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April 2, 2012

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

RE: SUPPORT – Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office Grants and Cooperative Agreements Application, California Parks and Recreation: Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.

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 – Education & Safety

We believe it is imperative that visitors have access to OHV non-law enforcement park rangers, emergency medical and rescue (EMS) supplies, a functioning rescue buggy and the training necessary to assist visitors in providing emergency medical and rescue services.

G11-01-09-L01

Project #1- It is important that users have a safe recreation experience. The BLM's grant request for funds to help educate the visitors through enforcement patrols about the ATV safety classes is an important aspect of visitor safety.

Project #2 – Having easy access to safety information is imperative to visitor safety.

G11-01-09-G01

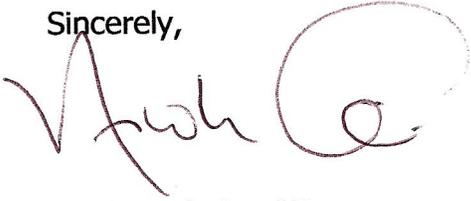
The BLM's proposal to fund maintenance contracts, maintenance labor and sign purchasing in support of the OHV recreation program at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). Having trash removal and vault toilet maintenance is a needed for the amount of people who visit the area. It is essential to have vault toilet maintenance in the ISDRA as it decreases the amount of waste in the desert and helps protect wildlife. Sand removal is also a critical part of maintaining the ISDRA. Often times, sand must be removed from the roadways and campgrounds constantly so that visitors can have access to the area.

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.

April 2, 2012

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Gilles", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Nicholas Gilles
Executive Director