



**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers**

December 1, 2012

STAFF REPORT: Eastern Kern County Acquisition
STAFF: Peter Jones, Park and Recreation Specialist, Hollister Hills SVRA
SUBJECT: Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition Update

Summary

Since the September 15, 2012, OHMVR Commission meeting, OHMVR Division staff hosted two EIR Scoping meetings, and finalized the Eastern Kern County Acquisition website.

Discussion

On Tuesday, October 16, 2012, OHMVR Division staff along with Paula Hartman of TRA Environmental, hosted an EIR Scoping meeting in Ridgecrest, California; and another meeting was held in Lancaster, California on Wednesday, October 17. The purpose of the meetings was to gather information from the public related to the resources of this area, and include this information as part of the EIR analysis. Both of the meetings were well attended by interested agencies, non-profit groups and members of the public.

During the EIR Scoping meetings, participants were given a project overview complete with maps and photos of the area (see attachments) and were given a chance to comment on the project and the Notice of Preparation (NOP).

Members of the public expressed concern regarding current activities occurring on this land and in the surrounding area, and how the OHMVR Division will incorporate current activities in the overall management plan. A short-list of current uses in this area include: OHV recreation, hunting, rock hounding, nature and wildlife viewing, and free-range cattle grazing. All of these uses are historic and important to the local community and the many people who recreate in this area.

The 45-day NOP comment period ended on November 11, 2012. We received a multitude of NOP Scoping meeting comments from many groups interested in the acquisition. Although, some of the comments received are more relevant to the General Plan, rather than the Acquisition EIR, OHMVR Division staff is looking closely at all of the comments and will continue to follow-up with BLM and other stakeholders. The Draft EIR is scheduled to be released at the end of this year.

Finally, since the last meeting the Eastern Kern County Acquisition webpage has been updated and can be viewed at: www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27211.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

Attachment 1: Figure 1, Project Location

Attachment 2: Figure 2, Land Ownership

Attachment 3: Figure 3, Eastern Kern County Acquisition Parcels

Attachment 4: OHMVR Division Operations Photos

Attachment 5: OHMVR Division Resource Management Program Photos