



**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Upper Lake, CA 95845**

February 28, 2014

STAFF REPORT: Urban Parks Opportunities
STAFF: Dan Canfield, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Urban Parks Opportunities

Summary

A considerable portion of California's population within urban areas is underserved by park facilities/recreation opportunities.

A movement is underway to promote urban parks opportunities in California. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5090.24(a), the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission should be fully informed of all governmental activities affecting the program.

Discussion

Pursuant to the California State Park Stewardship Act of 2012 and Assembly Bill 1478, the Parks Forward Commission has been formed. Over the course of 18 months the Parks Forward Commission is conducting a wholesale assessment of California's State Park system. This independent process is designed to address the financial, operational, and cultural challenges facing State Parks to ensure the system's long-term viability. In the fall of 2014, the Parks Forward Commission is scheduled to adopt a long-term plan for the California State Park system. The Parks Forward Commission has published a draft outline for the Parks Forward Initiative. One strategic theme being proposed as part of the draft outline involves this urban parks issue:

4. California Parks' Future

This section will describe the major themes of Commission's vision for California's parks and the Department...

b. All Californians Have Access to a Network of Parks

Focus on the need to improve access, particularly for urban and park poor communities and include improved transportation options (e.g., bike and public transit), and providing park services and amenities that are relevant to the needs of all Californians.

Additionally, the 2009 OHMVR Division Strategic Plan identifies certain program goals and objectives. One of these goals/objectives pertains to the urban park issue:

Goal 2: Increase OHV Opportunity

Objective 2.1: *By 2020, establish, for each priority major population center, at least one OHV opportunity within a sixty-mile radius of the urban footprint.*

The U.S. Census Bureau generally defines an “urban area” as an area that comprises one or more places (“central place”) and the adjacent densely settled surrounding territory (“urban fringe”) that together have a minimum of 50,000 persons. With the 2010 census, the U.S. Census Bureau identified 57 urban areas in California (see Attachment 1).

The OHMVR Division is currently involved in several “urban area” related projects:

- City of Lompoc – Development grant funded through 2012-13 OHMVR Division Grants Program for development of an OHV recreation area.
- Los Angeles County Little Rock OHV Area – Acquisition grant funded through 2012-13 OHMVR Division Grants Program for acquisition of 11 privately owned parcels in Los Angeles County for the creation of an OHV recreation area.
- Hungry Valley SVRA proposed land acquisitions.
 - Smokey Bear Acquisition – 44 acres adjacent to Interstate 5 and the Angeles National Forest
 - Frazier Park Acquisition – 845 acres contiguous with Hungry Valley SVRA

Commission Action

The Commission may:

1. Submit a comment letter to the OHMVR Division supporting urban area related projects.
2. Form a committee to develop a Commission policy on Urban Parks.
3. Take no action.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Listing of urban areas in California

California Urban Areas		Pop. (2010 Census)
1	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana	12,150,996
2	San Francisco-Oakland	3,281,212
3	San Diego	2,956,746
4	Riverside-San Bernardino	1,932,666
5	Sacramento	1,723,634
6	San Jose	1,664,496
7	Fresno	654,628
8	Concord	615,968
9	Mission Viejo-Lake Forest-San Clemente	583,681
10	Bakersfield	523,994
11	Murrieta-Temecula-Menifee	441,546
12	Stockton	370,583
13	Oxnard	367,260
14	Modesto	358,172
15	Indio-Cathedral City	345,580
16	Lancaster-Palmdale	341,219
17	Victorville-Hesperia	328,454
18	Santa Rosa	308,231
19	Antioch	277,634
20	Santa Clarita	258,653
21	Visalia	219,454
22	Thousand Oaks	214,811
23	Santa Barbara	195,861
24	Salinas	184,809
25	Vallejo	165,074
26	Santa Cruz	163,703
27	Hemet	163,379
28	Merced	136,969
29	Fairfield	133,683
30	Santa Maria	130,447
31	Simi Valley	125,206
32	Redding	117,731
33	Yuba City	116,719
34	Seaside-Monterey	114,237
35	Porterville	111,804
36	El Centro-Calexico	107,672
37	Turlock	99,904
38	Gilroy-Morgan Hill	98,413
39	Chico	98,176
40	Vacaville	93,141
41	Hanford	87,941
42	Tracy	87,569
43	Napa	83,913
44	Manteca	83,578
45	Livermore	81,624
46	Madera	78,413
47	Watsonville	73,534
48	Davis	72,794
49	Camarillo	71,772
50	Lodi	68,738
51	Paso Robles-Atascadero	65,088
52	Petaluma	64,078
53	San Luis Obispo	59,219
54	Woodland	55,513
55	Delano	54,372
56	Arroyo Grande-Grover Beach	52,000
57	Lompoc	51,509

Source: US Census Bureau