



P.O. Box 1872
Canyon Country CA. 91386-1872
888-540-7263
www.americansandassociation.org

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April 4, 2011

California Department of Parks & Recreation
OHMVR Division
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the American Sand Association and our support of the Bureau of Land Management's El Centro Field Office request for grant funding. Following are my comments:

G10-01-09-S01

Project #1 - We believe it is imperative that visitors have access to information. The 20 kiosk panels being requested will include interpretive information that will help educate OHV users.

Project #2- The historic significance of the Plank Road is unquestionable. The BLM needs funding for replacement waysides to help preserve this landmark for future generations.

G10-01-09-S02

It is important that users have a safe recreation experience. The BLM's grant request for funds to assist OHV non-law enforcement park rangers, medical supplies and rescue buggy maintenance is a necessity for the visitors to the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).

G10-01-09-G01

Having trash removal and vault toilet maintenance is a needed for the amount of people who visit the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. As per the BLM's application, these grant funds help BLM protect OHV opportunities and the Desert Tortoise. It is essential to have vault toilet maintenance in the ISDRA as it decreases the amount of waste in the desert and helps protect wildlife.

G10-01-09-L01

The El Centro Field Office manages 137,253 acres that are open to OHV use within Imperial and San Diego Counties. They have successful partnerships in place to assist with their education and outreach programs. The American Sand Association is pleased to be included as one of these valuable partners. The funding requested for law enforcement, education and outreach are an important factor in making sure that visitors have a safe recreation experience. Because of the large amount of visitors to the area, it is important to have an adequate amount of law enforcement. The in-car camera systems and RADAR units will provide these officers with the necessary tools to perform their job properly. Mobile computer work stations are essential to law enforcement and will improve officers ability to execute their job efficiently; consequently, allowing them more time in the field to manage visitors.

April 4, 2011

G10-01-09-R01

The American Sand Association supports the BLM's request to continue to restore vegetation by continuing to provide signage, route maintenance and recreational trail maps to the public. This funding will help improve OHV opportunities while protecting habitat.

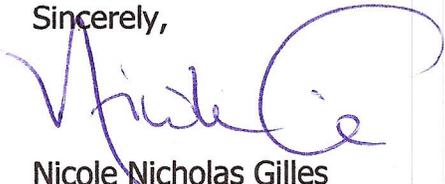
G10-01-09-R02

It is important to make sure that the closed areas are properly marked in order to educate visitors and protect species. Because of the nature of the ISDRA being in a shifting sand environment, signage is difficult. This is an extensive project and because of its location, will require the use of the BLM sand rail to access the signage. Because of this, sand rail maintenance will be needed.

For these reasons, we request you fund the El Centro Field Office grant request for the full amount. The ISDRA is one of the largest off-highway vehicle recreation areas in the nation with the least amount of funding. The assistance you provide to this program is essential in order to ensure the safety of those visiting it.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached at (760) 996-8983.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Gilles', is written over the typed name.

Nicole Nicholas Gilles
Executive Director