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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

March 10th, 2009

Off-Highway Vehicle Commission
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Humboldt County Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Application

Dear Commissioners:

Humboldt County appreciates its partnership with the Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. Our County is experiencing dramatic increases in beach use and more potential for conflict. These difficult budget times have forced local governments to consolidate services and reduce staff while demands increase.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors continues to support mixed use on our beaches and recognizes legitimate OHV activities. Some of our beaches and the Eel River gravel bars remain open to riding. We are concerned however, that the financial resources are not available to meet management needs. The state and federal resource agencies are very concerned the OHV riding can impact listed species like the Snowy Plover. Our ability to maintain OHV access is clearly associated with our enforcement capability and your generous support. Through your program, our beach deputy educates hundreds of people each year and maintains an essential enforcement presence. However, more jurisdictions are adopting management policies that prohibit OHVS. The results are higher use on permitted lands and a need for more law enforcement and education.

The Board appreciates your past support and your consideration of our current grant request.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Smith

Jimmy Smith, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

JS:nlh