

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the continued funding of the **Off Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team, Law Enforcement, Palmdale.**

My town of Agua Dulce, California, has a population of about 4,000 people, 25 mile rural area, an interstate and major highway, and we have one resident sheriff to patrol our entire area with the closest sheriff's station over 20 miles away. This area is an equestrian community with mountainous terrain, vast vegetation and mostly dirt roads. Local residents live here to enjoy the Pacific Crest Trails, Angeles National Forest, Vasquez Rocks Park and the other informal trail systems maintained for equestrians. However, the serenity of this rural nature is often destroyed by illegal motor vehicles and their frequent criminal behavior. These riders constantly trespass on my property, destroy gates, cut off chains and locks, break fencing, frighten and endanger my horses, leave alcohol containers, and are always confrontational when I'm present to witness their destruction of my property. I have numerous private property signs and law enforcement signs informing such riders of their illegal conduct. We need OHV teams to access these areas because a patrol car physically cannot utilize these trails to track down the wrongdoers. When OHV has conducted patrols and issued citations, we typically see short-term drops in activity. The riders could easily drive a few miles to a legal OHV area, Rowher Flats, but they know they will encounter law enforcement there and if their bikes are not legal, they won't be permitted to ride. Thus, the riders who are riding illegal bikes come to our area to carve up our beautiful community.

In addition to needing the OHV for targeting the off-road nuisance, we also need their services because many of the vehicles they come into contact with do not have spark arresters. Without spark arresters, these bikes pose a significant risk of forest fires. We are in a burn zone and pay significant insurance rates plus the cost of land clearance each year. The state needs to do its part in preventing fires and this unit is one way to do that by taking these dangerous illegal vehicles out of fire zones and force them into legal riding areas.

Finally, I want to thank the OHV and specifically Sgt. Acton for the continued communication with my family to help us feel safe and secure in our area. Due to the hostile nature of the off-road trespassers, I often feel vulnerable to their threatening behavior because they know where I live, have access to harm my horses and property. However, Sgt. Acton is only a phone call away and that gives me peace of mind. Even when he isn't on duty, he gets a patrol to us as soon as possible. In addition to providing my family with that level of attention, he also tackles other OHV concerns from friends of mine who have similar issues. I like personally knowing the law enforcement officers who are protecting my family and relying on them for our safety.