

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM: Public Safety Update – Santa Ana Riverbed

STAFF: Brian Robertson, OHMVR Division

DATE: August 6, 2011

Issue: Illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Santa Ana riverbed area in Colton, San Bernardino County.

Background: The Santa Ana riverbed area has been a location where people gather and illegally operate OHVs. Use ranges from a few people to hundreds of people. Attempts at enforcement in the past were difficult due to the remoteness of the area, terrain, capabilities of OHVs, and the many escape routes people take to avoid law enforcement.

On May 23rd, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division received a letter from San Bernardino County Regional Parks requesting assistance with “uncontrolled OHV activity” in the Santa Ana riverbed adjacent to La Loma Hills. Regional Parks Director Keith Lee expressed concerns regarding impact to non-motorized trail users along the Santa Ana River. Representatives from San Bernardino County Code Enforcement, Regional Parks Department, County Sheriff’s Office, County Flood Control District, the City of Colton, Riverside County Regional Parks Department and the OHMVR Division came together for a multi-agency meeting held on June 8th at the San Bernardino County Government Center to discuss how to address the uncontrolled OHV activity.

Towards the end of June and the beginning of July, San Bernardino County installed numerous barriers that greatly reduced the number of locations people with OHVs could use to access the riverbed.

San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Officers have been regularly patrolling the area and have started issuing citations. On July 3, between 1:00 and 9:00 pm, the Colton Police Department conducted an enforcement operation in the riverbed using ATVs and dirt bikes. Officers issued thirty-nine citations for operating motor vehicles on property without written permission which carries a fine of \$250 for the first offense. Subsequent violations earn increased fine amounts up to \$1,000.

Commission Action: For information only. No action is required.