

# Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Dust Control Project – Public Scoping Meeting

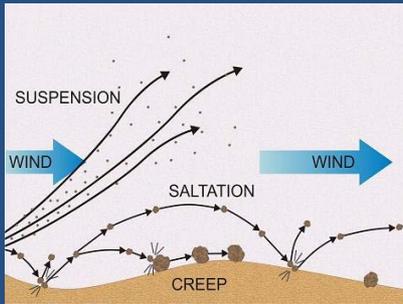


Image Sources: OHMVR Division, Greg Jasion, and Google Earth Pro



February 17, 2015  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

# Introduction - Scoping Meeting Goals and Agenda

Tonight's meeting is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Public Scoping Meeting. Our goals are:

- Inform / promote understanding of the Dust Control Project
- Receive input on the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division) is preparing for the project



# Introduction - Scoping Meeting Agenda

To accomplish these goals, we will:

- Provide background information and explain why the OHMVR Division is proposing the project
- Review the proposed project activities and components
- Review the CEQA process for the proposed project
- Receive public comments and questions



# Project Background - Why Is The Project Proposed?

The Dust Control Project is intended to improve air quality downwind of Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA

- Studies, reports, and air monitoring data show elevated PM10 levels downwind of Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA
- Strong winds (10+ mph) drive “saltation”
- Complex dust emission process

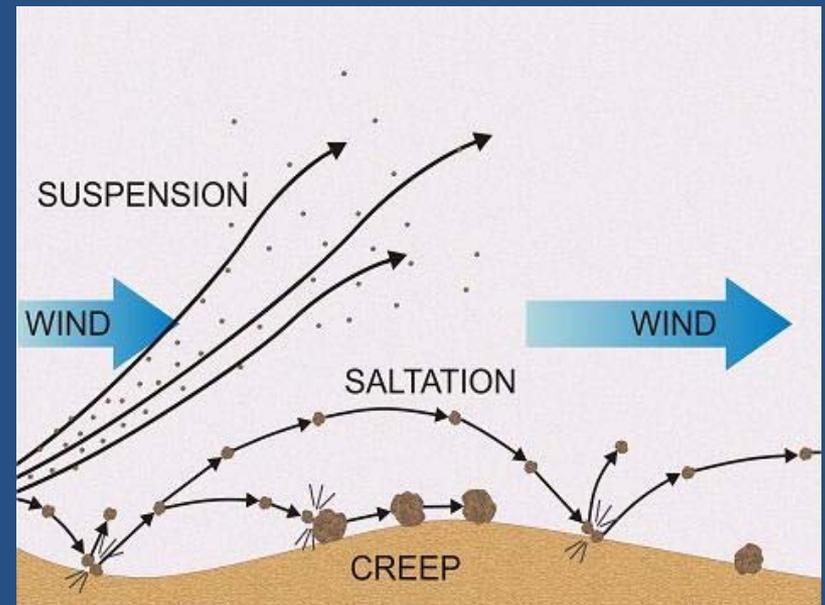


Image Source: Greg Jaison, University of Southampton, 2012

# Project Background - What is PM10?

PM10 is a regulated air pollutant under the federal and state Clean Air Acts. It is a *criteria* air pollutant . . .

- Standards are based on health or other specific criteria
- Small particles – 1/7th size of human hair – that can travel deep into lungs
- Causes respiratory symptoms, heart attacks, other serious health issues

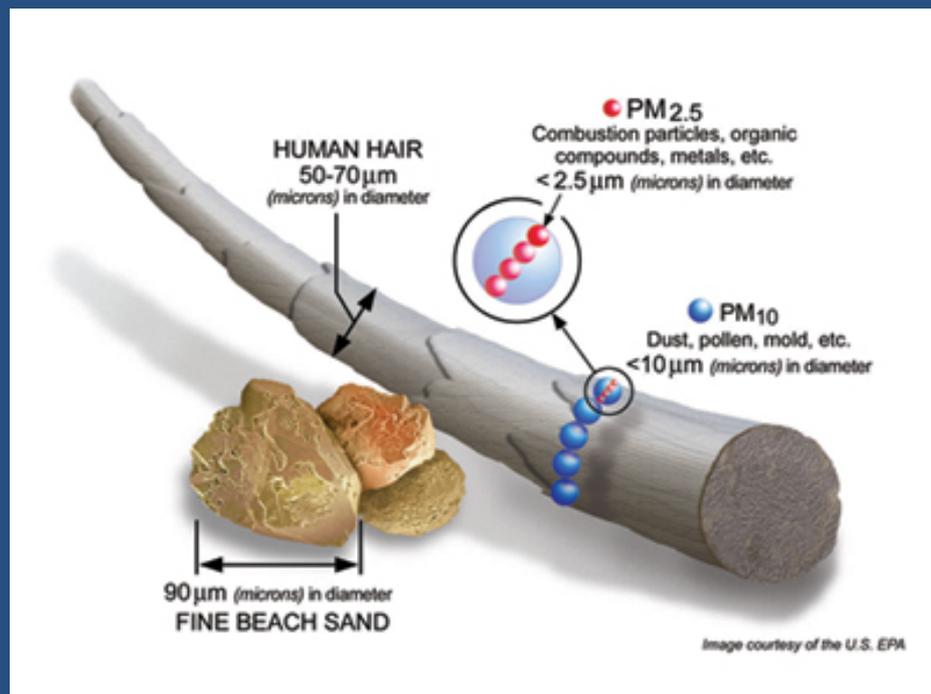


Image source: U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation PM "Basic Information" website: <http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/basic.html>

Website updated 3/8/2013

# Project Background - SLOAPCD Rule 1001 Requirements

SLOAPCD is responsible for controlling air pollution and protecting public health in San Luis Obispo County. SLOAPCD Rule 1001, Coastal Dunes Dust Control Requirements, requires preparation of a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan, or PMRP, that must include:

- PM10 monitors down wind of “riding” and “non-riding” areas
- Dust control measures to meet rule performance standard
- Track-out prevention



Figure 1 from March 29, 2013 PMRP

# Project Background - Environmental Review

Environmental review began in 2012:

- Nov. 2012 - Coastal Development Permit Application
- Dec. – Jan. 2012 - Notice of Preparation and Initial Study
- Dec. 19, 2012 - 1<sup>st</sup> Public Scoping Meeting
- March 2013 - Conditional PMRP approval from SLOAPCD

Since 2012, project / environmental review informed by:

- 2013 air quality, sand transport, and wind monitoring at Oceano Dunes SVRA
- 2014 dust control activities – straw bales (5000+) / fencing (15 acres)
- Ongoing collaboration with California Air Resources Board and SLOAPCD



## Project Background – What's Changed Since 2012?

### 2015 Dust Control Project

- Covers 5 years
- Project area approx. 690 acres
- Project area includes mostly Parks-owned and leased lands
- Project area does not include Santa Barbara County

### 2012 Dust Control Project

- Covered 25 years
- Project area > 5,750 acres
- Project area included public and private lands
- Project area included Santa Barbara County (Rancho-Guadalupe Dunes Co. Park)

The Dust Control Project still represents the OHMVR Division's plan for addressing dust levels, improving air quality, and meeting Rule 1001 requirements.



# Dust Control Project Overview

- The Dust Control Project involves:
  - Planting native vegetation (20 acres / year)
  - Temporary wind fencing and straw bales (40 acres / year)
  - Soil stabilizers (potentially)
  - Track-out prevention (Grand and Pier Avenues)
  - Air and meteorological monitoring
- All activities would occur at Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA

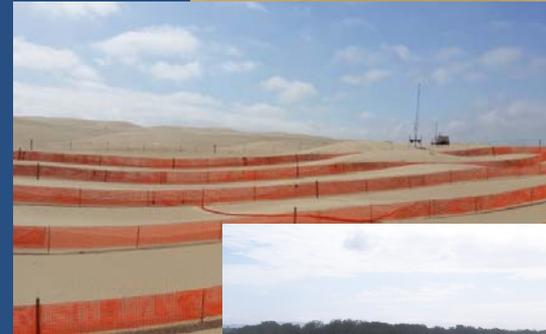
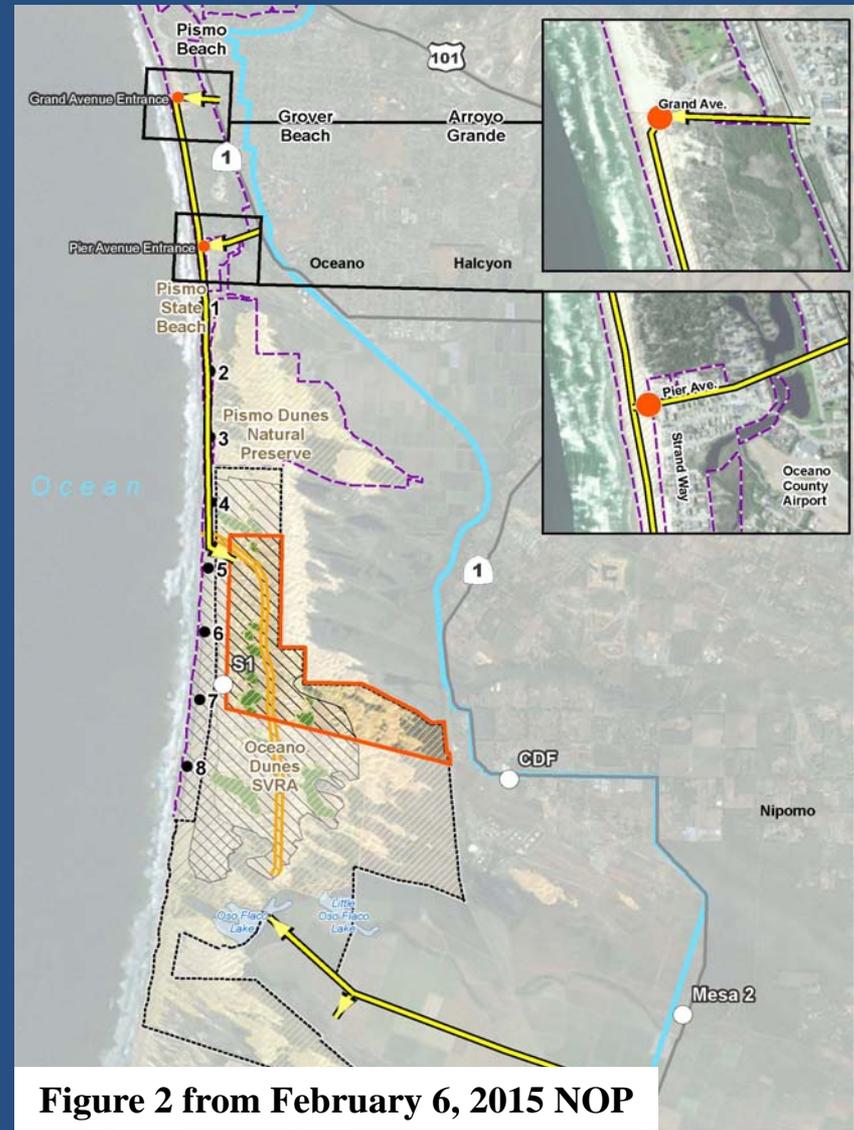


Image Sources: OHMVR Division

# Dust Control Project Area

- 690 acres of Oceano Dunes SVRA
  - Between marker posts 4 – 7
  - Existing evidence indicates this area contributes to downwind PM10 concentrations
  - Set back approx. 1,000 feet from Pacific Ocean
- Also includes Grand / Pier Avenue (Pismo State Beach entrances / exits)
- Entirely within the Coastal Zone (CCC, SLO County, and Grover Beach jurisdiction)



# Dust Control Project Area - Environmental Resources

- Ecosystems in or near the project area include open sand and dune scrub fore- and back-dunes
  - Several threatened or endangered plants and animals have been documented at or adjacent to the project area
- Cultural resources are present in the project area
- Resources subject to ongoing conservation programs



Image Sources: OHMVR Division

# Dust Control Project - Vegetation

- Proposal is to plant up to 20 acres per year
  - Locally, collected native dune vegetation
  - Plant near existing vegetation, also in open sand
  - In addition to ongoing planting of 12 – 15 acres per year
- When established, very effective at stopping sand movement within controlled area (90% or higher)
  - Also stops upwind sand blowing into vegetation
- Takes several years to fully establish, needs adequate rainfall



Image Sources: Google Earth Pro, OHMVR Division



# Dust Control Project - Wind Fencing / Straw Bales

- Proposal is to temporarily deploy up to 40 acres per year (combined)
  - March through September
  - 50 % fence porosity
  - Certified weed-free straw
  - Provides immediate benefit
  - Also stops upwind sand blowing into control area
- Material availability – requires 1000's of bales, miles of fencing



Image Sources: OHMVR Division

# Dust Control Project – Soil Stabilizers

- *Potential* measure at this point
- Based on limited testing:
  - Dries clear
  - Stabilizes top 1/4 to 3/8 inch
  - Can be walked on
  - Does not stop upwind sand from blowing further
- Factors under consideration:
  - Longevity / durability
  - Breakdown – size, thickness
  - Safety and effects on sensitive resources and recreation
  - Water use (800 to 1,500 gallons / acre)



Image Sources: California Geological Survey

# Dust Control Project - Air Quality and Met Monitoring

- Temporary and long-term:
  - Meteorological equipment
  - Sand transport equipment
  - PM10 equipment
- Temporary equipment at dust control measures locations
- Long-term equipment at S1 tower, CDF (operated by SLOAPCD), Oso Flaco area
- CDF / Oso Flaco monitoring results will inform location, extent, and timing of vegetation, fencing, etc.



Image Sources: OHMVR Division

# Dust Control Project - CDF / Oso Flaco Monitoring Sites



# Dust Control Project - Track-Out Prevention

- Grand Avenue and Pier Avenue
- Physical structures that control vehicle track-out onto public roadways
- Street sweeping



Image Sources: IES, [www.forconstructionpros.com](http://www.forconstructionpros.com)

# Dust Control Project – What is the CEQA Process?

The OHMVR Division has determined an EIR should be prepared for the Dust Control Project. The EIR process will involve:

- 1) Feb. 6, 2015 Notice of Preparation
  - 32 day review and comment period
  - Public Scoping Meeting
- 2) Publish a Draft EIR
  - 45 day review and comment period
- 3) Publish a Final EIR
  - Responds to comments on Draft EIR
  - Identifies project revisions
- 4) Certify Final EIR / Approve Project
- 5) File Notice of Determination



## What Environmental Issues Will Be Addressed in the Draft EIR?

The following issues are expected to be addressed in detail in the Draft EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards / Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Traffic
- Utilities

These issues are not expected to be addressed in detail in the Draft EIR:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing



# What Other Topics Will Be Addressed in the Draft EIR?

The Draft EIR will also consider:

- A reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The alternatives will be defined based on the EIR analysis, Parks data, and responses to this scoping effort. A No Project alternative will be included in the analysis of the alternatives considered.
- Cumulative Impacts – two or more individual effects, which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts

The Draft EIR will identify potential project permits:

- Coastal Development Permit
- Local Encroachment Permit
- Incidental Take Permit



## Public Scoping Meeting Comments

- Please limit comments to the scope and content of the information in the EIR. For example:
  - The EIR should consider impacts to western snowy plover.
  - The EIR should consider a specific alternative to the project.
- Comments not related to the EIR do not inform the EIR process. For example:
  - Vehicles do not belong on a beach.
  - Political comments or slander.
- Three ways to make public comments - comments tonight, comments in writing, and comments via email



# Dust Control Project – Written Comments on NOP

Please send written comments to:

- OHMVR Division, Oceano Dunes District  
ATTN: Mr. Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist  
340 James Way, Suite 270  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
- [OHVinfo@parks.ca.gov](mailto:OHVinfo@parks.ca.gov)  
(Subject: “Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Project Revised  
NOP”)
- **Submit written comments by Monday, March 9, 2015**



## Dust Control Project - Additional Project Information

The NOP is available on the Oceano Dunes SVRA “Particulate Matter Information Website”:

- [http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=26918](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26918)

The Draft EIR will also be available on the SVRA’s “Particulate Matter Information Website”

**Thank you!**

