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OHMVR Division
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I am writing to express my support of the Bureau of Land Management's Planning Grant application to fund a planning effort for the proposed East Temblors SRMA.

Although designation of the SRMA is not final, the East Temblors are an area of historical OHV use dating back to the 1970's and earlier. The area has been utilized by local residents for hunting, shooting, wildlife viewing, camping, and hiking as well as various forms of OHV recreation. The closure of areas such as Clear Creek Management Area, Kettleman Hills, and Dogtown have displaced use in central California to previously little used areas such as the East Temblors and Keyesville.

The BLM Bakersfield Field Office has recently completed the initial stages of land use planning with the Bakersfield RMP-EIS. This is a landscape scale planning document that does not address project level analysis of soils, cultural, biological, and other natural resource issues that exist in the area. The proposed planning project would address the need for project level planning. Without such a plan the area would be relegated to the use of routes that are not sited according to the principles of sustainable trail design and would suffer from environmental impacts such as soil erosion and possible watershed sedimentation and potential damage to cultural sites.

Due to the East Temblor's proximity to the Carrizo Plains National Monument (CPNM) there are concerns that OHV trespass into the Monument will threaten the qualities of solitude and the unspoiled characteristics of the Monument. The boundary between the CPNM and the East Temblors is presently fenced; however the fencing does not follow the CPNM Boundary. This causes confusion for the public. OHV use in the East Temblors is low at this time, but use will likely continue to increase due to population growth and displacement of use from areas that are developed. A management plan for the East Temblors would help address both the boundary issues as well as an increase in use.

The East Temblors have very limited legal public access. A properly located access easement needs to be planned or continued conflict with adjacent landowners poses a problem. The cost analysis of the BLM's proposal reveals that the agency is offering significant commitment in the form of match, approximately \$275,000, for this project. This is a very positive development as the Bakersfield Field Office has not applied for any significant OHV grant funding in the past.

I strongly support the BLM's grant application for the East Temblors.

Sincerely,


Jon McQuiston
JM/rt/jh

Cc: BLM, Bakersfield Field Office, Attn: Tim Smith and Peter De Witt

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