

Public Works Plan for Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who manages Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach?

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department), Oceano Dunes District manages both Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and Pismo State Beach. As part of ongoing management, Oceano Dunes District works with federal, state and local agencies on regulatory and compliance issues affecting the parks and ongoing operations.

2. Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach already have a general plan. Why do another plan?

Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach are managed in compliance with the 1975 General Development Plan. The General Development Plan provides direction and guidance for park purpose, broad land use planning uses, and program-based goals and guidelines. This General Plan predates the California Coastal Act.

The existing Coastal Development Permit (CDP) A-4-82-300-A5, issued in 1982 for the entry kiosks and perimeter fencing projects, has provided park compliance direction with the California Coastal Act. The 1982 permit has been amended five times and has outdated annual reporting requirements.

The proposed Public Works Plan (PWP) will provide long-term California Coastal Act compliance for existing and future park management activities and select improvement projects. This comprehensive PWP document will provide updated Coastal Act compliance as well as management plan authority for park operational programs and needed improvements. The PWP will comply with the existing General Development Plan.

The PWP will allow the Oceano Dunes District's operations and planning to be compatible with more recent Local Coastal Plans (LCPs). The LCPs prepared by cities and counties within or nearby the parks' area of planning influence include:

- City of Pismo Beach (certified in 1984)
- City of Grover Beach (certified in 1982)
- San Luis Obispo County (certified in 1987)

The Department is looking to use the provisions of a PWP to have the Commission consider these parks as a whole, rather than on a project-by-project

basis. A PWP will facilitate reviewing on-going management programs and development projects together, rather than project-by-project.

Environmental review of the PWP will include a California Environmental Quality Act-compliant document that examines potential significant impacts arising from implementing the PWP. The public will have opportunities to provide input on environmental documents.

3. How does a Public Works Plan work?

A PWP is a long-range land use and development plan for compliance with the California Coastal Act. It would provide Oceano Dunes District guidance for managing Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach. The PWP analyzes existing conditions for park operations, recreation opportunities, coastal access, and environmental compliance; makes recommendations for improvement; and, includes existing and future development projects and programs.

The Commission reviews and certifies PWPs in the same manner as LCPs as defined in Chapter 6 of the Coastal Act (starting with Public Resources Code Section 30500).

4. Will the PWP affect access to non-motorized and motorized recreation?

The PWP will consider development projects and management programs to improve access to both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities at these units.

5. Who regulates the air quality at Oceano Dunes SVRA?

Oceano Dunes District works collaboratively with the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (APCD) on air quality within the region. APCD Rule 1001: Coastal Dunes Dust Control Requirements sets emission standards for Oceano Dunes SVRA. Rule 1001 requires that the Department implement a number of monitoring and dust reduction projects to meet emission standards. The Department has worked with the APCD for a number of years to adopt a series of measures aimed at controlling and minimizing particulate matter (or “dust”) emissions. The Department has implemented numerous measures in ongoing efforts to comply with the requirements of Rule 1001 including:

- preparing a Five-Year Dust Control Program and Environmental Impact Report that was certified by the Department in March 2017;
- securing a Coastal Development Permit from the Commission in September 2017 for dust control measures associated with the five-year plan in the Environmental Impact Report;
- implementing seasonal dust control measures like wind fencing and straw bales throughout the SVRA from 2014-2017;

- implementing permanent dust control measures like installing native dune vegetation in targeted areas of the SVRA from 2012-2017;
- installing one monitoring station that measures particulate matter emissions;
- conducting atmospheric and meteorological monitoring designed to better characterize wind and weather patterns in the dune system and to better understand the effects of seasonal and permanent dust control projects from 2010-2017; and,
- partnering with renowned researchers in the fields of earth and atmospheric sciences to develop effective dust control and monitoring programs.

6. How will the PWP protect shorebirds?

The PWP planning process would review existing shorebird management programs and explore projects to improve the shorebird protection program. Recommended PWP programs and projects support other resource management plans, such as the Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan, which guide the management and protection of plants, animals, and habitats at these park units.

7. Will I still be able to camp on the beach? How about driving and riding my vehicle on the beach and the dunes?

CDP A-4-82-300-A5 sets the day use and beach camping limits for Oceano Dunes SVRA. The CDP was implemented in 1982. Since then, the State's population has increased, regional development has expanded, and the vehicles used to access the park and enjoy the beach and dunes have changed. These factors have added to the influences and pressures on these recreation areas. The PWP planning process will engage the public and explore enhancements and improvements to existing projects and programs to improve the visitor experience such as beach camping, OHV recreation, and motorized access to non-motorized recreation.

8. How will the PWP affect my experience at Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA?

We want to hear from you about the preferred aspects of your park experiences. The PWP planning process will have several opportunities for the public to provide input on desired visitor experiences. The PWP will consider projects to enhance existing recreational opportunities and create new opportunities, while protecting natural and cultural resources consistent with departmental policies and mandates such as the California Public Resources Code.

9. How will the plan affect the local community and businesses?

Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach are very important to the local economy. The PWP planning process will engage local business and communities on potential projects and programs that could sustain and boost the local economy.

10. How is the PWP being funded?

Funding mechanisms include state park and recreation fund for non-vehicular recreation areas, state-administered OHV Trust Fund for SVRA-related projects, state general fund, bonds, revenue generation, and special project funds.

11. How can I get involved?

The PWP contains several opportunities for public input and review throughout plan development, document review, and environmental document review. The Commission will hold a public hearing for the draft PWP and final PWP. Submit comments to pwpinfo@parks.ca.gov and check the Department website, www.ohv.parks.ca.gov, for more information.