

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

February 28, 2014  
8:59 a.m. to 5:23 p.m.

The Lodge at Blue Lakes  
5135 West Highway 20  
Upper Lake, CA 95485

**OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Paul Slavik, Chair  
Diana Pérez, Vice Chair  
E. Theodore Cabral  
Breene Kerr  
Kevin Murphy  
Edward Patrovsky  
M. Teresa Villegas

**OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT**

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director  
Maria Mowrey, Administrative Chief  
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

**OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS**

**AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER – 8:59 A.M.**

- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Kerr.
- (B) Roll Call – Seven Commissioners present at time of roll call and two Commission Member appointments vacant.

**AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Vice Chair Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Kerr. Motion carried.

### **AGENDA ITEM III (A) – APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2013 MINUTES**

Motion to approve the November 16, 2013, minutes was made by Vice Chair Pérez and seconded by Commissioner Cabral. Motion carried.

### **AGENDA ITEM IV (A) – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

- Chair Slavik reported on the following:
  - He toured Hollister Hills SVRA on December 10 with Commissioner Murphy and State Park and Recreation Commission Chair Ernest Chung.
  - On January 24 he attended a State Park and Recreation Commission meeting. One of the topics of discussion was urban parks.
  - He attended the grand opening of the 54-acre El Mirage ATV Safety Training Course on February 8.
  - On February 10 he attended an Urban Parks Outreach meeting at Hungry Valley SVRA with Commissioner Villegas, two State Park and Recreation Commissioners, and representatives of the Los Angeles County Department Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Commission. After the meeting, Kent Miller, Sector Superintendent, took the group on a tour of the SVRA.
  - He also attended a Parks Forward Commission meeting in Los Angeles on February 12.
  - He thanked BLM staff for the tour of Cow Mountain on February 26 and the Mendocino Forest staff for the tour on February 27.

Vice Chair Pérez introduced Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Brown welcomed everyone to the area and thanked the Commission for their work.

- Commissioner Murphy reported on the following:
  - He completed his Senate interview in November and is awaiting confirmation.
  - He toured Metcalf Motorcycle Park in November with Deputy Director Conlin, Commissioner Kerr, and District Superintendent Jeff Gaffney.
  - He met with Amy Granat from CORVA in November.
  - In December he toured Hollister Hills SVRA with Chair Slavik and State Park and Recreation Commission Chair Chung.
  - He met with staff from Hollister Hills SVRA in December to assist with planning a trials area in the park.
  - In January, he spoke at a Timekeepers meeting.
- Commissioner Villegas reported on the following:
  - In December, she testified before the Parks Forward Commission regarding urban parks and the need to create more infrastructure for OHVs.

- She met with Assemblymember Anthony Rendon regarding the introduction of urban parks legislation.
- In February she attended the Urban Parks Outreach meeting at Hungry Valley SVRA.
- Vice Chair Pérez reported that she attended a California Parks Forward Commission meeting. She met twice with San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisor Caren Ray, including taking her on a tour of Oceano Dunes SVRA.
- Commissioner Cabral thanked everyone for the tour of Mendocino National Forest and reported on the following:
  - He met with California State Parks Director General Jackson and discussed Johnson Valley and the future of the OHV Program.
  - He worked with Dawn Rowe, representative from Congressman Paul Cook's office, regarding Johnson Valley. He also contacted Jennifer Duck from Senator Dianne Feinstein's office and gave them a letter expressing his views on Johnson Valley. He discussed the possibilities of protecting other OHV areas in California.
  - He has been actively involved with the Air Resources Board regarding the Red Sticker program. He expressed disappointment with the Motorcycle Industry Council's position that manufacturers will not sell Red Sticker or race vehicles in California if the proposed regulations move forward.
  - He attended a couple of U.S. Forest Service meetings. Subjects at the meetings included fire issues, volunteers, future planning, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the need for connectivity if the Statewide Motorized Trail system project moves forward.
  - The Governor's office contacted him expressing a desire to enhance communications. He also stated that the Governor's office supports the OHV program.
  - He toured Cow Mountain with Chair Slavik and U.S. Forest Service staff.
  - He expressed his appreciation for the improvements made in the Mendocino National Forest especially those involving OHV recreation.
  - He announced that the Governor reappointed him to the Commission effective January 15, 2014. His term will end January 15, 2018.
- Commissioner Patrovsky reported on the following:
  - He attended a San Bernardino National Forest public meeting in Phelan on December 16 regarding Baldy Mesa and the Forest's plan for route designation.
  - On January 9 he toured Wonder Valley with several BLM officials including the District Manager of the California Desert District.
  - He attended the King of the Hammers event on February 5.

- On February 11 he testified before a federal magistrate during a mitigation hearing regarding the West Mojave Plan (WEMO). Juniper Flats is a major area of contention due to recreationists not following the designated routes, which has led to conflicts between equestrians, hikers, and OHV enthusiasts.
  - On February 19 he attended an open house regarding the Baldy Mesa Forest Service OHV plan.
  - He also attended a BLM open house on February 19 regarding an OHV restoration grant for the Juniper Flats area.
- Commissioner Kerr thanked the U.S. Forest Service staff for the informative tour and reported on the following items:
    - He asked that the Metcalf Motorcycle Park be included in the Urban Parks Initiative since it is within an hour's drive from the San Francisco/Oakland area.
    - He attended King of the Hammers and thanked staff for their assistance at the event.
    - He announced he would be retiring from the Commission as soon as another member is appointed. He said he was leaving with a lot of wonderful memories, and encouraged the Commission to continue to concentrate on iconic areas and events such as Hollister Hills SVRA, the Hangtown Motocross, and the King of the Hammers. He thanked staff for their hard work and always being available.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV (B) – COMMISSIONERS' COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Murphy reported that he received an update from Larry Smith, Americans for Responsible Recreational Access, Washington, D.C., on HR 1776 regarding the Clear Creek Management Area. The bill is making its way through the legislative process, but a committee hearing must be held before it can go to the House for a vote.

Chair Slavik asked staff to look at the reports presented at the Parks Forward Commissioners meeting held in Los Angeles. He thought some of the information presented could benefit the OHV Program. One report discussed the tie-in with health and outdoor recreation. He believes the OHV community should receive more credit than it does because it is not a passive recreation. The other report addressed the changing park visitor demographics and attested to the increase in visitation within the Latino community.

Commissioner Villegas spoke about the importance of including OHV recreation information in the Parks Forward Commission reports. She encouraged everyone to monitor the meetings and provide input and written comments. In addition, she suggested reaching out to the Park Forward Commissioners, offering tours of the SVRAs, and attending meetings as ways of keeping up-to-date.

Deputy Director Conlin said staff would request the reports and forward them to the Commissioners for review. He further stated that if the Commission wanted to make comments on a report, it should be done as a Commission unless someone attended a meeting individually and wanted to make an individual comment.

Chair Slavik introduced Jim Steele, candidate for Lake County Supervisor. Mr. Steele spoke briefly about his background as a 30-year biologist with the Department of Fish and Game and a 10-year environmental consultant.

## **AGENDA ITEM V (A) – BUSINESS ITEMS – URBAN PARKS OPPORTUNITIES**

OHMVR Division Planning Manager, Dan Canfield, presented a report on Urban Parks Opportunities.

As a result of the 2012 California State Parks Stewardship Act, a Parks Forward Commission was formed to develop a long-range sustainable vision for the California State Parks system. The Parks Forward Commission recently released a draft outline of its initiatives. One component is the concept of providing parks and outdoor recreation facilities to urban communities and to communities that are “park poor.” Mr. Canfield further stated that this initiative directly relates to the OHMVR Division 2009 Strategic Plan objective to create new OHV opportunities within a 60-mile radius of urban areas.

In addition to the report, Mr. Canfield provided the Commission with a list of 57 urban areas in California as determined by the 2010 United States Census Bureau report. Based on this list, each of the eight SVRAs would be within a 60-mile radius of at least one urban area.

Currently, the OHMVR Division has several projects that contain an urban element—the proposed land acquisitions at Hungry Valley SVRA and the recently held meeting regarding urban outreach. Representatives from numerous agencies attending the urban outreach meeting discussed different ways to connect urban communities with outdoor recreation, specifically OHV recreation.

Concluding his report, Mr. Canfield suggested one possible action the Commission may want to take regarding this business item would be to submit a letter to the Parks Forward Commission supporting certain elements of its initiative.

The Commissioners submitted the following suggestions and comments regarding the report:

Commissioner Cabral:

- Would like to include a beginner or entry-level online program to educate youth about responsible OHV recreation.

Commissioner Kerr:

- Would like to include Metcalf in the urban parks initiative and offered his services to help facilitate any necessary negotiations with the County of Santa Clara.

Chair Slavik:

- Discussed the need for new equipment and additional facilities.
- Suggested the use of mobile training facilities to take programs into communities.

Commissioner Murphy:

- Encouraged seeking community support.

Deputy Director Conlin assured the Commission that the Division supports this program and has been exploring opportunities and looking at all options. He announced the assignment of Greg Schumaker as the new Division OHV training coordinator.

In response to Vice Chair Pérez' question about whether or not Metcalf could expand, Deputy Director Conlin stated that the County has some options and could apply for grant funding.

Commissioner Villegas said she would like to see what other partnerships could be formed so this type of program could be implemented statewide.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON URBAN PARKS OPPORTUNITIES**

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Amy Granat, Managing Director, California Off-Highway Vehicle Association
- Dean Joyner, Marin County Motorcycle Association and Lake Pillsbury Homeowners Association
- Rick Lavello, OHV Volunteer Program Coordinator, Southern California Mountains Foundation
- Nick Haris, Western State Representative, American Motorcyclist Association
- Kathleen Mick, U.S. Forest Service
- Bob Phillips, U.S. Forest Service

A lengthy discussion regarding urban parks opportunities ensued. Ultimately, a motion was made by Commissioner Kerr to send direction from the Commission to the Division staff stating the Commission is highly supportive of the Urban Parks Initiative and would like to add County Parks such as Metcalf on the priority list of urban park areas. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried. In addition, Chair Slavik and Commissioner Villegas, as members of the Urban Parks Committee, will write a letter to Division staff affirming the motion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Bruce Brazil, California Off-Road Vehicle Association
- Rick Lavello, Southern California Mountains Foundation
- Frank Aebly, Acting District Ranger, Lake Ranger District
- Eric Lueder, Marin County Motorcycle Association
- Dean Joyner, Marin County Motorcycle Association and Lake Pillsbury Homeowners Association
- Jerry Fouts, American Motorcyclist Association, District 36
- Don Amador, Quiet Warrior Racing Consulting and Blue Ribbon Coalition
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Darrell Collins, Siskiyou County Off-Road Riders

## **AGENDA ITEM V (B) – BUSINESS ITEMS – COMMISSION COMMITTEES**

OHMVR Division Planning Manager, Dan Canfield, presented a report on Commission committees. State law and public policy provide guidance to state bodies on how to conduct meetings and how to form committees. Typically, there are two types of committees that can be formed by the Commission if so desired. The first is a special or ad hoc committee that is formed to deal with a specific issue or task, and once completed, the committee ceases to exist. The second is a standing committee that performs a continuing function and remains in existence into the future. Mr. Canfield further stated that if the Commissioners want to form a standing committee they must have at least three Commissioners on the committee so they can make motions, vote on items, and exercise authority. Ad hoc committees can have less than three members because the committee will not exercise any authority.

A current list of committees identifying members and/or vacancies was presented to the Commissioners. After a brief discussion, the Commission decided individual Commissioners would submit their committee recommendations to OHMVR Division staff, postponing action on this item until the May 2014 meeting, with the exception of the following:

- Create an Urban Parks Initiative Ad Hoc Committee with Chair Slavik and Commissioner Villegas listed as members,
- Combine the Off-Highway PAL Program Committee with the Urban Parks Initiative Committee,
- Add Commissioner Cabral to the Red Sticker Committee,
- Add Vice Chair Pérez to the ATV Safety Committee, and
- Change the name of the Commission 201(4) Report to the Commission Triennial Report.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMMISSION COMMITTEES**

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Bruce Brazil, California Off-Road Vehicle Association

In response to a question about whether or not non-Commission members can be appointed to a committee, Deputy Director Conlin stated that committee members could ask the public for advice but further research was necessary to determine whether or not members of the public could be appointed to a Commission committee.

## **AGENDA ITEM V (C) – BUSINESS ITEMS – 2014/15 PROPOSED GOVERNOR’S BUDGET**

Administrative Chief, Maria Mowrey, presented a budget update for the 2014/15 fiscal year. She reported that Governor Brown released his January 10 budget on January 9. The proposed budget provides additional spending authority for support (\$67 million), local assistance (\$26 million), and capital outlay (\$31 million). Senate budget hearings will be held in March; the Governor will release his May Revise around May 15.

A discussion ensued regarding the Governor’s reference to the “wall of debt” borrowing totaling \$34.7 billion, and more specifically, the “Loans from Special Funds.” Governor Brown’s January 10 budget proposes payoff of these loans by 2017/18. These special fund loans include the loans from the OHV Trust Fund. Deputy Director Conlin also informed the Commission that the Division has had discussions with the Department of Finance regarding payback of OHV Trust Fund loans that are not covered in Governor Brown’s proposal. In response to inquiry from Chair Slavik, Deputy Director confirmed the OHMVR Division’s website could link to relevant language in the Governor’s budget.

In response to Commissioner Kerr’s inquiry, Ms. Mowrey confirmed that the Hollister Hills SVRA capital outlay projects are listed in the Governor’s proposed budget.

## **AGENDA ITEM V (D) – BUSINESS ITEMS – CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA (CCMA) RECORD OF DECISION**

Deputy Director Conlin discussed the 30-day appeal period regarding the Record of Decision (ROD) for the CCMA.

Este Stifel, BLM Central California District Manager, provided an overview of the appeals process and confirmed the March 14 deadline to submit appeals.

Will Harris, California Geological Survey, provided insight into possible appeals that could be addressed regarding the implementation decisions listed in the ROD. One such appeal could be made regarding the Recreation Use E-2 implementation decision.

After further discussion, Commissioner Patrovsky made a motion that the ad hoc committee works with staff and Mr. Harris to create an appeal letter signed by Chair

Slavik and submitted to the Interior Board of Land Appeals by the March 14 deadline. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Pérez. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on possible methods the BLM could use to limit motorized access to the CCMA via the existing county road. The current intent is to limit exposure to five days per year, but how that will be enforced is unknown at this time. BLM Manager Stifel stated a permit system would be implemented but would have to determine whether the county road would be subject to the permit. Mr. Harris informed the Commission that the ROD and right-of-way for the county road was listed on the agenda for the San Benito County Board of Supervisors' March 4 meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CCMA RECORD OF DECISION**

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Eric Lueder, Marin County Motorcycle Association
- Nick Haris, Western State Representative, American Motorcyclist Association
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Bruce Brazil, California Off-Road Vehicle Association
- Don Amador, Quiet Warrior Racing Consulting and Blue Ribbon Coalition

After hearing public comments, Commissioner Patrovsky made a motion to submit a letter in support of HR 1776. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villegas. Motion passed.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI (B) – BLM REPORT**

Jane Arteaga, OHV Lead, BLM, provided the following updates:

- She thanked the OHMVR Division for providing law enforcement and outreach/education support during busy holiday weekends and special events.
- BLM recently filled a social media position and is developing a social media outreach plan.
- BLM, in partnership with Friends of Johnson Valley, is developing an Adopt-a-Trail program.

In response to Chair Slavik's question about the designation of Johnson Valley, Ms. Arteaga confirmed that under the BLM resource management plan it will be protected as a Special Recreation Management Area with its primary designation as an OHV recreation area. Grazing will no longer be permitted. With regard to geothermal, drilling can occur but geothermal surface occupancy will not be allowed.

Este Stifel presented a brief overview of the CCMA ROD. As discussed earlier, the ROD was signed on February 12. The appeal period was ending March 14. Barring any litigation or injunctions, the CCMA serpentine ACEC would open to the public on

March 15. Highway-licensed vehicles with a permit would have access to approximately 32 miles of roads. Individuals driving in the area would be limited to five days per year; people accessing the area on foot would be limited to 12 days per year. The main road through the area would remain gated, and individuals who obtain permits would receive a combination to open the gate.

A travel management plan will be developed for the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River zones. Designated route access will be available for highway-licensed vehicles, ATVs, and UTVs. The BLM fee program will be reactivated—\$5 per licensed vehicle per week and \$10 for stickered ATVs and UTVs.

Ms. Stifel said BLM would continue working with State Parks, the EPA, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to identify opportunities for activity-based studies on asbestos exposure. In response to inquiry from Chair Slavik, Ms. Stifel agreed to find out why non-street legal motorcycles had been omitted from the non-ACEC zones of the CCMA.

Rich Burns, Field Manager, Ukiah Field Office, explained that RS 2477 is a tool states and counties can use to acquire roads and routes of travel in order to keep them open to the public.

Mr. Burns presented a slideshow highlighting OHV recreation and OHV Grants-funded projects on BLM lands managed by the Bishop and Bakersfield Field Offices.

Trent Milam, Park Ranger and Recreation Planner, Ukiah Field Office, presented a slideshow highlighting OHV recreation opportunities and OHV Grants-funded projects on lands managed by the Ukiah Field Office.

Paul Aigner, Director of the UC Davis McLaughlin Reserve, presented an overview of a proposed grant application to restore areas in the Knoxville Recreation Area. He asked for input from the OHV community on restoration as well as volunteers to help work on the project.

In response to Vice Chair Pérez' inquiry about staffing at CCMA and enforcement of the five-day limit, Ms. Stifel said the area will not be staffed, but the Hollister Field Office will keep a running list of individuals applying for permits. Eventually, the permitting process will be handled by recreation.gov, a web-based reservation system used by the U.S. Government.

Responding to Vice Chair Pérez' question about how the new study might impact management of the area, Ms. Stifel stated that if they receive significant information that impacts current management decisions, BLM would be able to reopen the planning process. Deputy Director Conlin stated that the current study would not be completed before the appeal deadline.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding dirtbikes not being allowed in the CCMA, but allowing access to ATVs, ROVs, and street-licensed vehicles (including motorcycles). Ms. Stifel stated that this was an implementation decision and reminded everyone that ATVs and ROVs are not allowed in the ACEC.

A discussion was held about capital improvements that have either been abandoned or dismantled and whether or not there will be some repayment of funds to the OHV Trust Fund.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI (C) – USFS REPORT**

Kathleen Mick, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region Office, welcomed everyone to the Mendocino National Forest and introduced staff from the Upper Lake Ranger District.

Bob Phillips, Upper Lake Ranger District, presented a slideshow highlighting projects they have worked on over the past few years.

Frank Aebly, Acting District Ranger, Lake Ranger District, reported on a sediment reduction project that was recently completed. It is estimated that the sediment load into the Middle Creek will be reduced by 300 to 400 tons per year.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the fenced-in tots area and possible ways to improve the course.

Ranger Phillips presented a report about Young's Corral reroute—a project funded by local money. The project connected the Upper Lake OHV corridor to the Stonyford area providing additional miles of trails for enduro races.

Rogert Poff, Soil and Watershed Management Consultant, R. J. Poff and Associates, provided an overview about a study he is working on for the Forest Service to determine better methodology to manage trails under wet conditions. He anticipates completion of the study in September. Commissioner Cabral stated he was very interested in this project and would like to participate as a volunteer.

Ms. Mick reported on the following items:

- She anticipates the revision to Subpart C of the Travel Management Rule will be published in the Federal Register sometime before June. Subpart C deals with over-snow vehicles and the designation of over-snow vehicle trails and areas.
- Due to a considerable reduction in law enforcement funding, Ms. Mick stated they would need OHV Trust Funds to help with staffing needs.
- The over-snow program lawsuit has been settled. A NEPA process will begin soon for Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Eldorado, and Stanislaus National Forests regarding the groomed trail system and ancillary activities.
- The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Snowlands Network, the California/Nevada Snowmobile Association, and Fred Wylie are working

collaboratively to develop a business plan that outlines how they will move forward to look at new designations and potential restrictions and prohibitions regarding over-snow vehicle use on the Tahoe Basin. She encouraged OHMVR Division participation in upcoming meetings.

- She asked the Division to work with the Society of American Automotive Engineers and the Forest Service to develop sound testing methods for over-snow vehicles that could be easily implemented in the field.
- She encouraged the Commission and Division to work with CARB to address over-snow vehicle emissions, particularly as it pertains to snow use and concerns for water quality and water content.
- She is working with Commissioner Cabral to develop a booklet explaining how to become a volunteer.
- Since the Forest Service Travel Management document was upheld at a recent court hearing, the Tahoe National Forest is moving forward on implementing its travel management decisions.
- The draft environmental impact statement for the Six Rivers National Forest, Smith River NRA, will be released in the next few months.
- A notice of intent for proposed actions regarding Forest Plan revisions for Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests would be published in the Federal Register before the end of April.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – EASTERN KERN COUNTY ACQUISITION**

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a report on the Eastern Kern County Acquisition. The acquisition includes approximately 25,000 acres of privately-owned land in Kern County near the Jawbone Canyon OHV area. The Notice of Determination for the environmental impact report was filed on October 4, 2013. The project is currently in the negotiations phase and the State is working with the landowner to determine the value of the property. In response to Chair Slavik’s inquiry about whether or not the Commission could do anything to move the project along, Mr. Canfield and Deputy Director Conlin stated there is nothing that can be done at this time.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – SVRA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Canfield presented a report on the status of the SVRA general plans. Currently, there are three active general plan projects—Prairie City SVRA, Carnegie SVRA, and Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

During the past couple of months, the planning team for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan project conducted two public workshops. The first workshop was held on

December 28, 2013, at Ocotillo Wells SVRA; the second workshop was held in Carlsbad on January 19, 2014. Approximately 200 people attended the workshops. Materials presented are available on the project website: PlanOcotilloWells.org. The last day to provide project input was Monday, March 10.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – GRANTS PROGRAM**

George MacDougall, OHMVR Division Grant Administrator for Northern California, presented a report on the Grants Program. The Governor proposed a \$26 million budget for the Grants Program subject to appropriations by the Legislature. An additional \$4.9 million of unspent restoration funds will be added to restoration.

Two workshops to market restoration grants were held in January resulting in approximately 40 new agencies registering within the Online Grant Application System (OLGA) as potential restoration grant applicants. The last day to submit preliminary grant applications was Monday, March 3. The 30-day public review and comment period runs from March 4 through April 7. The final applications are due on Monday, May 5 with the intent to award posted on June 2. If no appeals are received during the subsequent 30-day appeal process, the final intent to award should be posted July 3.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD OHV UPDATE**

Mike Lair, OHMVR Division Law Enforcement Section, presented a report about the California Air Resources Board (CARB) red sticker vehicle program.

The new ruling on regulating red sticker OHVs is scheduled for release December 2015. Prior to that date, CARB staff has been directed to test red sticker vehicles, compile and analyze the data, conduct a survey, and report their findings to CARB at its November 2014 meeting.

Public workshops have been held to discuss the survey and testing process. California State University Sacramento will be facilitating the survey with assistance from the OHMVR Division and CARB.

In response to Commissioner Kerr’s inquiry about the lapse of time between the report findings and the CARB ruling, Mr. Lair stated there is a legal process that must be adhered to prior to implementation of the new ruling.

In response to Commissioner Villegas and Commissioner Murphy’s request, Mr. Lair stated he would send them additional background information about the red sticker program.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CARB OHV UPDATE**

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Jerry Fouts, American Motorcyclist Association, District 36
- Nick Haris, Western State Representative, American Motorcyclist Association
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GRANTS PROGRAM**

- Bruce Brazil

Additional discussion ensued regarding the CARB OHV update. Commissioner Cabral spoke about his concerns regarding the types of motorcycles that will be used in the testing process, and stated he will do everything he can to make sure the tests are conducted with appropriate vehicles. He will also request independent third party contractors monitor the testing process. He suggested people contact the manufacturers and encourage their participation.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – OCEANO DUNES DISTRICT: GROVER BEACH LODGE PROJECT**

Dena Bellman, Oceano Dunes District, Park and Recreation Specialist, reported on the Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center project. The project proposes a 150-room hotel and an 11,000-square-foot conference center in Pismo State Beach adjacent to Grant Avenue, the northernmost entrance to Oceano Dunes SVRA. When completed, the project will be the only LEED Silver hotel development on the California coastline. The project site currently consists of day-use parking lots and an eight-acre dirt lot that is frequently used for overflow and equestrian parking.

Ms. Bellman presented a brief background of the project, stating the vision for the project began over 30 years ago in 1982 when the park amended its General Plan and designated the site for the lodge and conference center. The Coastal Development Permit was scheduled to be heard on March 3 at the Grover Beach City Council meeting. The project has received overwhelming community support.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (1) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – 2014 TRIENNIAL OHMVR PROGRAM REPORT DISTRIBUTION**

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a report about the distribution of the 2014 Triennial Report. The contents were discussed at several Commission meetings in 2013, and approved with minor changes by the Commission at the November 2013 meeting. In collaboration with the Chair, Division staff worked on the requested changes and finalized the report. In compliance with statutory requirements, the printed Report was delivered to the Governor’s office and various members of the legislature on December 30 and 31. In addition, copies of the Report were mailed to the Commissioners and posted on the OHMVR Division website.

Deputy Director Conlin informed the Commission that extra copies of the 2014 Report have been printed and are available upon request. He also told them that the Report is available on CD. With regard to the Executive Summary version, Deputy Director Conlin told the Commission that staff is continuing to work on it.

A brief discussion was held about the importance of messaging when speaking with Senator Mark Leno since he is the Chair of the Budget Committee.

Chair Slavik thanked staff for the production of the Report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (2) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – LEGISLATION UPDATE: JOHNSON VALLEY OHV AREA**

Tina Williams, Superintendent for Public Relations and Communications, OHMVR Division, presented a map of the Johnson Valley OHV Area and highlighted the various areas—shared use, military, and OHV recreation.

She also provided a report on SB 1289 proposed by State Senator Jean Fuller that would authorize the State Lands Commission to transfer to the Department for OHV recreation certain parcels of land owned by the state that are adjacent to the Johnson Valley OHV Area.

Commission Villegas requested a list of legislation staff is monitoring.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (3) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Mike Howard, Supervising Ranger, OHMVR Division, presented a report on law enforcement deployments.

At the request of members of local communities, the law enforcement team provided assistance over Thanksgiving weekend in the Jawbone Canyon and Dove Springs areas. The team focused on closed-area incursions.

The second deployment provided law enforcement support to the BLM, Marine Corps, San Bernardino County Sheriff, and CHP during the 2014 King of the Hammers. Prior to the event, the team presented an OHV law enforcement class to members of the agencies and departments who patrolled the area.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (4) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – OUTREACH / OHPAL UPDATE**

##### ***OHPAL Report***

Greg Schumaker, OHMVR Division Training Coordinator, provided a report on the OHPALs program. He spoke about the positive effects of OHPALs and shared his vision of growing the program by reaching out to youth groups, land managers, the

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, and the OHV community. Mr. Schumaker acknowledged the importance of teaching California's youth about "Safe and Responsible Recreation."

A brief discussion ensued about the different types of OHV classes taught at various SVRAs.

### ***Outreach Report***

Donna McGuire, OHMVR Division State Parks Interpreter, presented an overview of the Outreach program. During 2013, the program experienced exponential growth with staff providing a blend of high-tech and low-tech learning opportunities. The Outreach team encourages audience participation through the Remote Control Jeep program, Ride Safety computer game, ROV Tic-Tac-Toe and Gear Up for Safety games, and the ATV Simulator.

With the numerous requests the team has received to participate in events, conferences, and workshops during 2014, it is apparent the OHMVR Division Outreach program has become an educational attraction throughout the state.

### **AGENDA ITEM VI (A) (5) – DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DRECP**

Due to time restrictions, Connie Latham, State Parks DRECP Coordinator, and Jane Arteaga, BLM, presented a brief overview of the DRECP. A more detailed report will be presented at the May Commission meeting.

The DRECP is a multi-agency planning effort that conserves the unique desert landscape and its intrinsic values, while streamlining the renewable energy permitting process. Its main goal is to balance conservation and renewable energy. The DRECP has three main components—the BLM land use plan amendments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service general conservation plan, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife natural communities conservation plan.

The plan area encompasses more than 22.5 million acres over seven counties with 20-plus agencies involved in the planning process. There are four key agencies involved with the actual development of the plan—BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Fish and Wildlife, and the Energy Commission.

Deputy Director Conlin informed the Commission that review of the final version of the draft plan would be completed within two weeks. He also acknowledged BLM's commitment to safeguard recreation against the encroachment of renewable energy. When the DRECP is finished, the land will be designated as either energy renewable potential or non-energy renewable potential. The plan is very significant and will chart the course of land usage in this area for the next 50-100 years.

Ms. Latham stated that release of the draft plan is scheduled for spring 2014 and the DRECP team is encouraging public feedback. In addition to public meetings, workshops, and webinars, a new web-based mapping tool called the Data Basin (DataBasin.org) will be launched. The public will not be able to make comments on the project through DataBasin.org, but if errors or problems are found within the map, it can be printed and submitted with comments.

After a brief discussion about possible locations for the May Commission meeting, a decision was made to visit El Mirage Dry Lake OHV Recreation Area.

Commissioner Kerr moved and Commissioner Villegas seconded to adjourn the Commission meeting at 5:23 pm. Motion carried.