work to restore lands.

17           Now, you'll probably say, oh, what say you.  
18 It's not going to be system routes. It's not routes  
19 that people are currently using. What we're talking  
20 about is the hill climb that somebody just made and  
21 denuded half an acre, the unauthorized routes that are  
22 laying out on the ground that will never ever become  
23 part of our system, other things that have been created  
24 that are sitting out there that are not either part of  
25 our system, our official system, but that are affecting

1 the environment. Those are the things that we'll go  
2 after with these CEs, but it doesn't mean that there's  
3 not a process.

4 We're required to scope the public and let the  
5 public know what our project is and what we're doing,  
6 and there's the ability for the public to comment. And  
7 you'll see all of that -- and best thing I would  
8 recommend if you're going to do any reading is to do  
9 the frequently asked questions.

10 The reason we did it nationally is that we're  
11 spending an inordinate amount of money on NEPA to do  
12 projects. We can't go after the restoration money  
13 that's like sitting in the OHV Trust Fund begging to be  
14 spent because we have to do NEPA, an in-depth detailed  
15 NEPA on stuff that almost everybody -- no matter where  
16 you sit, everybody would agree that, yeah, that needs  
17 to be fixed.

18 So we went through the Administrative Procedures  
19 Act process, issued notices in the Federal Register,  
20 did everything we needed to do, and now that's part of  
21 our regulations. It's actually going to be a really  
22 good thing for us and I believe ultimately for the  
23 public, as well. But as you get into reading it, if  
24 you have questions, I'm happy to answer them. You can  
25 call me, or I can address it at another meeting.

1           Then the last thing that Paul had asked me to  
2 talk about is the side-by-side issue. And we don't  
3 typically get into commenting on legislation unless it  
4 directly affects us. And so the legislation that was  
5 most recently passed didn't affect us negatively or  
6 positively, so we typically stand silent.

7           But the thing I think that Paul -- and correct  
8 me if I'm wrong -- what was of most interest is a  
9 couple of things which are, one, how is the Forest  
10 Service addressing the new technology, where can people  
11 ride these machines, what does the public need to do in  
12 terms of identifying areas where they can ride and what  
13 the motor vehicle use map says.

14           So right now I don't have the State's  
15 definition. I didn't have a chance to pull it up in  
16 terms of how the State defines a side-by-side in the  
17 Vehicle Code. I know just from experience that they're  
18 typically greater than 50 inches but not much, you  
19 know, sometimes about 58 inches, not actually too wide.

20           So what ends up starting to happen is that we  
21 find that as the forests are starting to get more and  
22 more of these on public land, that our current trails  
23 don't adequately address that need. So now we've got a  
24 gap in recreation opportunity.

25           Typically on our motor vehicle use map you'll

1 see trails that are 50 inches or less, so the  
2 side-by-sides can't go on there. And then you'll see  
3 trails that are 50 inches or greater. They may look  
4 like a road to the average person, but we really manage  
5 them as a trail. The side-by-sides can go on all of  
6 those. So any trail that we manage, whether it be for  
7 four-wheel drive or that's greater than 50 inches, the  
8 side-by-sides can use those unless they are otherwise  
9 prohibited.

10 The other piece is that for the most part every  
11 Level 2 road, unless again previously restricted, is  
12 open to side-by-side use because it's a green sticker  
13 vehicle. So when you add all of that up, it's about  
14 35,000 miles of stuff available. Now, whether that all  
15 connects and makes nice loop opportunities, I'm sure  
16 there's some of that, but not as much as probably some  
17 would like. But it's something that's emerging  
18 technology. More people are buying them, getting off  
19 of their dirt bikes and getting into these  
20 side-by-sides. So it's something that we're aware of  
21 regionally and nationally, and I'm sure that as it  
22 starts to become more prevalent, we'll take strides to  
23 address it.

24 Right now there is opportunity out there.  
25 Whether it's the most ideal opportunity for folks at

1 this time, that probably could be debated, but there is  
2 opportunity out there for folks. And the biggest  
3 barrier right now is just the way that we define our  
4 trail system, the way we manage it, and we're not  
5 really set up right now for that emerging technology,  
6 so that's something our Washington office will have to  
7 take on and address.

8 I wanted to get back to Kevin Murphy's question  
9 about the Rim Fire because although Ramiro addressed  
10 it, there's a couple of points that I think are really  
11 important. One is right now the Rim Fire is at the  
12 forefront of everyone's mind because it just happened,  
13 but it's just one of many fires that we have that  
14 affects OHV areas.

15 If you talk to Commissioner Cabral or Don  
16 Amador, right now the thing that's in the forefront of  
17 Don Amador's mind is not the Rim Fire, but it's the  
18 fire that happened a year ago on the Mendocino. And  
19 we've got a closure there to a bunch of roads and a  
20 bunch of trails because of that fire and our inability  
21 to be able to get in and cut hazard trees, which has  
22 nothing to do with recreation, but because there's  
23 hazard trees because the area was nuked and you've got  
24 a bunch of burnt toothpicks sitting out there, there  
25 are certain places where we just can't let the public

1 go for safety reasons. So we've got to make some  
2 closures.

3 So that brings us to the Rim Fire which  
4 destroyed -- I think it was 300 square miles, and  
5 there's a lot of burnt toothpicks out there, and it  
6 pretty much decimated a whole entire ranger district,  
7 which would be the Groveland Ranger District, as well  
8 as parts of Yosemite National Park.

9 So Ramiro is correct in that I don't think the  
10 Forest Service would take action unless there was some  
11 other cause to close the system trail that was  
12 previously opened to OHV communities before the fire.  
13 But on the other hand are there going to be immediate  
14 closures? Absolutely. Will there be long-term  
15 closures? I'm also positive there will be. And that's  
16 going to a reflection of what we're able to do, how  
17 much money we have, and what's the danger to the  
18 public.

19 And so as long as folks keep that in mind and  
20 try to help the forest find ways to counteract those  
21 effects, everything will go successfully. It's when we  
22 stop working together and we stop talking and things  
23 happen that then we end up with issues.

24 But I just wanted to make that point because I  
25 don't want people to think that after the rains stop

1 that the whole entire Rim Fire area will be opened up  
2 for recreation and everybody will go along merrily just  
3 in a burnt forest instead of a green one. That's not  
4 going to happen.

5 I just want to make sure that people understand  
6 that but more importantly understand why. Typically  
7 it's either about the resource impacts or more  
8 importantly public safety, public health and human  
9 safety.

10 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: If I can just respond to  
11 that. I don't want to interrupt your presentation.

12 USFS KATHY MICK: I'm pretty much done.

13 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: During the video  
14 presentation that we saw, I was very encouraged to see  
15 all of the work that's being done to protect the  
16 environment and restore areas and bring things back to  
17 their natural status, because that's the thing that's  
18 going to keep the forest healthy, and that's the best  
19 thing we can do to be able to get out in the forest and  
20 enjoy.

21 Now, at the same time in looking at a more  
22 balanced approach, I'm seeing staging areas restored  
23 and trails closed. Where are the staging areas opened  
24 at, and where are trails being opened to replace those  
25 places that have been closed? And if our grant funding

1 is going to close these places down, we want to see  
2 what's being done to open things up. Is that part of  
3 what you're working on and doing?

4 USFS KATHLEEN MICK: In general it's something  
5 that John Stewart, Dave Pickett were talking about at  
6 the break. There's a couple of factors here. One,  
7 there is a dramatic difference between permanent  
8 closure and temporary closure. And temporary closure,  
9 there is no boundaries on that. It could be a week.  
10 It could be a month. It could be a year. It could be  
11 multiple years. It depends on the circumstance.

12 The Mendocino has just enacted a Forest Order  
13 that's going to close roads and trails for up to a  
14 year. Now, does that mean they should be meant to pay  
15 back all of their grant money to the OHV Division?  
16 It's not permanent. It's temporary because it's health  
17 and human safety. And I think the OHV Division would  
18 agree because that's very important. Now, if they were  
19 going to close everything down and never let it be  
20 opened again, then that's a different discussion, and  
21 different decisions would have to be made by us and by  
22 them.

23 What you saw was the San Bernardino doing their  
24 best with limited resources and limited land base,  
25 because remember the San Bernardino -- and I don't know

1 if you've ridden there, but we're in urban central  
2 here. I mean you talk on the Angeles of 40,000 people  
3 up a canyon on a sunny weekend in a pond probably as  
4 big as this room. So this is urban pressure. So they  
5 have a lot of species issues.

6 So every forest I think is doing what they can.  
7 But you have to understand that without the grant funds  
8 we wouldn't able to do half of what we can do, and  
9 there would be a lot less riding available to folks.  
10 So I would just ask you to keep it in perspective.

11 Now, do we have the ability to say, well, the  
12 Groveland Ranger District got wiped out, so let's run  
13 and scurry over here to the Mi-Wok District and open up  
14 14 new staging areas and 52 extra miles of trails? No,  
15 because, one, we don't have the money. We'd probably  
16 have to go to the OHV Division for funding if we had an  
17 idea like that. And is that what we're about? No,  
18 we're looking for long-term sustainable OHV recreation.  
19 We're looking for long-term sustainable recreation,  
20 period. If we can't sustain it, we're not going to  
21 maintain it. We're not. That's when you read the GAO  
22 report, you'll see that.

23 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I understand that.

24 USFS KATHY MICK: So remember to keep things in  
25 balance. We're doing things like on the San

1 Bernardino, the Plumas is taking -- in an effort to add  
2 more roads and trails, the Shasta-Trinity just  
3 converted I think it was over 100 miles of road from  
4 Level 3 to Level 2 to provide OHV opportunity and  
5 linkage and what Ed Waldheim calls connectivity.

6 So now that we've kind of finished the big wave  
7 of travel management, each forest is now stepping back  
8 and trying to listen to their communities and figure  
9 out where we can do things that can be sustained, and I  
10 think over time you'll see more of it, but probably not  
11 at the rate and scale that you would like because you  
12 really want to go out and ride and enjoy yourself, and  
13 people -- it's sort of the American way, we want as  
14 much as we can have, and that's just not -- as Chris  
15 said earlier, that's not living in our reality. That's  
16 not a world we can live in.

17 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Like the thing I'm  
18 thinking of is if one area is closed because a fire  
19 came through there and you have a hazardous condition  
20 with the snags and dead trees that are standing and if  
21 it's closed because of that, can we take -- can we make  
22 an effort to try to make that forest safe and get  
23 reopened as soon as possible, instead of just letting  
24 it be temporarily closed for an indefinite amount of  
25 time?

1           USFS KATHY MICK: Absolutely. That's a  
2 different take on the question that you asked. So the  
3 Mendocino did go back to the -- they're under a court  
4 order because what they're doing also ties to a salvage  
5 logging sale, and the sale got litigated. So the judge  
6 put a restraining order on anything happening. So what  
7 the forest did is they went back to the judge and said,  
8 look, we've got this recreation opportunity, and we  
9 have the ability -- and they were strategic about it.  
10 We have the ability in some areas to go in and just cut  
11 the hazard trees, having nothing to do with the logging  
12 but just the roadside and trails of hazard trees so  
13 that we can open this area up to the public. And so  
14 they did that for one area, and the judge said yes.  
15 And so they went in, and they did that work, and they  
16 opened that area up.

17           But now what's happening is they have several  
18 other areas, and the judge said, no, no more. And so  
19 now they're trying to go back to the judge and say,  
20 look, this is what we're doing, and it has nothing to  
21 do with the timber sale, but we're trying to get these  
22 strategic areas opened for the recreating public. But  
23 it takes time.

24           And in the past, the OHV Division has been very  
25 good about -- even though there's not what we'd all

1 like to see, which is this emergency pot of money to  
2 address the aftermath of fires, because if you have  
3 history like Paul or Ed Waldheim or Dave Pickett, some  
4 of these guys, Don Amador, this is not the first fire  
5 that the Mendocino has had. This isn't their first  
6 time at the dance. They just had a fire six, eight  
7 years ago that decimated their OHV area. They rebuilt  
8 it all, and now it just got wiped out again, so this is  
9 ever present.

10 And the Division has always been there for us  
11 with some kind of money to help us through and find  
12 ways to address this, and I believe that they're still  
13 looking at ways to think about how we can do this on a  
14 broader scale, and I think that probably takes  
15 legislative change. But it's something that's needed,  
16 because otherwise we are kind of hamstrung on what we  
17 have the ability to do, and so it affects you guys. It  
18 affects the mom and dad that want to take their kid  
19 recreating, because of the catastrophic nature of fire.

20 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Thank you.

21 CHAIR SLAVIK: I think we better move on.

22 USFS KATHY MICK: I'm done.

23 (Returned at 2:07 from a break beginning at 1:59.)

24 **AGENDA ITEM VI(B) - BLM REPORT**

25 CHAIR SLAVIK: BLM report. Thank you for being

1 so patient today.

2 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: Not a problem. My name is  
3 Jane Arteaga. I'm the OHV lead for California BLM.  
4 I'm out of the State Office in Sacramento. I want to  
5 thank the Commissioners, Deputy Director Conlin, staff,  
6 and members of the public for allowing me to come and  
7 present our program that we have.

8 I need to apologize. I was on the Rim Fire for  
9 two weeks when this report was due, and I actually  
10 wrote this report on the Rim Fire. And we had very  
11 poor Internet service at that time, and that was on and  
12 off, and I thought I e-mailed it to Vicki, but I guess  
13 it didn't get out, and I didn't realize that when I  
14 came back last week. So I apologize for this not  
15 getting to you earlier.

16 First off, I'd like to say with Johnson Valley  
17 and the Marine Corps acquisition, we still have no  
18 update from Congress. We're waiting for congressional  
19 action on that one.

20 Clear Creek, the Washington office is still  
21 reviewing over the pro trust resolutions, and I just  
22 called yesterday our office, and they said we still  
23 have no update as far as when we think we would get the  
24 information back from the Washington office. So  
25 hopefully by December we will be able to present

1 something to you.

2 And our fiscal year 2014, as you all hear over  
3 the news, we will be working at the end of September, I  
4 don't know at this time. But the good thing is all of  
5 our law enforcement is essential personnel, so law  
6 enforcement will be out there. And because it is our  
7 big busy year in the desert, a lot of our recreational  
8 staff has been deemed essential personnel also, because  
9 we couldn't have some of the events that we have during  
10 our wintertime without our recreational staff being out  
11 there.

12 Last year we were cut 11 percent of our budget.  
13 Due to that, throughout the state the decision was  
14 made, do not fill positions once they become vacant.  
15 As an example, a Palm Springs Field Office person got a  
16 promotion, moved to Oregon, one of our rec planners,  
17 and that position is still vacant and is not going to  
18 be filled as we know it.

19 This next year we're looking -- our planning  
20 right now before Congress even tells us our budget,  
21 we're looking at a five percent to eight percent cut.  
22 Total, we're looking at somewhere around \$5 million cut  
23 in our program this year. Again, the direction is do  
24 not fill positions.

25 If we don't fill the positions, we're trying to

1 be as creative as possible, possibly sharing positions.  
2 For instance, the Needles Field Office rec planner will  
3 step in and help out Palm Springs, and the people from  
4 the district will help out Palm Springs in order to do  
5 the recreational planning. The rec planner also  
6 manages the permit program, so there's no one there to  
7 manage the rec program.

8 A lot of the seasonal positions and/or what we  
9 call NTE positions, not-to-exceed positions, will be  
10 cut also. A lot of those positions have been  
11 identified as far as not being able to fill because we  
12 don't have the funding to do that unless it's funded  
13 through OHV funding, so thank you for making us whole  
14 on that arena. So if it's an OHV position, then we are  
15 able to fill behind in that manner.

16 I worked hard with the field offices this past  
17 winter, and I wrote a justification to the Washington  
18 office of why these positions are essential, and they  
19 approved it, and we were able to show that we got  
20 funding from OHV.

21 There is one thing I did differently this past  
22 year when working with the field office when they're  
23 applying for the grants. I knew that because of last  
24 year's budget cuts, and I knew we were going to get  
25 budget cuts again this year -- that's just the trend of

1 Congress and what we're going through right now in  
2 government -- I made the staff really look hard as far  
3 as could we actually meet the match. So, for example,  
4 in Palm Springs, other than their law enforcement  
5 grants -- so this excludes law enforcement -- other  
6 than their law enforcement grants, really look at your  
7 programs, and if we were cut another five percent --  
8 because they were saying six months ago that we'd  
9 probably be cut a minimum of five percent -- could we  
10 actually meet the match.

11 So you'll look at some of our programs, what we  
12 actually applied for was less than what we have in the  
13 past, and that's because of our match because we  
14 weren't sure whether or not, one, if we would have the  
15 staff to implement the project and, two, can we meet  
16 the match. So this is the reality of our fiscal budget  
17 right now of uncertainty.

18 So when -- I'm going to move on to the next  
19 topic. So when we're doing the planning for ISDRA and  
20 looking at the business plan -- and just like the  
21 State, we kind of are wondering what is Congress going  
22 to approve for our budget, and the State is kind of  
23 saying, well, we can do this, we can't do that.

24 So we're trying to think about how much can we  
25 actually rely upon the State to keep our programs

1 going. The ISDRA is a very important program for us.  
2 It's at the top of our list, to keep the program going.  
3 Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, we call it ISDRA.  
4 We put a lot of effort. We bring people from out of  
5 state -- law enforcement officers from out of state to  
6 be able to staff during the holidays.

7 So when we're doing the business plan, we look  
8 at different alternatives to staffing: Could we reduce  
9 staff as far as LEs? Could we hire more seasonals to  
10 replace those LEs? Instead of doing more enforcement,  
11 concentrate more on education? We're just kind of  
12 thinking of different ways to reduce costs.

13 So part of the ISDRA plan did identify those,  
14 reduce in costs to your daily business. And the other  
15 thing is in any plan I've seen the federal government  
16 produce, that I'm most proud of is this plan. They  
17 started going out to the public three years ago, if not  
18 sooner, very much used our partners to help create that  
19 plan and come up with the ideas of BLM just doing  
20 better at our business.

21 As government, sometimes we're not too good at  
22 business, but if we reach out to the public who run  
23 private industry all the time, they come up with some  
24 really good ideas. And I think in this plan we really  
25 implemented that.

1           As we all know, what you've heard earlier, one  
2 of the things that wasn't part of the draft was having  
3 a seasonal permit because we were having so many  
4 problems implementing that permit. And so with  
5 reaching out to our public and input from our public,  
6 we put back in the seasonal permit, and we're going to  
7 have a similar program to green sticker and just have a  
8 sticker program related to the permit instead of a pass  
9 that we used to have, and that permit is \$150 a year.  
10 So that's a yearly permit, and our off-site weekly  
11 permit is \$35, and on-site purchase for a weekly permit  
12 is \$50.

13           So if we didn't have these fees, we wouldn't be  
14 able to have the program. That's a reality for us.  
15 We're already running a deficit every year. The rest  
16 of the BLM was bailing -- the rest of California State  
17 was bailing out ISDRA, and so we just couldn't continue  
18 doing business that way. We had to raise the fees.  
19 And we tried to look at other ways, as I discussed, to  
20 reduce costs, and we had them, and we will continue to  
21 do that.

22           A good example of the hardship that we're in  
23 right now, for instance, for this event, normally our  
24 booth for the dunes we have a whole contingency of  
25 people coming. We bring vehicles and all this other

1 stuff. We didn't bring the vehicles. We only have two  
2 employees working, and also Dumont Dunes usually comes  
3 and has a booth also, and we couldn't afford to have  
4 the booth with that either, so we're not. And it's  
5 just not the booth cost, it's bringing the personnel  
6 over here and staffing the booth. So that's a  
7 significant impact and where we feel that, okay, so we  
8 do want to be visible in the public, but what's more  
9 important to us also is having boots on the ground.

10 The next topic I was going to talk about, and we  
11 have a map up, if you look to your right over here,  
12 here is -- the map where it says the DRECP, the Desert  
13 Renewable Energy Conservation Project. If you look, it  
14 goes all the way up into Inyo County over to  
15 Bakersfield, and then it goes all the way down to the  
16 border. So it's a fairly large project.

17 The BLM with their other agency partners,  
18 including State Parks, covers the planning area -- is  
19 preparing the DRECP. The planning area covers solar,  
20 wind and geothermal and transmission across  
21 22.5 million acres of public and private lands  
22 including 10 million public land acres in Imperial  
23 County, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside,  
24 San Bernardino and San Diego Counties.

25 This is one of the largest landscape-level

1 conservation planning efforts in the desert. It's an  
2 innovative collaboration among federal, state, and  
3 local agencies to streamline permitting for up to  
4 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy projects and  
5 transmission lines while conserving biological and  
6 natural resources across 22.5 million acres of  
7 California desert.

8 A significant effort in the plan is the  
9 identification and mitigation impacts on recreation.  
10 The document has identified special recreation  
11 management areas which we call SRMAs. So I'm going to  
12 be talking about SRMA, SRMA, so you'll know what SRMAs  
13 are.

14 SRMAs are utilized to preserve recreational  
15 values and may include developed campgrounds, trails,  
16 interpretive sites or visitor centers and other  
17 facilities, including OHV areas. SRMAs provide a wide  
18 variety of recreational opportunities for both  
19 motorized and non-motorized recreation activities.  
20 Existing SRMAs such as Jawbone are part of the analysis  
21 to further enhance recreational values.

22 The draft document identifies new SRMAs such as  
23 Ocotillo Wells. The Ocotillo Wells SRMA recognizes the  
24 partnership with the OHMVR Division and the management  
25 of Ocotillo Wells as an SVRA. So this is very

1 different than any other management plan that we have  
2 in the desert right now. We are very much looking and  
3 working with the State OHV Division on mitigating any  
4 impacts on OHV if, for example, a wind or solar project  
5 was to come into the desert, if one of our trails were  
6 impacted, what would be those mitigation measures that  
7 we would expect that the proponent would pay for, not  
8 the State or the BLM.

9           So those are some of the things that we're  
10 looking at, and that's what DRECP is about. I think  
11 right now we're hoping -- we were hoping by fall we  
12 would be out with the draft, but we're now looking  
13 toward wintertime for the draft version will be coming  
14 out. We very much want the public input on this. This  
15 is our first draft out -- I think it's our second draft  
16 out to the public, but our first official draft out to  
17 the public. Our previous draft was just kind of a  
18 tickler. This wasn't official, and this is our second  
19 draft out to the public, the official draft.

20           And we really are looking forward to input from  
21 our various public to point out those things that we  
22 might have missed. And I've looked at the document a  
23 lot, and I'm sure Dan has looked at the document a lot,  
24 and I'm sure we've missed some things, and so we need  
25 that public input to make sure that we plug all those

1 little holes.

2 And last off, I just want to thank our partners,  
3 especially in the desert. We would not able to do our  
4 programs without our desert partnerships that we have.  
5 As I discussed with our budgets before, even when our  
6 budgets were somewhat full, our partners have been able  
7 to help us, like the Friends of Jawbone. I'm so proud  
8 of them. We've got a huge visitor center there, and  
9 they help us staff that, and it's a beautiful location  
10 out in the middle of the desert, so it's a great place.  
11 And I just wanted to end with that, and thank God for  
12 our partners.

13 CHAIR SLAVIK: Any questions?

14 COMMISSIONER KERR: You mentioned Dumont Dunes,  
15 and it's been a while since I've been out there.  
16 That's really an incredible place. We also heard that  
17 it's gotten a lot of additional pressures on it, higher  
18 usage and become a little bit more unwieldy to manage.  
19 I wonder if we can focus on that. That is definitely  
20 one of the top attractions in the OHV in the state.

21 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: Throughout the desert we've  
22 had actually an increase in usage. I think you guys  
23 showed that in your statistics at your SVRAs. So the  
24 one thing we're working hard on is -- that's why OHV  
25 grants are so important to us, is to assure that we

1 have that staffing out there. And then also with our  
2 partners like Friends of Jawbone, El Mirage, those are  
3 important partners to really help get the education out  
4 there. Sometimes coming in uniforms doesn't always  
5 work. But when you have someone else riding on a  
6 motorcycle that looks like you, that makes a huge  
7 difference, and those public partnerships are what --

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: What specifically is going  
9 on at Dumont?

10 ED WALDHEIM: I'm part of the Dumont Dunes, so  
11 is Jim Bramham. We're on the TRP at Dumont Dunes. Let  
12 me assure you, Dumont Dunes is incredibly well-managed.  
13 Roxy started it. Now Katrina is doing it also. They  
14 put all their staff -- the water trucks that we have  
15 belong to Friends of El Mirage. They go over there,  
16 the roads are being maintained, the law enforcement  
17 works, the cooperation they have with the San  
18 Bernardino County sheriffs is absolutely incredible,  
19 even though there's no MOU between the sheriffs in San  
20 Bernardino and BLM, but they go up there and they  
21 manage. There is no problems whatsoever.

22 Our next TRP subgroup meeting is going to be  
23 October 2nd -- they just changed it. We're in good  
24 shape in there. The customers are good, the Friends of  
25 Dumont Dunes are good. There is no problem whatsoever.

1 That baby is under control.

2 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: If you do hear things of  
3 issues or problems, please inform me, then I can get  
4 those addressed, because I'm not sure exactly what  
5 you're talking about.

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: Well, there is a lot of room  
7 for abuse out there.

8 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: And throughout. The whole  
9 entire desert is that way, too. That's why I'm just  
10 not sure what you're talking about.

11 COMMISSIONER KERR: I'll take yes for an answer.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: I know there are a lot of things  
13 to talk about, but we're starting to run out of time.

14 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: Thank you.

15 CHAIR SLAVIK: We're going to take public  
16 comment now on the BLM and Forest Service. Did I  
17 forget the Forest Service?

18 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: I think that's good, public  
19 comment now. Then I think you had a presentation.

20 CHAIR SLAVIK: L.A. County is up next.

21 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Would you like to see  
22 L.A. County first, or do you want to do public comment?

23 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would like to do L.A. County,  
24 then we can do all the agencies.

25 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: All right. That's good.

1 CHAIR SLAVIK: Rob, do you want to come up?

2 **AGENDA ITEM VI(D) - LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF**  
3 **PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT**

4 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: Good afternoon,  
5 Commissioners, Chairperson, and public at large. I'm  
6 honored to be out here. I've waited seven years to do  
7 a presentation before this group, and I don't have a  
8 fancy PowerPoint and wonderful pictures that are  
9 colorful. What I do have, at least, is the largest  
10 plotted map of the project that we did get completed  
11 yesterday just in time.

12 It's an interesting project. It was sited  
13 purposely in this specific area -- I'll give the  
14 vicinity in a second -- because we do believe in  
15 collaboration with various other jurisdictions. It is  
16 sited adjacent to the Angeles National Forest on the  
17 south, and we have -- half the project actually is  
18 owned at the present time by the Bureau of Land  
19 Management, so we have a huge parcel that's 320 acres.

20 Let me go back to where the general area is.  
21 It's located in Antelope Valley, the southeastern edge  
22 of Antelope Valley in the community of Littlerock. We  
23 have four very large properties. These properties here  
24 are owned by the McCourtneys.

25 What's important about that is this woman is 102

1 years old. Both her and her son, we spoke to them.  
2 She's perky as can be, and she's elated to actually  
3 sell her property to the County. She's been in contact  
4 with our esteemed supervisor, Mr. Antonovich, and  
5 that's a conversation I'm not privy to. I think they  
6 want the park named after them, McCourtney Recreational  
7 OHV Park. Does that sound kitschy?

8 Another one is owned by Mary Johnson, so we've  
9 actually spoken to these property owners and have  
10 agreed upon price. We received a grant from the State  
11 for \$377,000, and we will be combining some of our  
12 in-lieu fees to help out with the -- so we're combining  
13 the grant money with some our in-lieu fees.

14 We've been in contact with the Ridgecrest Field  
15 Office and Carl Simon and other people, because we want  
16 to use the RMPPA. That's an excellent act where we pay  
17 a nominal fee of \$100, fill out an application and  
18 hopefully get our board of supervisor approval, and  
19 then we might be able to get the 320-acre parcel --  
20 which is our keystone parcel for the project, by the  
21 way. We might hopefully get that transferred over to  
22 us, either leased or leased to transfer. We hope we  
23 can get it transferred.

24 Right now we are going to have a public meeting  
25 come up pretty soon. I presented to two town councils,

1 which is what we do in the county. We always present  
2 to the advisory groups. One is Littlerock, because the  
3 project is sited in Littlerock, and then also Juniper  
4 Hills, which is this area up here. The meeting that's  
5 coming up real quick is October 23rd at the Jackie  
6 Robinson Center, and it is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
7 We expect to have a tremendous amount of people there  
8 because it is regarding an OHV site. I'm really  
9 looking forward to that meeting. That will be  
10 facilitated by consultants, so a neutral party, and  
11 we're hoping to gather that input and then at that  
12 point decide where we're going to go with the project,  
13 do we continue on with it, do we need to make some  
14 modifications to it or whatnot. So we do involve the  
15 public a lot in our projects, and I really don't have a  
16 lot more say to that except we have --

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: Can you say how relative this  
18 project is to L.A. and other metropolitan areas?

19 COMMISSIONER KERR: Is the sponsoring agency the  
20 County?

21 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: County of  
22 Los Angeles.

23 COMMISSIONER KERR: Who is going to run it?

24 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: We would operate  
25 it. The Department of Parks and Recreation, we would

1 operate it. We would run it. We actually don't have a  
2 park that we operate and manage. I know that Paul  
3 mentioned earlier that he was at San Gabriel and that  
4 was managed by us. Actually, we have an interagency  
5 agreement, remember, with San Gabriel. That's why we  
6 funded that project, but the County does not own and  
7 operate its own OHV park, which is really odd because  
8 we have 135,000 to 140,000 registered off-highway  
9 vehicles. It's the highest density of off-highway  
10 vehicles within any county within the state of  
11 California. So we feel it's our obligation to locate a  
12 park, build a park and operate the park.

13 We've kept the Forest Service, who are our  
14 partners, abreast of the whole project for the last  
15 year and a half. So they know exactly what's going on.  
16 I think they're actually looking forward to it. At  
17 this point in time, we don't have any connectivity to  
18 the Forest Service. That area is presently closed, but  
19 that could change over time. So right now it's a  
20 stand-alone project, 550 acres, and we're really  
21 prepared to move forward on this.

22 COMMISSIONER KERR: So did you use some of our  
23 money to get the lawyers paid, or have you bought  
24 these?

25 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: No, there are no

1 lawyers involved. What we've done is used our CEO --  
2 our real estate division. We've sent out letters of  
3 inquiry to the property owners.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: He's interested in the granting  
5 process. How did you get the money to start this.

6 COMMISSIONER KERR: What did you do with it?

7 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: We haven't  
8 received the money yet. We haven't started that grant  
9 process. We submitted a grant. We've been approved  
10 for the money, but we haven't actually started the  
11 cycle. We have not given them a start date. We have  
12 not received any money. All the work that we've done  
13 up to this point is with use of your in-lieu fees, my  
14 position and all the research, mapping and everything  
15 else. That's a very good question. I'm glad you asked  
16 that question.

17 COMMISSIONER KERR: How much do you need to do  
18 this?

19 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: We probably won't  
20 utilize all of the money from the grant. We already  
21 have an agreed-upon price for the properties. And so  
22 my guess is \$350,000 possibly to get this done, because  
23 the desert land is cheap. We've looked in other  
24 deserts for urban parks, but the price of the land was  
25 exceedingly high. I don't think we could even pursue

1 an acquisition grant through the State. I don't think  
2 they would be able to give us enough money to buy the  
3 land in certain areas further south in the county.

4 CHAIR SLAVIK: Try us.

5 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: This area is  
6 basically north of the San Gabriel Mountains.

7 CHAIR SLAVIK: How far from L.A., Rob, and the  
8 surrounding metro areas?

9 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: I can tell you  
10 north of the City of Palmdale. The City of Palmdale is  
11 just north of this area here.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: L.A., West San Fernando Valley.

13 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: That's probably  
14 about a 35-minute drive. I don't know the mileage.

15 THE REPORTER: Sir, can I have you identify your  
16 name for the record?

17 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: I'm so sorry, I  
18 should have done that from the very beginning. Robert  
19 Edelman. I'm the Park Planner for the County of  
20 Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation.

21 Because it is a new park, we've asked to put  
22 together what we call a task force of individuals that  
23 we feel have much more knowledge than we do, Sergeant  
24 Wallace who is here who handles the Parks Bureau, we've  
25 asked the chairman to be on board, and we've invited

1 and had only one meeting with a couple of people from  
2 the L.A. County Fire Department and Fire Prevention  
3 Bureau.

4 We want to make this a safe and a very strict  
5 park, actually. In other words, we want to be  
6 preventing garage riders from riding from their homes  
7 entering the front gates. We want to make sure from  
8 the very first year if we do develop it that we have  
9 plenty of enforcement and people to help out with  
10 safety issues.

11 CHAIR SLAVIK: I would like to ask Sergeant  
12 Wallace to come up and give his side of the story from  
13 the law enforcement aspect, because it's been such a  
14 high topic of interest here.

15 SERGEANT ROGER WALLACE: I was trying to hide in  
16 the background there. Yeah, I actually went out and  
17 rode the area two days ago, and it's a great site. The  
18 location itself, there's no houses anywhere between  
19 probably three to four miles anywhere near. It's great  
20 terrain. It's very challenging. The potential for  
21 expansion I think is there. Personally, I've been  
22 doing law enforcement in L.A. County, OHV enforcement  
23 for eight, ten years now. This is a tremendous site.  
24 This has a lot of potential.

25 Parks Bureau, we provide law enforcement in

1 approximately 161 parks in L.A. County. This will be  
2 another park. Currently, we put out three one-man  
3 patrol cars to Antelope Valley. This will be one of  
4 the parks that they're responsible for patrolling on a  
5 regular basis. Every day they'll check in. In  
6 addition to that, they'll have dedicated patrols.

7           There will be costs, that kind of control,  
8 dedicated enforcement where deputies are actually on  
9 motorcycles patrolling not only in the park but  
10 approximately three to four miles of coverage around  
11 the park to prevent the illegal trespassing and illegal  
12 activity outside. That would be a dedicated force.  
13 That's additional costs for us that we have to work out  
14 those agreements. When this park does come to  
15 fruition, next year I might be coming to you asking for  
16 a law enforcement grant for something like this.  
17 Personally, I think this is a tremendous opportunity  
18 for L.A. County.

19           As we know, L.A. County doesn't have any riding  
20 areas, and it's woefully underserved. This is a  
21 tremendous first step in L.A. County and law  
22 enforcement. I think it's manageable from the law  
23 enforcement side of it.

24           So with that, any questions of me.

25           COMMISSIONER KERR: I don't think you guys are

1 being ambitious enough. Seriously, why did you only  
2 ask for 350,000? There is money begging in the  
3 acquisition -- some years we don't even get a grant  
4 request for acquisition.

5 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: At that time there  
6 was only 10 million. Our grant was not approved only  
7 until they added another 21 million.

8 COMMISSIONER KERR: I was just saying I think  
9 you ought to think bigger. Go ahead, get it started.

10 SERGEANT ROGER WALLACE: I think this is a baby  
11 step in L.A. County. The OHV community needs to come  
12 together on this project and if they truly want this,  
13 need to support it and vocalize that.

14 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: I think that would  
15 be October 23rd at the Jackie Robinson Park.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: I'm hoping the BLM and Forest  
17 Service has been listening to this because they are  
18 partners in this, as well as the State.

19 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: We'll send notices  
20 out to both environmental groups, off-road groups and  
21 as many people as we can.

22 CHAIR SLAVIK: Jane, are you aware of this  
23 project?

24 BLM JANE ARTEAGA: Very much so.

25 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: Is there a website where

1 we can follow the progress?

2 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: I will send that  
3 website up. I think it should be in the facts sheet in  
4 your Commission package. I update that website very  
5 often. I meant to mention that, too.

6 SERGEANT ROGER WALLACE: I believe if the  
7 Commissioners would be interested we can certainly  
8 arrange for a site visit out there.

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: We can only do two at a time, so  
10 that's why Teresa and I have been talking.

11 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: We're going October 2nd.

12 L.A. PLANNER ROBERT EDELMAN: October 2nd is the  
13 second meeting for the task force, yes, so that will be  
14 a very good time to show up.

15 SERGEANT ROGER WALLACE: We can arrange for  
16 additional site visits.

17 CHAIR SLAVIK: It's been a long time. Thank  
18 you.

19 We're going to get Bart Payne up here.

20 Bart, are you ready.

21 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Are you going to do public  
22 comment first?

23 **AGENDA ITEMS VI(B-D) - PUBLIC COMMENT**

24 CHAIR SLAVIK: Public comment then on the items  
25 of the Forest Service, the BLM and L.A. County if

1 anybody has it.

2 NICOLE NICHOLAS GILLES: Hello, good afternoon.  
3 My name is Nicole Nicholas Gilles, and I am the  
4 Executive Director of the American Sand Association.

5 I just wanted to make a couple of comments on  
6 the BLM report. We really do appreciate all of the  
7 work that went into working on the business plan, and  
8 we know it was a very long process. But we still have  
9 some concerns with the final outcome of the business  
10 plan in which the fees were increased to \$150.

11 We are encouraged that the BLM has been asked to  
12 work with the ISDRA, or the Imperial Sand Dunes  
13 Recreation Subgroup, on issues of concern that we had  
14 and were not addressed. We obviously didn't reach an  
15 agreement on all of those items. And in reference to  
16 the public comments, the American Sand Association was  
17 an active partner in getting our members -- we have a  
18 membership of about 35,000 -- to submit comments.

19 And some of the things that we thought were  
20 received as far as the public comments were concerned  
21 was an overwhelming -- in addition to the overwhelming  
22 request to not increase the fees, there were lots of  
23 suggestions such as how to make the ISDRA a safer and  
24 better managed area, and some of those comments we felt  
25 were not addressed.

1           The last thing I just wanted to say in reference  
2 to the business plan is that we -- several of us flew  
3 up to Sacramento to meet with the State Director to  
4 discuss the financial data that we felt would be needed  
5 in order to support the plan, and we didn't receive all  
6 of the information that we felt would substantiate the  
7 fee increase.

8           So I just wanted to make a couple of those  
9 comments, and that will be all for now. Thank you very  
10 much. I appreciate it.

11           CHAIR SLAVIK: Nicole, are you going to be here  
12 for the presentation?

13           NICOLE NICHOLAS GILLES: I am, so you're not  
14 getting rid of me yet.

15           TOM TAMMONE: Thank you. Tom Tammone.

16           I'm really excited to see the County here  
17 ambitiously wanting to pursue an acquisition project.  
18 For those of you who know me, I've been out here just  
19 crying: Why aren't we getting acquisition projects?  
20 So there is lots of money there. And if L.A. County  
21 feels that this is within their comfort zone, that's up  
22 to them. But I sure would like to definitely get the  
23 word out to other counties, especially the one I live  
24 in: There is a lot to acquisition money out there, and  
25 you need to get after it.

1 Thank you.

2 DAVE PICKETT: Dave Pickett, District 36.

3 As I listened to both Kathy and the BLM  
4 representative, Jane, talk about the issues of funding  
5 cuts, et cetera, et cetera, plus the seriousness of  
6 each of the topics that they went through so  
7 eloquently, one thing that really stuck out to me was  
8 about the restoration situation, dollars that are out  
9 there and not available because they don't have money  
10 to do the match. And we've all seen our restoration  
11 account dollars continue to sit dormant.

12 And I would like to ask the Commission to review  
13 this and see if we can make some kind of a change  
14 either at the end -- at the sunset or somehow figure  
15 out a way to get this money so we've got boots on the  
16 ground and they can accomplish those projects.

17 Thanks.

18 JOHN STEWART: Good afternoon, Commissioners.  
19 John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive  
20 Clubs.

21 The discussion by the Forest Service was very  
22 interesting -- and, please, a slight disclaimer here,  
23 no, I did not talk with Kathy Mick or the Forest  
24 Service prior to bringing up the topic about the Rim  
25 Fire and other things of what we can do.

1           But the fact that it does underscore and it  
2 really does illustrate some of the major problems being  
3 faced by the agencies when they're looking at budget  
4 cuts forced on them by the federal government, and they  
5 are the managers of a major, major section of the state  
6 OHV trail system.

7           I'd like to reiterate a couple of points here.  
8 Number one is my real concern with these fires and the  
9 fire recovery, the Forest Service comes in with a Burn  
10 Area Emergency Recovery Unit, of which they will assess  
11 the area, and then they will begin to make immediate  
12 emergency recovery efforts.

13           It is within this phase that we've gone within  
14 the Mendocino in that there were some trails that were  
15 actually barricaded or kind of moved out of existence  
16 because it was unclear of where the trails were by this  
17 team that was not familiar with this area. But this is  
18 where the OHV presence and the money can help in order  
19 to maintain the trails and actually work to get the  
20 trails repaired as soon as possible.

21           Yes, it's understandable that these trails could  
22 be closed for a matter of months or in some cases maybe  
23 even a matter of years. But that should not preclude  
24 them from having a high priority on the grants in order  
25 to get them back into the system. The trails do need

1 to be maintained whether they're used or not and  
2 especially burn area units. They do need that extra  
3 work and that extra tender loving care because of  
4 erosion or something with nothing to hold the water.  
5 They have, you know, additional dangers facing them,  
6 and they could be essentially blown out or damaged  
7 beyond repair.

8 So whatever happens, they are part of the  
9 system, and it's something that I would encourage the  
10 Division to look at methods and ways that they can set  
11 aside money in order to help with these in order to  
12 protect the trail system.

13 Thank you.

14 ED WALDHEIM: Ed Waldheim, CTUC, Friends of  
15 Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage.

16 L.A. County has been trying for a long time.  
17 Robert Edelman was incredible in setting up a team to  
18 come up with a criteria of what is it that we're really  
19 looking for. So he has a book by book, page by page.  
20 Paul, you were part of that, too, and so was Dana Bell.  
21 So that was the beginning. He's been working on this  
22 for five years, for a long, long time.

23 This is the first time we've gotten close to  
24 where we have a county supervisor and everybody is  
25 lined up. The only problem we have is the ETI,

1 Equestrian Trails International, people, three ladies  
2 don't want it. Come hell or high water, they're going  
3 to fight it with everything they can. Well, we are  
4 fighting back. We are not going to accept three people  
5 trying to make a decision when everybody is really in  
6 agreement.

7 Equestrians, hikers, bikers, everybody can  
8 participate. This is how broad this project is going  
9 to be. CTUC has a guy from ETI who is on our board who  
10 is the chairman, so he's going to elevate his  
11 responsibility. I told him you better get hold of  
12 those people in the higher ups of the Equestrian Trails  
13 International, people who are not even participating,  
14 don't even live in the area.

15 So this is an incredible project. We need to  
16 give every support we can, and I would love to have a  
17 motion from you guys. You already gave them a grant,  
18 atta-boy, whatever you can to L.A. County and let the  
19 county supervisor, Mike Antonovich, know that we're  
20 doing good.

21 As far as the Forest Service and BLM is  
22 concerned, Chris, I think you see the urgency that we  
23 have for the public to really understand the importance  
24 of staying on the designated trails. In your education  
25 program, you have the committee and that. I would

1 still love to see it there. You have the  
2 opportunity-to-purchase money. You have some funds to  
3 do something.

4 I mean if they can put up a sign negative to us  
5 on billboards, why are we not doing it in partner with  
6 the General and make it statewide? Trust me, the not  
7 proper use of our public lands is not only OHV. It  
8 goes to hikers, it goes to bicyclists that trash and  
9 everything.

10 My son just came back from Mt. Whitney. Trash  
11 all the way up to Mt. Whitney. I wasn't on that bloody  
12 trail. And so I think we need to have a public  
13 awareness of how to use the public lands in the state  
14 of California, similar to Don't Trash California that  
15 Caltrans came up with a long time ago. If we could  
16 come up with something like that, I think it would help  
17 these folks. Their budgets aren't going up, when Terry  
18 said 21 percent down. Seven percent each year they're  
19 budget is going down. They can close everything, and  
20 we lose.

21 So we need to make sure we stay ahead of the  
22 game and support these agencies and get partnerships.  
23 The BLM needs to get real with partnerships. BLM  
24 Ridgecrest, they're right on the ball. Katrina in  
25 Barstow, she's getting there. She's turning over

1 El Mirage to us, the Friends of El Mirage. So starting  
2 October 1 we're starting on that. We're getting there,  
3 but we should do a lot more of that to be on top of it.

4 Thank you.

5 JIM BRAMHAM: Once again, post Ed.

6 For the question about Dumont, it goes to a  
7 larger picture that -- I've been involved with OHV  
8 recreation for 40 years, both four-wheel drive and  
9 specifically sand recreation. And each one of those  
10 renews itself on a five-year period, where you get a  
11 whole period of new enthusiasts who enter the sport on  
12 basically a five-year period of time.

13 And it takes a period of time to reeducate those  
14 folks. And I have watched this on the Rubicon Trail.  
15 I've watched it in the sand. I've watched it at Pismo  
16 Beach. It's hard to find somebody at Pismo who even  
17 knows that you used to be able to go all the way down  
18 the beach, because they've only arrived in the sport in  
19 the last five to seven years.

20 So, yes, and that's what requires some sort of  
21 law enforcement presence, but more of an education  
22 presence. And one of my frustrations has always been  
23 that we have never gone on a statewide process to  
24 educate people coming to the outdoors, not just OHV  
25 recreation, on what is expected of them on public land.

1 We just have never given that message to these folks.

2 And so across the board -- my sister just came  
3 out from North Carolina to hike some of the trails in  
4 Northern California in the Sierras. She came off of a  
5 trail, and there was a Forest Service person. The  
6 first question that person asked about the wilderness  
7 experience hiking trail is how much trash was in the  
8 places you camped, not how did you -- not what kind of  
9 time did you have, how was the trail, did you enjoy it?  
10 How much trash is in there? We need to know whether we  
11 need to send a pack crew in there to pack trash out.

12 It's not just us. We need to educate the public  
13 on what is expected of them on public lands as a whole.  
14 I don't know if that's our responsibility, but it's  
15 certainly a part our responsibility.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: Thank you, Jim.

17 This education thing keeps coming up. It seems  
18 to be a theme, doesn't it? And Daphne had started an  
19 Education Committee. Are we going to try to  
20 reinvigorate that?

21 DEPUTY DIR. CONLIN: Obviously, if it's a  
22 problem, yeah. I would tell you also that we just  
23 recently had a big discussion on the General's  
24 strategic plan two weeks ago and how we are executing  
25 it. And one of the things that came out was much

1 better external communications. People in parks are  
2 doing better, that they're doing okay, that everything  
3 is all right out there, despite all of the discussions  
4 on the financials and the education process on the  
5 parks themselves. But this goes on hand in hand with  
6 that.

7 I see what you're getting at. We have the  
8 responsibility to educate our users and people that  
9 don't use the parks on what the parks are, why they're  
10 coming out of their taxes, as well as how to use the  
11 parks and cherish the land that they're on.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: There were several committee  
13 meetings with this Education Committee. Phil, were you  
14 involved at that time?

15 CHIEF JENKINS: Yes.

16 CHAIR SLAVIK: And I think there is still a list  
17 of educators and all kinds of different folks that were  
18 involved with that.

19 I think all of us would like to see something  
20 like that reinstated. Would you?

21 COMMISSIONER MURPHY: I would agree.

22 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Yes, actually the private  
23 motorcycle club I belong to reinstated a program that  
24 started with the youth. That's really where we need to  
25 kind of start to come up from that section. But also

1 it gave us an opportunity to educate their parents  
2 while we were at it. So it really worked out well. It  
3 was a youth training program that really turned into a  
4 whole educational program that worked out real well. I  
5 think that would be a good model to follow.

6 COMMISSIONER VILLEGAS: Talking from the  
7 legislative perspective with term limits, it's really  
8 needed. Just in talking with some members, obviously  
9 this is not something that all of them do all of the  
10 time, but when we're talking about budgets and trying  
11 to build our case, we need a lot of education.

12 CHAIR SLAVIK: Okay. We're winding down here.

13 Dave Pickett, I'm going to save you until after  
14 Mr. Payne comes up, and then we'll gavel the meeting  
15 after that. Then the ASA will make their presentation.

16 Martin Payne representing Senator Mimi Walters.

17 MARTIN PAYNE: Thank you very much,  
18 Commissioners. Again, my name is Martin Payne. I'm  
19 the District Director for California State Senator Mimi  
20 Walters.

21 Due to redistricting, this is our first  
22 opportunity to welcome the Commission to Orange County,  
23 to the City of Costa Mesa and to the center of our  
24 district here. So for the first time we've put out the  
25 welcome mat, welcome back to Orange County, and we

1 really appreciate you bringing this show here, the  
2 enormous amount of money that it generates for the  
3 local economy.

4 We had the honor of having the chairman and Tina  
5 Williams come into our office a few weeks ago to alert  
6 us of this event here, the numbers of people that are  
7 being brought in, and the impact that many of the  
8 members have had in the state. And just being here for  
9 the few short minutes that I was, obviously the topic  
10 of budget shortfalls and cutbacks and everything else  
11 sounds like it's been discussed ad nauseam today.

12 And what we wanted to do was we wanted to thank  
13 those of your members and participants here in the show  
14 that have put their shoulders to the wheel in a  
15 public/private partnership that has brought about a  
16 great deal of education amongst the public that is  
17 using our public lands here for off-highway vehicle  
18 use, and we were just hoping that we could accentuate  
19 your thanks for their participation and their support  
20 to getting this information out, to providing people  
21 with the knowledge that will enhance their ability to  
22 use these public lands in a balanced means, not  
23 destroying the properties, not destroying the  
24 environment, while at the same time still providing  
25 their families with the opportunity to share this

1 exhilarating experience.

2           So if you would not mind my calling up a couple  
3 of -- actually four different groups, we'd like to have  
4 representatives from the United Desert Gateway come up,  
5 the Southern California Mountains Foundation, the  
6 Friends of the Jawbone, and the American Sand  
7 Association, if we could have each of you come up.

8           On behalf of Senator Mimi Walters, on behalf of  
9 the 940,000 people that we represent here in the 37th  
10 District, we wanted to thank you folks for the amazing  
11 job, the amazing hours that collectively you've put in  
12 to enhance your communities' awareness of how to do  
13 things right out in the desert and how to protect our  
14 amazing resources here for our future generations.

15           So I know who American Sands is here. I would  
16 like to give you that on behalf of the Senator.  
17 Whatever you want to do, we can set this up. I'm  
18 always doing things backwards, anyway. So United  
19 Desert Gateway and then Southern California Mountains,  
20 and process of elimination I'm assuming that you just  
21 get it.

22           (Audience applause.)

23           DAVE PICKETT: Thank you, Chair Slavik, for  
24 letting me have one more minute.

25           I've got to give a shout-out to certain members

1 of the OHV staff concerning the Hangtown National  
2 Motocross that was held last May. And an event of that  
3 size, we were all stoked that you were all there. It  
4 looked like you all had a good time.

5 I've got to mention these folks because of the  
6 above and beyond. And number one on my list is that  
7 lady right there, Vicki Perez, who took probably 500  
8 phone calls from just me. The effort is appreciated  
9 and shouldn't go unnoticed. Thank you, Vicki.

10 I also wanted to acknowledge Brian Robertson,  
11 law enforcement, and Tina Williams for her efforts. It  
12 was a difficult law enforcement event because of the  
13 situation that happened back in Boston, and the  
14 bomb-sniffing dogs that were all over the place, most  
15 people didn't know why they were there, things like  
16 that, very, very difficult. Mike Lair, Connie  
17 Breakfield, Jean Sisson is not here, and Mike Fehling,  
18 it takes communication, cooperation, those folks, just  
19 over the top. And I wanted to say thank you on behalf  
20 of the Diggers, the 45th Annual Hangtown.

21 To Phil -- you didn't get to go -- and our  
22 Deputy Director, the General, we had congressional  
23 members there and the local area sheriffs, police  
24 chiefs, senators, assembly people, a litany that was in  
25 that special area. So thank you, thank you very much,

1 everybody.

2 (Audience applause.)

3 CHAIR SLAVIK: Make sure anybody that wants to  
4 go on this tour sees Tina with tickets.

5 COMMISSIONER CABRAL: Motion to close the  
6 meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER PATROVSKY: Second to close.

8 (Commissioners simultaneously voted.)

9 CHAIR SLAVIK: Meeting adjourned.

10 (Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.)

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