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March 13, 2016

State of California
OHMVR Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95816

Re: OHV Preliminary 2015/2016 Grant Cycle Applications
Public Review and Comment

This letter is in opposition to an OHV Park in Eastern Madera County known as Blackhawk Ranch.
I intend to list several issues and concerns and supporting documents.
I am President of the Chawanakee Unified School District Board of Trustees. On February 12, 2016 our Board of Trustees approved Resolution #12-2015/2016 in Opposition to the Proposed Blackhawk Ranch OHV park. (copy attached).
Placing an OHV Park next to an existing high school is not acceptable. The San Joaquin Valley has some of the dirtiest air in the State of California. It doesn't make sense to have students' outdoors for physical education and sports and have the dirt from the OHV Park adding particulates to the air. There is also naturally occurring asbestos at the base of Blackhawk Mountain that will increase the pollution, as well. A detailed geologist report, that you should obtain, will verify this claim The added noise pollution will be a huge detraction to competitive sports being played outdoors, as well.
There is also concern about proposed overnight camping and the use of alcohol next to a high school site

WE have gathered signatures in opposition to the proposed Blackhawk Ranch OHV park. (copies attached).
Landowners whose property shares a fence line with this proposed OHV Park were NOT notified about this proposal. I am aware because I am a school trustee and we did not receive notification from Madera County. My family's land also borders this proposed site and we were not notified either.

Another comment is in regards to Blackhawk Mountain being the only Named mountain in Madera County named after an Indian Chief who was settled there with his allotment, homestead and several tribal members. The Native American Cultural Heritage cannot be ignored on this site. There are Indian burial grounds and several existing sites where Native Americans from the Chowchillian Yokut tribe lived and thrived.

There is a family cemetery on the property as well. It is the Lorentzen Family cemetery. Photos attached.

Because these funds will be provided by the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the California State Parks and Recreation Department, this project requires a Section 106 Review from the National Historical Preservation Act. I suggest you follow that to the letter of the law.

According to Assembly Bill 52 procedures and requirements have been established under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the purpose of avoiding or minimizing impacts to tribal cultural resources.

I understand the grant is contingent upon the current landowner receiving their asking price for the property purchase. Having checked comparables and checking with appraisers in the area, the grazing land asking price is about $1,000 per acre above the current prices.

I don't believe Madera County has done its due diligence in regard to locating a site that would have lees impacts to the surrounding community, not have Native American cultural issues, and not be next to an existing high school.

I believe the County should appoint an Ad Hoc site selection committee comprised of two members of the Board of Supervisors, county staff and community members to locate and critique sites that would be more conducive to an OHV Park in Madera County.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bigelow

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