

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

MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 4:41 p.m.

Borrego Springs Resort
1112 Tilting T Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

OHMVR COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Kevin Murphy

OHMVR DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Christopher Conlin, Deputy Director
Phil Jenkins, Division Chief
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel

OTHER OHMVR STAFF AND REGISTERED VISITORS

AGENDA ITEM I – CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 A.M.

- (A) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Pérez
- (B) Roll Call – Six Commissioners present at time of roll call, one Commissioner absent, and two Commission Member appointments vacant.

AGENDA ITEM III (A) – APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2013, MINUTES

Prior to approval of the minutes and in response to Chair Slavik's inquiry about whether or not a leadership meeting occurred with members of the East Bay Regional Parks District, Deputy Director Conlin stated he met with the District's Executive Director, Bob Doyle. Mr. Doyle said he had discussions with the District's Board and told them they should respect the Division's position.

Motion to approve the September 20, 2013, minutes was made by Commissioner Villegas and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion carried.

Commissioners Slavik and Pérez thanked the staff for the tour of Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

AGENDA ITEM II – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After a proposal by Chair Slavik to move the Ocotillo Wells SVRA report to the first item under the Deputy Director's Report, motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Kerr and seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM IV (A) – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Chair Slavik reported that he visited the Littlerock area where Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation is proposing to purchase land for an OHV park. Deputy Director Conlin informed the Commission that members of the OHMVR Division Grant staff would be attending the upcoming town hall meeting scheduled for the week of November 18. The meeting gives members of the public an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed project.
- Commissioner Cabral informed the Commission that a highly respected motocross champion, Kurt Caselli, passed away Friday, November 15th, from injuries sustained in a crash during the Baja 1000 race. A moment of silence was observed.
- Commissioner Villegas reported that she, along with Commissioner Pérez, toured Oceano Dunes SVRA in early October. Tour participants included representatives from the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. She also attended a California Parks Forward Commission meeting in November.
- Commissioner Pérez reported the following:
 - She attended the October tour of Oceano Dunes SVRA with Commissioner Villegas and Ms. Freeman, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.
 - She and Commissioner Villegas attended a Parks Foundation event on Latino history held in Los Angeles.
 - She went on a tour of Oceano Dunes SVRA with newly appointed San Luis Obispo County Supervisor, Caren Ray.
 - She congratulated Deputy Director Conlin on his outstanding presentation to the Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce. She felt his presentation provided the citizens with a greater appreciation for Oceano Dunes SVRA and the economic value it provides to the local communities.
 - She also attended a California Parks Forward Commission meeting.

- Commissioner Patrovsky thanked staff for a very informative tour of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. He noted he was looking forward to hearing the report on the Twentynine Palms expansion area because has been receiving many questions about the status of Congressman Hood’s bill.
- Commissioner Kerr thanked staff for the tour of Ocotillo Wells SVRA.
- Chair Slavik thanked Division staff for their assistance serving lunch at the Mexican restaurant in Salton Sea.

AGENDA ITEM IV (B) – COMMISSIONERS’ SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Cabral reported that he met with Lee Johnson, District Ranger, Mendocino National Forest, and discussed the possibility of reclassifying some Class III roads to Class II roads. Reclassification to Class II roads would give the Forest Service the opportunity to open the roads to different types of use and allow them to apply for different grant funding. Commissioner Cabral would like to continue discussions with other Ranger Districts and encourage agency cooperation and development of partnerships.

Commissioner Cabral suggested reestablishing the Red Sticker Subcommittee because the red sticker issue is becoming rather significant with the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

In response to Commissioner Pérez’s inquiry on the status of the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA), Commissioner Cabral stated there is nothing new to report. Commissioners Pérez and Cabral are on the CCMA subcommittee. In subsequent discussion, Commissioner Cabral was able to report Division-funded scientists would be conducting five months of monitoring starting November 18.

In response to a question about whether or not the Commission should fill vacancies in the subcommittees, Deputy Director Conlin stated many of the subcommittees became dormant because Commissioners left or issues were resolved. He suggested the Commission use the list as a guide—it is not necessary to fill every vacancy because the subcommittees are not statutory.

In response to Chair Slavik’s inquiry about whether or not any Commissioners were interested in joining a subcommittee, Commissioner Villegas expressed interest in the Cost Recovery Subcommittee, and Commissioner Pérez expressed interest in the Education Subcommittee.

Discussion was held on the status of the Education Subcommittee. Chair Slavik expressed a desire to reenergize the committee stressing the importance of education.

Deputy Director Conlin concurred and stated resources are available. Chief Jenkins discussed the possibility of reconvening the Statewide Education Committee.

Kathryn Tobias, legal counsel for the Commission, explained the two types of committees the Commission can use under the Bagley-Keene Act. One is a “standing committee” that requires agendas and a public notice within ten days of its meeting. The other is an “ad hoc committee” consisting of two members and typically used to address issues that arise and will have some kind of resolution. Once the issues have been resolved, the ad hoc committee ceases to exist. Based on these definitions, it was determined that the Education Subcommittee probably falls under the standing committee definition.

In response to Chair Slavik’s inquiry about whether or not the Commission should define the subcommittees and make appointments, Ms. Tobias suggested putting the review of the subcommittee list on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Cabral reported on the status of Back Country Discovery Trail, also known as the Statewide Motorized Recreation Trail. Division staff located some historic maps and discussions with the U.S. Forest Service in Northern California have been held. Commissioner Cabral personally rode some areas of the trail to confirm its existence. He stated it was hard to gauge what type of public support this project may have, but is looking at ways to create some publicity to check out potential interest. In response to Chair Slavik’s inquiry, Chief Jenkins confirmed the project is legislatively mandated.

AGENDA ITEM V (A) – BUSINESS ITEMS – ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014

Chief Jenkins provided a brief overview of the election of officers stating the Commission’s Policies and Procedures do not provide any constraints on the election of officers. There are also no rules as to when the new officers take over—the current chair could finish out the meeting and the new chair start at the next meeting, or the new chair could take over immediately after the election. In response to Chair Slavik’s inquiry, Chief Jenkins confirmed the Commission could not hold an election midterm next year.

Chair Slavik started the discussion regarding the election of the new Chair stating he would like to continue in that capacity for another year. He further commented that Commissioner Kerr might not be interested in continuing as Vice Chair because his Commission term ends January 2014. Commissioner Kerr stated he would continue to serve as a Commissioner until the Speaker appoints a new one, which would probably occur in early 2014.

Commissioner Kerr moved to reelect Chair Slavik as the 2014 Chair and Commissioner Patrovsky seconded. A vote was called and the motion carried with Chair Slavik abstaining.

Commissioner Kerr moved to nominate Commissioner Cabral as the new Vice Chair and Commissioner Patrovsky seconded. Chair Slavik called for a vote.

Prior to the vote, Commissioner Pérez stated she was interested in becoming the new Vice Chair and asked to be considered for the nomination. She stated she has been on the Commission for three years, is dedicated to the program, and her term does not end until 2016. Commissioner Villegas moved to nominate Commissioner Pérez as Vice Chair.

Discussion ensued regarding the two motions for Vice Chair. Ms. Tobias informed the Commission there is no procedure for this situation, but under Robert's Rules of Order, the second motion becomes a substitute motion, which means that motion is voted on first. Chair Slavik called a vote on the nomination of Commissioner Pérez for Vice Chair. A roll call occurred with Commissioners Patrovsky, Slavik, and Cabral abstaining; Commissioners Pérez, Kerr, and Villegas voting yes. Chair Slavik called a second roll call vote on the nomination of Commissioner Pérez for Vice Chair.

Ms. Tobias stated the first vote passed because there were three yes votes and three abstentions and the action only required a majority vote, not a quorum. She further stated that another vote could be taken if the Commissioners wanted to change their votes. A second vote was taken to reconsider Commissioner Pérez for Vice Chair. Chair Slavik and Commissioners Cabral and Patrovsky voted no; Commissioners Kerr, Pérez, and Villegas voted yes. Ms. Tobias confirmed that since the vote was a tie, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM V (B) – BUSINESS ITEMS – 2014 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR

Discussion was held regarding the 2014 Commission meeting dates and possible locations. Chief Jenkins provided a brief background on the process leading up to the creation of the proposed meeting dates. In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry, Chief Jenkins informed the Commission that the only time they would be required to meet in a certain location would be for either approval of a general plan or the possibility of a new acquisition. Staff does not anticipate having a general plan ready for approval during 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2014 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Jim Bramham
- Nicole Nicholas Gilles, American Sand Association

- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Jane Arteaga, OHV Lead, BLM
- Sherri Kukla, S&S Off-Road Magazine

Discussion on meeting days, times, and dates ensued. The Commission confirmed the tours and meetings will be held Thursdays and Fridays during 2014 on the following dates:

- February 27-28
- May 1-2
- September 25-26
- December 11-12

Discussion was held about implementing different methods of communication to inform the public about the upcoming Commission meetings in order to garner more public participation. Discussion was also held on possible locations for the February meeting, and that the February meeting would have an evening component.

AGENDA ITEM V (C) – BUSINESS ITEMS – 2014 TRIENNIAL REPORT

OHMVR Division Planning Manager, Dan Canfield, provided an update on the 2014 Triennial Report. The OHMVR Commission has the responsibility of reporting to the Governor and the Legislature on the status of California’s OHMVR Program every three years. The Triennial Report is due January 1, 2014. Chair Slavik and Commissioner Pérez are on the subcommittee.

Mr. Canfield spoke about the progress of the report stating the contents were discussed at the May 17 and September 20 Commission meetings, thus meeting the statutory requirements for discussion at Commission meetings. Draft 2 of the report is the product of feedback from those meetings. He asked the Commission for confirmation on finalizing the report.

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

Commissioner Pérez:

- Include information in the Executive Summary about the new leadership of State Parks and the OHMVR Division. She wants the first few pages of the report to provide enough information so people reading it will get a sense of who we are and what we’re about.

Chair Slavik:

- Include information about the new leadership.
- Discuss the funding challenges.
- Reference the 2014 Report as the second program report.
- Include photos of the Commissioners.

Chair Slavik and Commissioner Pérez offered to rewrite the Executive Summary to incorporate their suggestions. Commissioner Pérez suggested a brief mention of SB 742. Discussion ensued about the length of the Executive Summary.

Chief Jenkins discussed the proposed companion document—a summary of the 2014 Program Report. Creation of the summary document will start as soon as the Program Report is completed.

In response to Commissioner Pérez's reference to SB 742, Chief Jenkins informed the Commission the Division was phasing out references to the bill and focusing on the legislation that resulted from its passage. Commissioner Pérez said her comment about SB 742 was actually in reference to the Program's sunset in 2018.

Additional comments regarding the report were submitted by the following Commissioners:

Commissioner Villegas:

- Thanked staff for the cover photo because it captures California's diversity.
- Concurred with comments made by Chair Slavik and Commissioner Pérez.
- Volunteered to meet with members of the Senate and Assembly to discuss the Program and deliver copies of the report.

Commissioner Cabral:

- Liked the report; especially the method of detailing the loans and transfers and the economic impact information.
- Incorporate the OHMVR Division Vision Statement with the photo collage at the beginning of the report.

Commissioner Villegas reminded the Commission about previous discussions regarding the Vision Statement stating it was the Division's vision not necessarily the Commission's vision. However, she did agree it should be moved to the beginning of the document.

Commissioner Kerr commented on the following:

- He agreed the Vision Statement should be moved.
- Suggested including a Google Earth image of Hollister Hills SVRA outlining the different areas in order to provide an overview of the park. When talking to people about the SVRA, he describes it as the premier off-highway riding area in the entire country, if not the world.

Concluding the discussion about the 2014 Triennial Report, Chair Slavik commented as follows:

- Suggested inserting historical information about some of the challenges the SVRAs face. For example, how long it took to open the Renz property and current challenges facing Carnegie and Ocotillo Wells SVRAs.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE 2014 TRIENNIAL

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Jim Bramham
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee

Commission discussion about the public comments ensued. Commissioner Villegas suggested developing a historical timeline. In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry, Deputy Director Conlin stated information about the loans and transfers would also be inserted into the report.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cabral to give the Chair authority to review and approve the final draft of the 2014 Triennial Report once the changes and additions directed by the Commission have been addressed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pérez. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Nicole Nicholas Gilles, American Sand Association
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Jim Bramham
- Robert Ettleman, OHV Planner, L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Sgt. Roger Wallace, L.A. County Sheriff's Department for the Parks Bureau

The Commission discussed a non-agenda item proposed by Sgt. Wallace regarding a joint agency program for underprivileged kids in the inner cities. He asked the Commission to authorize staff to provide a "Train the Trainer" program to train deputy sheriffs from the Parks Bureau as PALS instructors. District Superintendent Jeff Gaffney informed the Commission he has discussed the project with staff from the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and the Forest Service during the past couple of years. He further stated Hungry Valley SVRA has existing infrastructure—motorcycles, ATVs, training pads, training facilities, and a dormitory.

Chief Jenkins assured the Commission that financial support was available for the program. The only thing missing was finding willing partners and excited staff members. He believes the program can move forward based on the enthusiasm shown at today's meeting.

Superintendent Gaffney stated the SVRAs could offer different versions of the Off-Road PALS program because District-level policies provide for deviation from that program.

Chief Jenkins reported on the steps the Division has recently taken to reenergize the program. With Natalie Lohi's leadership and the resources at the Environmental Training Center at Prairie City SVRA, the Division will coordinate efforts to work with at-risk youth and other youth groups. Commissioner Villegas suggested working closely with sheriff's departments to identify youth who would benefit from the program. Chair Slavik recommended utilizing incentives—go to school, get good grades, learn to ride a motorcycle.

Chair Slavik proposed creating an ad hoc committee to assist the Division with the program. Commissioner Villegas and Chair Slavik agreed to be on the Off-Highway PAL Program ad hoc committee.

AGENDA ITEM VI – DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director Conlin thanked the Ocotillo Wells staff for the tour of the park.

AGENDA ITEM VI (1) – TWENTYNINE PALMS EXPANSION

Deputy Director Conlin reminded everyone that the Johnson Valley expansion was now in the hands of the federal government, but encouraged people to continue talking with their congressional representatives and local legislators. He also spoke about General Jackson's vast knowledge of military activities in Southern California due to his senior officer position in the Marine Corps and former role as Director of Marine Corps Installations West. He explained that General Jackson was selected as a member of the Military Advisory Council because of his extensive background. Therefore, when General Jackson agreed the expansion was in the best interest of the Department of the Defense and the State of California, he was responding solely in his capacity as a member of that Council. Deputy Director Conlin further assured the Commission and the public that General Jackson is an advocate of OHV recreation and 100% behind the program.

Patrick Christman, Assistant Chief of Staff for Marine Corps Installations West and Director of the Marine Corps Western Region Environmental Coordination Office, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address the Commission and members of the public. He introduced Colonel Chris Proudfoot, Project Manager for the Twentynine Palms Expansion Project and Deputy Director of Operations and Training.

Colonel Proudfoot presented a slideshow of the expansion project. The proposal the Department of the Navy adopted, which is now before Congress as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, suggests acquisition of approximately 170,000 acres. Some of the land is around the Twentynine Palms and Wonder Valley areas, but the majority is in the Johnson Valley OHV area. The proposal recommends the larger area be used exclusively for military use and another area shared use. The shared use area would

be used by the military approximately 60 days per year for transit purposes with the remaining 10 months of the year available for OHV recreation.

In response to Commissioner Villegas' inquiry, Colonel Proudfoot stated Congress is discussing the Navy's request to withdraw the land from public use and then redesignate it for other uses, but the size of the acquisition is pretty much settled. The shared use area encompasses the majority of Hartwell Hills—an area that is used for the annual King of the Hammers race. Colonel Proudfoot also stated the Marine Corps included in its legislative proposal that the remaining 46,000± acres of Johnson Valley OHV Area be designated as a national OHV area and remain under the jurisdiction of the BLM.

Discussion was held regarding options available to the Commission as the National Defense Authority Act moves through the legislative process. The only remaining course of action would be to contact congressional representatives. In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry as to Senator Feinstein's position, Colonel Proudfoot stated the senator is not involved at this point because she is not a member of the Armed Services Committee, but believed the senator is in support of the Senate version of the Senate Defense Authorization.

In response to inquiries about Congressman Cook's proposal, Colonel Proudfoot said that proposal is the House version. The House and the Senate will meet in a Joint Committee to determine the final version of the National Defense Authority Act. This Act includes all funding for the military.

Responding to Commission Cabrals' inquiry about the possibility of additional lands being designated as national OHV areas, Deputy Director Conlin stated the proposed designation at Johnson Valley is a first. He also spoke about Congressman Farr's proposal for the Clear Creek Management Area and the Onyx Ranch acquisition. The Department of Defense is providing REPI funding for Onyx Ranch to help support the acquisition and future maintenance. He agreed that the proposal for Johnson Valley will have a substantial impact on the OHV community, but reminded everyone that the federal government has the final say in how federal land is used.

Additional discussions were held on the following topics:

- The limited use area west of Camp Rock Road.
- The Desert Wildlife Management Areas managed for tortoise habitat and restricted to designated routes travel only.
- Concerns about live ordnance in areas previously used for decades by OHV recreationists and how the military plans to deal with trespass and safety issues.
- The possible installation of fencing and Carsonite and metal signs.

- The possibility of meeting with Senator Feinstein to express the Commission and OHV community's concerns; Commissioner Pérez offered to tour the area with the Senator.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry about what the Commission can and cannot do, Ms. Tobias stated the Commission could not take action at this meeting because the Twentynine Palms Expansion update was not noticed as a business item. The Commission could; however, notice another meeting.

In response to Commissioner Kerr's inquiry about the possibility of sending Commissioner Pérez to testify before Congress, Deputy Director Conlin said the challenge would be getting out-of-state travel authorization.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TWENTYNINE PALMS EXPANSION

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
- Meg Palazzolo
- Jim Bramham
- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee

AGENDA ITEM VI (4) – OCOTILLO WELLS DISTRICT

District Superintendent Garratt Aitchison spoke about his background and experience with State Parks and followed up with a summary of Ocotillo Wells District based on his perception as a new Division employee. He discussed the generation of families recreating at the park, partnerships with user groups, the general plan update, and his commitment to adhere to the Department's strategic initiatives call for transparency, consistency, and integrity.

Heber Dunes SVRA

Sector Superintendent Kirk Shea provided an update on Heber Dunes SVRA. In 2011, the Commission approved the SVRA's general plan. Construction of a new ranger station, maintenance yard, and day-use area began in November 2012. The projected completion date was January 2014. Sector Superintendent Shea also presented a slideshow of existing and new facilities.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA – Resource Management

Environmental Scientist Kevin Ponce presented an update on the resource management program at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The park's resource department conducts yearly plant and animal surveys that help locate sensitive habitats. The information also assists staff with prioritizing protection and rehabilitation efforts throughout the park. Remote trail cameras are used in the habitat monitoring surveys to

photograph desert species wary of human interaction and not typically seen in the daytime. A short video, created by the Interpretive Team using images from remote cameras, was shown.

AGENDA ITEM VI (1) – GRANTS PROGRAM

OHMVR Division staff member Kelly Long presented an update on the Grants Program.

- Grant Regulation changes have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law.
- The new grants cycle begins January 13, 2014.
- Grant workshops would be held on January 13 and 14 in Ontario and on January 16 and 17 in Sacramento.
- Preliminary Grant applications are due March 3, 2014.
- Approximately \$1.5 million was made available for the motorized component of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for 2014.
- A RTP workshop would be held in Clovis the week of November 18, 2013.

In response to Commissioner Kerr's inquiry, Mr. Long stated RTP funds could not be used during the planning stages of the Back Country Discovery Trail. Chief Jenkins provided a brief overview of the steps required to get the project to shovel-ready status, including determining the amount of public support for the project, conducting a statewide programmatic EIR, and funding the process.

AGENDA ITEM VI (1) – EASTERN KERN COUNTY ACQUISITION

OHMVR Division Planning Manager, Dan Canfield, provided an update on the Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition. The CEQA Environmental Impact Report for the acquisition was certified by the OHMVR Division and published on October 4, 2013. The acquisition was approved by the California Public Works Board for site selection. Site selection approval allows the State to enter formal negotiations with the landowner.

In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry about the anticipated timeline to open the property for OHV recreation, Deputy Director Conlin said the property continues to be an active OHV area. Discussion was held about co-management of the area under an MOU with BLM. District Superintendent Gaffney spoke about the existing attributes of the area, one of which is hunting. He stated that hunting would probably continue to exist in certain areas. He also said staff would be able to immediately manage the natural and cultural resources as well as provide law enforcement.

In response to Commissioner Pérez's concerns about Valley Fever, District Superintendent Gaffney said Valley Fever occurred in the Central Valley and does not present an issue on this property.

In response to Chair Slavik's concerns about the checkerboard ownership of land, Chief Jenkins stated that land swapping and consolidation is something that could be looked at in the future. Right now the Division is trying to address immediate needs to ensure the private parcels do not get developed or sold to an owner that would close it down thereby making it harder for BLM to continue their current operations.

Deputy Director Conlin spoke about the unique coalition of people supporting the purchase of the property including BLM, Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Defense, and several environmental groups.

Responding to Commissioner Villegas' concerns about the budget and funding to operate and maintain the property, Deputy Director Conlin said the Division has to identify its needs and provide a rationale for why it needs the loans repaid. The operation and maintenance of this property is one example. The Back Country Discovery Trails is another example as well as the work that is going on at the other SVRAs and throughout the State with the grants program.

AGENDA ITEM VI (1) – SVRA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Dan Canfield, OHMVR Division Planning Manager, presented a report on the status of the SVRA general plans.

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA general plan team recently posted Working Paper 2 on the project website (PlanOcotilloWells.com). Working Paper 2 describes the existing conditions of the SVRA and will become Chapter 2 of the General Plan. Public workshops were tentatively planned for December 2013. The workshops give the public an opportunity to provide input on the draft planning concepts.

The Carnegie SVRA general plan team hosted a public workshop on November 12, 2013, in Pleasanton. More than 300 people attended the workshop, including Commissioner Cabral. Attendees received an information booklet and comment card. The materials are also available on the project website (CarnegieGeneralPlan.com). Comments on the preferred concept were being accepted through mid-December. After review and consideration of all comments, the preferred concept will be modified and released as the draft general plan. A draft environmental impact report will also be released at that time.

Commissioner Cabral commented on the excellent job the planning team did at the workshop. After the meeting, he had an opportunity to talk with some of the people who were distributing misinformation.

In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry, Deputy Director Conlin confirmed the environmentalist group toured Hollister Hills SVRA. The tour focused primarily on the Renz properties with staff describing how the trails were developed with the least

amount of impact on the natural resources. Some resident experts were also on hand to discuss various topics including water, resource protection, and grazing.

AGENDA ITEM VI (1) – BUDGET – CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS

OHMVR Division staff member, Kenney Glaspie, presented a report on capital outlay projects. Capital outlay is any acquisition, new construction, or alteration to an existing facility that changes the design purpose of the building. Major capital outlay projects cost more than \$750,000 or take longer than one year to complete. Minor capital outlay projects cost less than \$750,000 and must be completed in less than one year. Steps involved in a capital outlay project include: (1) preparing a concept paper; (2) submitting a capital outlay budget change proposal; (3) completing studies such as EIRs, if required by the project; (4) preparing a preliminary plan design; (4) developing working drawings; (5) construction, and (6) more fixtures, exhibits, etc.

There are four major capital outlay projects currently active. One is the construction at Heber Dunes discussed previously, and three are in the working drawing phase.

The seven minor capital outlay projects currently in progress include the sediment pond expansion at Carnegie SVRA and the Hollister Hills Windmill Day-Use Area project.

In response to Commissioner Kerr's inquiry about the status of the sewer and water retrofit project at Hollister Hills, Mr. Glaspie stated the project is scheduled to start May 1, 2014. District Superintendent Gaffney assured the Commission that the funding for this project is still intact.

Continuing with his presentation, Mr. Glaspie spoke about the remaining active minor capital outlay projects.

- The installation of a shade structure, picnic tables, and barbecue and fire pits at Hungry Valley SVRA.
- ADA retrofits at the Ocotillo Wells District Office and some shower buildings and restrooms.
- Installation of a solar array at Ocotillo Wells SVRA.
- Development of a parking lot, staging area, restroom, and signage at the Round Valley SNO-PARK.

Responding to Commissioner Cabral's inquiry about the location of the SNO-PARK, Mr. Canfield stated it is near Bear Valley Ski Resort in Stanislaus County.

Concluding the Capital Outlay Project report, Mr. Glaspie discussed the day use special event project on Main Street in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Construction will begin within the next couple of weeks, as soon as the water pollution prevention plan is approved.

AGENDA ITEM VI (2) – LEGISLATION UPDATE

Tina Williams, Superintendent for Public Relations and Communications, presented an updated on legislation. She reported that Assembly Bill 150 was passed and signed by the Governor on October 10, 2013. This bill allows reduced or waived day use fees to any state-operated unit of the State Parks system for active and retired military personnel on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

The next legislative session will begin January 6, 2014.

Commissioner Cabral spoke briefly about his support of the military, especially returning service members who may have been disabled. He also discussed how motorized recreation provides these individuals with opportunities to access areas they normally would not be able to go.

AGENDA ITEM VI (3) – OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE

Natalie Lohi, Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager, provided an update on the outreach program. The OHMVR Division oversees an established and robust public outreach program utilizing the expertise of State Park interpreters, park rangers, seasonal park aides, volunteers, and nonprofit partners. The program was developed to support all six goals of the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan, but focuses directly on Goal 4, which is to create an informed and educated community.

During 2013, the outreach team developed a number of new educational tools to engage and educate the public.

- An interactive ATV safety computer game that uses a touch screen kiosk to attract today's tech-savvy youth to play four games, all teaching them lessons about ATVs, responsible recreation, and safety.
- A partnership with Axial Racing and Jeep® led to the development of a radio-controlled 4x4 course. Using TreadLightly! principles, this activity teaches trail etiquette, safety, and recreational responsibility.
- A hands-on recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV) training program. The Division has a ROV master instructor who is certified to train public instructors. In addition, first-level public instructors have been trained for each District within the Division.
- Recognizing the massive potential for targeted and broad-scope messaging through social media, the Division designated its first-ever social media specialist. This individual coordinates and assists with social media campaigns at each SVRA, providing guidance, training, and technical assistance; and also tracks trends, data, and statistics.

Outreach events in 2013 were varied and numerous. The Sand Sports Super Show was one of the largest events with nearly 13,000 public contacts. Three booths, staffed

with employees from the Division and Ocotillo Wells and Oceano Dunes SVRAs, provided a variety of displays and activities. In contrast, the Division's smallest outreach effort was at a tiny elementary school in Placer County. Staff provided information on resource protection and ATV safety to 29 students.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Chris Sprofera, San Diego Off-Road Coalition
- Meg Palazzolo
- Nicole Nicholas Gilles, American Sand Association
- Tom Tammone
- Jim Bramham
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs

AGENDA ITEM VI (E) – BLM REPORT

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

- Using the map shown during the Twentynine Palms Expansion update, Ms. Arteaga pointed out the open OHV areas and limited designation areas in Johnson Valley.
- She reported that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed S 1309 and forwarded it to the House.
- They are still waiting for feedback from the national office regarding the Clear Creek Management Area.
- The Forest Service and BLM are seeking nominations to fill 11 positions on the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC). The RRAC provides recommendations to BLM and the Forest Service on recreation fees, including implementation and/or expansion of the fees. The application deadline is December 8, 2013. She encouraged anyone from state tourism, Native American tribes, and local governments to apply because they typically do not receive many applications from these areas.
- BLM and the Forest Service recently hosted a youth symposium in Sacramento with more than 150 youth in attendance. She thanked the Division for sending staff to represent State Parks.
- She spoke about the Forest Service Generation Green California Consortium program that's been in existence for the past 20 years. Students range from elementary school age through college age.
- BLM and the Forest Service are working on an MOU to become partners in the Service First program. Service First agreements reduce costs because agencies share staff and resources.

In response to Commissioner Cabral's question about continued closure of OHV areas on BLM property after the government shutdown, Ms. Arteaga reported that it took a little over a week to reopen the facilities.

JoAnn Schiffer Burdett, BLM, California Desert District Office, reported on the California Desert District field offices and work done with OHV funds over the past year. The District manages approximately 12.3 million acres. She presented a slideshow highlighting OHV Grants-funded projects in Ridgecrest, Barstow, Palm Springs South Coast, Needles, and El Centro Field Offices.

AGENDA ITEM VI (F) – U.S. FOREST SERVICE REPORT

Jake Rodriguez, Acting District Ranger, Cleveland National Forest, presented a report on Region Five with the following information:

- The Forest Service may occasionally use OHV law enforcement funds for special use events if heightened enforcement is needed during these events and the expenditures adhere to specific project descriptions.
- The Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) indicate which roads, trails, and areas are designated for use by a particular motor vehicle class and the time of year the use can occur. The seasons of use can be affected by special-status species (wildlife or plants) and weather (rain or snow). All designations can be revised to meet changing conditions, but are subject to the same process and analysis used during the original designation.
- The Regional Office is currently working on a grant project to develop a Wet Weather Strategy for Region Five.
- Don Amador of the Blue Ribbon Coalition reintroduced the Ranger Ride in the Fouts Springs area of the Mendocino National Forest. The ride took place on October 29-31, 2013.

Spencer Bleadorn, Recreational Lands Officer, Descanso Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest, presented a slideshow on OHV recreation on the Descanso Ranger District, Corral Canyon area. Mr. Bleadorn reported the Corral Canyon area is multi-use providing recreation opportunities to mountain bikers as well as OHV recreationists.

District Ranger Rodriguez presented a slideshow on OHV recreation on the Trabuco Ranger District, Wildomar area in Riverside County. As reported by Ranger Rodriguez, the 360-acre Wildomar OHV area located receives approximately 10,000 visitors per year and is currently developing its first formal management plan.

Commissioner Cabral noted that soil moisture content is not one of the methodologies used on the MVUMs to determine seasons of use. He suggested the Forest Service

might want to look into the possibility of using remote weather stations that have soil moisture content measurement capabilities.

Commissioner Cabral also expressed his appreciation for the level of volunteer participation from the OHV communities in Southern California.

In response to Chair Slavik's inquiry about adding a track for Motocross in the Wildomar OHV area, Ranger Rodriguez stated they have not discussed expansion of OHV opportunities at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS VI (E) AND (F)

Comments were heard from the following individuals:

- Dave Pickett, District 36, Motorcycle Sports Committee
- Jim Bramham
- Tom Tammone
- John Stewart, California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs

In response to Commissioner Cabral's question about applying a dollar amount to volunteer hours that could then be used as matching funds toward a grant, Deputy Director Conlin said the Grants team will do some research to find out if that is possible. Chief Jenkins added that "in-kind" is currently allowed, but the real question is "Does it have to be project specific?"

Commissioner Kerr moved and Commissioner Pérez seconded to adjourn the Commission meeting at 4:41 pm. Motion carried.