



October 15, 2012

Ms. Carol Severin  
President, Board of Directors  
East Bay Regional Park District  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court  
Oakland, CA 94605

**RE: East Bay Regional Park Master Plan**

Dear Ms. Severin,

On behalf of the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission, I am writing to express our collective concerns and disappointment regarding the inclusion of the Tesla parcel in the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) 2012 Draft Master Plan and Master Plan Map. Our Commission remains deeply troubled by the ongoing appearance that the EBRPD is attempting to decide the future of an existing park within the California State Park system.

This issue was first brought to the attention of the Board of Directors in 2007 when the OHMVR Division staff addressed the Board in person and then sent a letter to Mr. Pat O'Brien, then General Manager, with a copy to John Sutter who was Board President at the time (see attached). Since your Master Plan Map was released in 2007 identifying "Tesla" as potential EBRPD parkland, it has been made very clear to your Board that the Tesla parcel is part of Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA), and thus part of the California State Park system.

At our meeting on September 15, 2012, the OHMVR Commission heard from a number of individuals and organizations regarding their concerns about the seemingly ongoing insistence that the Tesla parcel of Carnegie SVRA remains a stated goal of inclusion within the EBRPD. At a time when the OHMVR Division is currently holding public meetings as part of the general plan process for Carnegie SVRA, the inclusion of our SVRA in your Draft Master Plan is confusing and misleading to the general public. We ask that you immediately clarify that any EBRPD planning efforts in the area do not include attempts to purchase, plan for, or control State Park property so as to prevent false speculation of potential ownership or management by any entity outside of California State Parks. We also respectfully request written confirmation of this clarification and your assurance that the Tesla parcel will be removed from any EBRPD acquisition planning map at the first reasonable opportunity.

The general plan process is the responsibility of the OHMVR Division with final approval of the general plan by the OHMVR Commission per state law (PRC § 5002.2 (a) and 5090.15 (c)). The Carnegie SVRA General Plan will provide an appropriate balance of

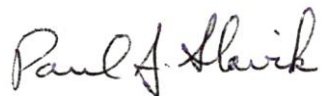
recreation opportunity to meet the growing demand for high-quality off-highway vehicle recreation and protect the area's valuable historic and cultural resources. Throughout this process, there will continue to be numerous opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to participate. On June 11, 2012, we received the comment letter from EBRPD staff member Brian Holt in response to our Notice of Preparation. Additional information regarding the Carnegie General Plan process may be found at <http://carnegiegeneralplan.com/>.

I recognize and appreciate that updating a master plan is a large undertaking for the East Bay Regional Park Board and the Park Advisory Committee, as well as for your General Manager and staff. As stated in your plan, designing and maintaining a careful balance between the need to protect and conserve resources and the recreational use of parklands is an enormous challenge. I would also ask that you include OHV enthusiasts in your outreach efforts. OHMVR D has an extensive mailing list of those individuals.

While I understand the desire to create a broad system of interrelated open space lands and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, we must also keep in mind that the OHV program has an obligation as identified by the Legislature to provide high-quality recreational opportunities for the citizens of California in all 58 Counties. It is our desire to work collaboratively with your Board and staff to achieve our mutual goals. We invite you and your constituents to attend any of our OHMVR Commission meetings or write us with ideas, feedback or concerns.

Please feel free to contact Phil Jenkins, Acting Deputy Director, OHMVR Division at 916-324-5801 for any additional information that you may need. I am also available and may be reached at (310) 717-9674.

Sincerely,



Paul Slavik  
Chair, OHMVR Commission

Attached

cc: East Bay Regional Park District Board Members  
OHMVR Commissioners  
Robert Doyle, General Manager, EBRPD  
John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources Agency  
Janelle Beland, Acting Director California State Parks  
Phil Jenkins, Acting Deputy Director, OHMVR Division  
Joan Buchanan, Assemblymember 15<sup>th</sup> District  
Loni Hancock, Senator 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Mark DeSaulnier, Senator 7<sup>th</sup> District



Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
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Post Office Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
(916) 324-4442, FAX (916) 324-1610

December 19, 2007

Mr. Pat O'Brien  
General Manager  
East Bay Regional Parks District  
P.O. Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I want to thank you for the opportunity for California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division staff to address the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) board at their meeting on November 6, 2007, regarding the possible inclusion of the State Parks property referred to in the EBRPD 2007 acquisition plan as Tesla. It was clear some of the information given to the EBRPD by the public was not current and I appreciated the opportunity to give your Board of Directors an update.

As mentioned in OHMVRD staff comments, there are two properties in the Tesla area that are going through the planning process: Alameda-Tesla, and the existing Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (CSVRA). California State Parks intends to continue with establishing a General Plan Amendment for Alameda-Tesla, as well as completing an Environmental Impact Report and updating the existing CSVRA General Plan. The previous planning work in this regard was placed on hold by the OHMVR Division in 2005 until necessary background work related to the health of the watershed in the area could be undertaken and completed.

Although several sources have stated that the Tesla property is not going to be opened to the public, the reality is the OHMVR Division will be moving forward with the planning process starting in the spring of 2008. The plan to be developed for the operation and management of this area will bring a well thought out project that provides an appropriate balance between protection of the site's notable natural and cultural resources as well as providing recreational opportunity. This area will remain in operation and management by the California State Parks OHMVR Division, and is not under consideration for sale. As the process moves forward, we remain open to opportunities for joint interpretive programming with EBRPD staff, in particular, in conjunction with the Black Diamond Coal Mine park unit.

Mr. Pat O'Brien  
December 19, 2007  
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Again, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Tesla Property and California State Parks' plans for its stewardship and access as part of CSVRA. Please feel free to call me at (916) 324-5801 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Daphne C. Greene  
Deputy Director  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
California State Parks

cc: John Sutter, President of the Board, East Bay Regional Parks  
Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks  
Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks  
Rick LeFlore, State Park Superintendent IV, OHMVR Division Headquarters  
Robert Williamson, Superintendent, Twin Cities District, California State Parks