Pismo Beach Huckfest Special Event
Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

Initial Study/
Negative Declaration

April 2012

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation,
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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Negative Declaration

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Prepared for:

State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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Sacramento, CA 95816
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Prepared by:

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: Pismo Beach Huckfest Special Event

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Oceano Dunes District Office
  340 James Way, Ste. 270
  Pismo Beach, CA 93449
  (805) 773-7180
  Contact – Ronnie Glick

- CDPR, OHMVR Division
  1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
  Sacramento, CA 95816
  (916) 445-9152
  Contact – Ryan Miller

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The OHMVR Division is evaluating the potential environmental effects of permitting the Pismo Beach Huckfest Special Event proposed to be held at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

Event sponsors applied for a Special Event Permit to hold Huckfest at Oceano Dunes SVRA on Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Huckfest event comprises an exhibition of street legal trucks jumping off a gradual incline sand dune ramp with a flat landing area. This activity is similar to spontaneous vehicle riding presently occurring at Oceano Dunes SVRA.

The event would occur at the Competition Hill area of Oceano Dunes SVRA east of Marker Posts 7 and 8 and west of the Sand Highway. It is anticipated 10 to 25 vehicles may participate in the exhibition with each vehicle performing twice in a first round and then each finalist performing twice in a second round. Participant vehicles would go through a technical inspection by certified event staff. The course would consist of a fenced off area that has a lead in runway, the sand dune, and a landing platform and pathway. The event staff, drivers, and monitors would all have radio communications for the go/no go signal to proceed, as well as a red/green light at the top of the dune for a visual signal of go/no go. Spectators would be kept a minimum of 200 feet from either side of the center of the course by temporary fencing.

All participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, and all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. All pre-existing Oceano Dunes SVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event.

PROPOSED FINDING

The OHMVR Division has reviewed the Initial Study and determined there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. No changes to the project plans or mitigation measures are required. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064(f)(3) and 15070(a), a Negative Declaration has been prepared for consideration as the appropriate CEQA document for the project.

BASIS OF FINDING

Based on the environmental evaluation presented in the attached Initial Study , the project would not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, would not occur. The project does not affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history. Nor will the project substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS AND CUSTODIAN OF DOCUMENTS

The record, upon which all findings and determinations related to the approval of the Project are based, includes the following:

1. The Negative Declaration and all documents referenced in or relied upon by the Negative Declaration.
2. All information (including written evidence and testimony) provided by OHMVR Division staff to the decisionmaker(s) relating to the Negative Declaration, the approvals, and the Project.
3. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division by the environmental consultant who prepared the Negative Declaration or incorporated into reports presented to the OHMVR Division.
4. All information (including written evidence and testimony) presented to the OHMVR Division from other public agencies and members of the public related to the Project or the Negative Declaration.
5. All applications, letters, testimony, and presentations relating to the Project.
6. All other documents composing the record pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(e).

The OHMVR Division is the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the OHMVR Division's decisions are based. The contact for this material is:

Mr. Ronnie Glick
Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Suite 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7170

References in the Negative Declaration available at the OHMVR Division are available at TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc., and are available for review by appointment. The contact information is:

Ms. Kate Werner
TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc.
545 Middlefield Road, Suite 200
Menlo Park, California 94025
(650) 327-0429

OCEANO DUNES SVRA
JUNE 2012 HUCKFEST SPECIAL EVENT INITIAL STUDY

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Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). This IS evaluates the potential environmental effects of permitting the Pismo Beach Huckfest Special Event, proposed for June 9, 2012.

The Huckfest comprises an exhibition of trucks jumping off a sand dune within the open riding and camping area of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15000 et seq.) establish the OHMVR Division as the lead agency. The lead agency is defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15367 as "the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project." The lead agency decides whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or ND is required for the project and is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental review document.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a public agency shall prepare a proposed ND or a Mitigated ND when:

1. The IS shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

2. The IS identifies potentially significant effects, but:

   - Revisions in the project plans made before a proposed Mitigated ND and IS are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and

   - There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to Section 15070, the OHMVR Division has determined an IS/ND is the appropriate environmental review document for the Huckfest special event.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

The lead agency for the proposed project is the OHMVR Division, the agency that would be approving the permit. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Ronnie Glick – Senior Environmental Scientist
Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Ste. 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7170

1.3 DOCUMENT PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of Huckfest proposed to be held at Oceano Dunes SVRA June 9, 2012.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction

  This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 – Proposed Project

  This chapter describes the project location, area, site, objectives, and characteristics.

- Chapter 3 – Environmental Checklist and Responses

  This chapter contains the Environmental (IS) Checklist that identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project. This chapter also contains the Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- Chapter 4 – References

  This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/ND.

- Chapter 5 – Report Preparation

  This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

1.4 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS

The following permits or approvals are required for this project:

- CDPR Special Event Permit

Chapter 2 PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The OHMVR Division proposes to issue a Special Event Permit for the Huckfest at Oceano Dunes SVRA in the community of Oceano, San Luis Obispo County, California.

Oceano Dunes SVRA is located in the community of Oceano, off State Route 1 (Figure 1). The SVRA, along with the access afforded via Pismo State Beach, contains 5½ miles of beach open for vehicle use, and the 1,500 acres of sand dunes available for off-highway motor vehicle recreation are attractions for visitors from throughout the United States. Oceano Dunes SVRA is the only California State Park where vehicles may be driven on the beach. Passenger cars can easily drive on the northern portion of the beach, while the central portion of the SVRA can be accessed with four-wheel drive vehicles and is where off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and camping are allowed. The southern portion of the park features the Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area, which is closed to vehicles.

2.2 VEHICLE USE LEVELS

Oceano Dunes SVRA operates pursuant to and in conformance with an existing Coastal Development Permit (CDP 4-82-300 and subsequent amendments) and the park's General Development Plan (CDPR 1975). Vehicle use of Oceano Dunes SVRA is subject to daily limits (up to 2,580 street-legal vehicles, 1,000 street-legal vehicles for camping, and 1,720 OHVs) established under an approved 2001 Coastal Development Permit Amendment (CDP 4-82-300-A5).

Street-legal vehicle use can approach daily limits, and camping vehicle use at the park frequently reaches daily limits during summer and holiday weekends as shown in Table 1. Off-season and weekday use levels are typically less than half of summer weekend levels.

Table 1. Oceano Dunes SVRA Vehicle Use Levels, Monthly Average Summer Weekend and Holiday Days, 2011

	Day Use Low-High; Avg.	Camping Low-High; Avg.	Day Use OHV Low-High; Avg.
Permit Limit	2,580	1,000	1,720
May	471-1,704; 881	174-1,000; 469	197-854; 392
June	421-1,187; 863	128-1,000; 538	129-572; 389
July	900-2,273; 1495	580-1,000; 940	273-1,100; 549
Aug.	757-1,562; 1106	406-1,000; 817	298-698; 466
Sept.	608-2,170; 998	232-1,000; 524	235-704; 413

Source: Oceano Dunes SVRA

2.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to allow the Huckfest event to occur on June 9, 2012, at Oceano Dunes SVRA. This form of vehicle recreation occurs informally at Oceano Dunes SVRA throughout the year. The purpose of permitting the event is to formalize the event to create a safe environment for participants and spectators and ensure adequate environmental review.

2.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The organizers of Huckfest would like to retain a permit to hold an organized event at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The event consists of an exhibition of up to 25 technically-certified pickup trucks driving up and jumping over the top of a sand dune. This type of vehicle activity emulates the spontaneous exhibitions that occur commonly throughout the park. The proposed event organizers would occur near Competition Hill, between Sand Highway 21 – 24, ½ mile east of Marker Posts 7 and 8 (Figure 2) and include a sand ramp and landing zone, a fenced off spectator area, a technical check area, and a space for vendors that support this type of recreation.

The event would take place on Saturday, June 9, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Prior to the exhibition start time, the participant vehicles would go through a technical inspection by certified event staff. The course would consist of a fenced off area that has a lead in runway, the sand dune, and a landing platform and pathway (Photo 1 and Photo 2). The event staff, drivers, and monitors would all have radio communications for the go/no go signal to proceed, as well as a red/green light at the top of the dune for a visual signal of go/no go. The exhibition will consist of each vehicle performing twice in a first round and then each finalist performing twice in a second round. Participant vehicles would go through a technical inspection by certified event staff.

Spectators would be kept a minimum of 200 feet from either side of the center of the course by temporary fencing. A minimum of 50 feet would be kept between the designated spectator area and vegetated islands within the dunes which may contain wildlife.

All participants and spectators at the event would be paid camping or day use visitors. Event organizers anticipate up to 200 spectators. All pre-existing Oceano Dunes SVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event. The Huckfest event would not substantially increase the number of visitors expected to enter the park over the weekend, and the event is not expected to draw additional large numbers of day users.

All vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. All routine and emergency protocols would remain in place during the event. The event does not change the overall timing or nature of the motorized recreation that would typically occur in the park during the event weekend. Although Huckfest is an organized event, the activity it showcases is similar to recreation that occurs spontaneously on a casual basis by visitors during typical weekends. All event activities would be held in areas of the park that are normally open to motorized recreation and would not create effects beyond the areas open to motor vehicles and other recreation.

2.5 SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT CONDITIONS

CDPR has developed a standard set of Special Event Permit terms and conditions for special events (Appendix A). The OHMVR Division has determined that the following additional conditions specific to the event are required:

1) All laws, rules, regulations, and policies apply. Speed limit on the beach and around campsites is 15 MPH. All drivers must have in their possession a valid driver's license.

2) No mechanical raking or leveling of sand may occur; no glass containers are allowed in the park, ground fires are limited to 2' x 2'. No public intoxication is allowed.

3) Orange plastic fencing, signage, and event staff must be used to designate the areas where spectators are allowed and monitor that spectators stay within them. These areas will be approved by the state and be erected at least 200 feet to either side of the designated path of travel (400' apart) and allow for clear path of travel for public. Event may display vendor banners on event fencing.

4) Event staff will utilize visual (red/green traffic light) and audio communications (radios) to run event and notify participants of go/no go. Event staff will be required at top and bottom of track, and along alleyway to prevent incursion into the path of travel.

5) Event will be limited to no more than twenty-five (25) participants.

6) Four State Park monitors will be required during event. Monitors will have direct radio and cell phone communications with event staff.

7) All vehicles and drivers will be subject to tech inspection and may include blood alcohol content.

8) Event must provide medical staff (EMT) on site with equipment and transportation.

9) Must provide four chemical toilets in event area.

10) All vendors must be approved by state; commercial filming permitted by event staff or designee only; food vendors must provide insurance.

2.6 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN TO AVOID TAKE OF CALIFORNIA LEAST TERNS AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVERS

Two avian species listed under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts occur at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The federally-listed western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*; threatened) and state- and federally-listed California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*; endangered) both breed at Oceano Dunes SVRA during the summer months (Figure 3). The OHMVR Division is in the process of developing a District-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to permit incidental take of both species. Pending permit issuance, Oceano Dunes SVRA has developed and implements an extensive array of protection, monitoring, and management measures to avoid take of and support successful breeding by both species. These protocols are revisited each year, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and fully implemented by Oceano Dunes SVRA. The complete Take Avoidance Strategy developed for the 2012 breeding season and currently in effect at Oceano Dunes SVRA is provided in Appendix B.


Figure 1. Regional Location
Atascadero
Cayucos
41
101
58
Morro Bay
1
Baywood-Los Osos
San Luis Obispo
227
101
Pismo Beach
Arroyo Grande
Grover Beach
Oceano
Oceano Dunes
State Vehicular
Recreation Area
1
Nipomo
Guadalupe
Santa Maria
1
park boundaries
Background: ESRI 2006;
Map: TRA May 2009
0
2.5
5
Miles
N

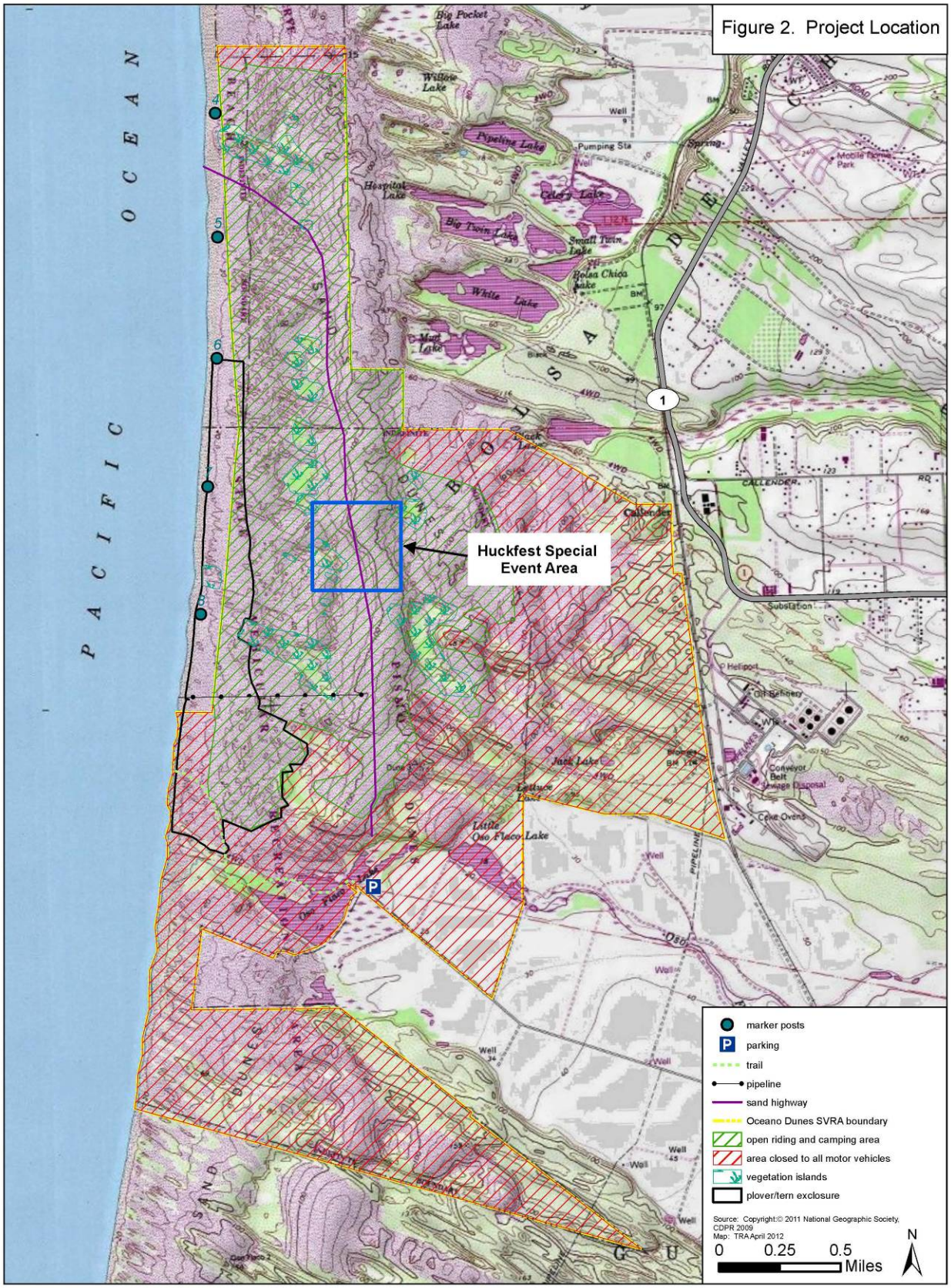
Figure 2. Project Location
Huckfest Special Event Area
P A C I F I C O C E A N
marker posts
parking
trail
pipeline
sand highway
Oceano Dunes SVRA boundary
open riding and camping area
area closed to all motor vehicles
vegetation islands
plover/tern exclosure
Source: Copyright© 2011 National Geographic Society, CDPR 2009
Map: TRA April 2012
0 0.25 0.5 Miles
N

Figure 3. 2011 California Least Tern and Snowy Plover Nests at Oceano Dunes SVRA

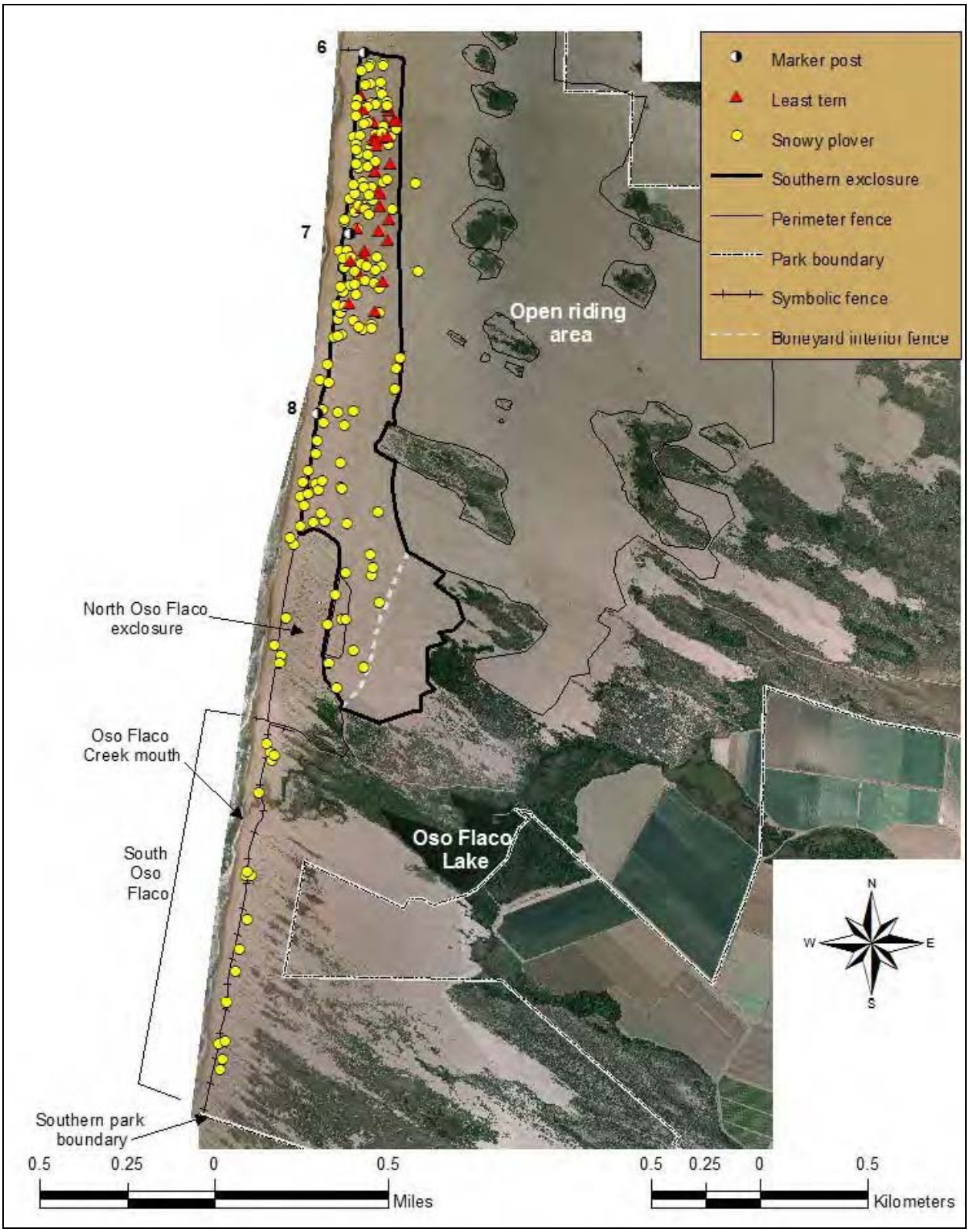

Photo 1. Vehicle Start Line on Sand Highway facing west toward Competition Hill.

Photo 2. Vehicle Landing Area on top of Competition Hill.

Chapter 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND RESPONSES

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Pismo Beach Huckfest
2. **Lead Agency Name & Address:** CDPR, OHMVR Division
   1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
   Sacramento, CA 95816
3. **Contact Person & Phone Number:** Ronnie Glick, (805) 773-7170
4. **Project Location:** Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, Oceano, CA
5. **Project Sponsor Name & Address:** Pismo Beach Huckfest
   c/o Johnny Garner
   240 East Dana
   Nipoma, CA 93444
6. **General Plan Designation:** Park
7. **Zoning:** Recreation
8. **Description of Project:** See Chapter 2 Project Description
9. **Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:** Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section 3.9 Land Use and Planning)
10. **Approval Required from Other Public Agencies:** Special Event Permit from CDPR; no other agency approval required

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Note that "None" is checked, as protocols already in place at Oceano Dunes SVRA avoid significant impacts to all factors.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural/Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards &Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Utilities/Service Systems	
☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☒ None	

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☒

I find that although the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL** be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Andy Zilke, District Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District

4/23/12
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
    a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
    c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and leaf agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
    a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
    b) the mitigation measure identified, if any to reduce the impact to less than significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The proposed special event would occur within the southern portion of the open riding area of Oceano Dunes SVRA near Marker Post 8 (Figure 2). Visibility of the open riding area is highly localized to views from within Oceano Dunes SVRA.

State Route 1 in the project area is eligible for State scenic highway status. However, none of the highway segments that are located in the project area (State Route 1 and U.S. 101) are officially designated as State Scenic Highways (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm). State Route 1 becomes a State Scenic Highway north of the city of San Luis Obispo, about 14 miles north of the project site.

3.1.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. (Responses a – d) The proposed special event would take place within an area that has been subject to ongoing motorized activities, including large gatherings of vehicles, since the 1900s. The event would not result in additional street legal or off-highway vehicles within the SVRA since use limits will remain in effect for the event. The event would not result in new trails or roads; all activities will take place in the open riding area. The event site does not contain scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within view of a state scenic highway. None of the stretches of the highways located in the area (State Route 1 and U.S. 101) have State Scenic Highway Status (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm). State Route 1 becomes a State Scenic Highway north of the city of San Luis Obispo, about 14 miles north of the project site. The project site is not visible from the State Scenic designated portion of State Route 1. Night riding is currently allowed at Oceano Dunes SVRA, but the event would not be ongoing during night hours. There will be no new sources of substantial light or glare as a result of this project. Since no new trails, roads, or any other type of development would occur, and the activities proposed are already occurring or entirely consistent with activities already occurring within the event area, no scenic vistas would be adversely affected.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project*:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
*In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				

3.2.1 Environmental Setting

The project area is located within an SVRA. No farmland, forest, or timberland exists in the project area.

3.2.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. (Responses a – e) The project area is located within an SVRA. No farmland, forest, or timberland exists on the event site, and adjacent farmland, forest, or timberland would not be affected. The project site is zoned as park land in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan. The proposed project would not remove any acreage from agricultural production. The project would have no impact on prime farmland or other agricultural resources in the project vicinity. The project would not affect any land that has been zoned for agricultural use or is currently in Williamson Act contracts; nor would this project conflict with any land that has been zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. The project does not involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion forest land to non-forest use.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.3.1 Regulatory and Environmental Setting

The project is located on the San Luis Obispo County coast near the community of Oceano. The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLO APCD) is the air quality regulatory agency for the project area. Pollution from mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, trains, and marine vessels, falls outside of the Air District's jurisdiction and is regulated by state and federal agencies that establish the air pollution emission standards for vehicles and the fuel they run on. State standards for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{10}) are currently exceeded in San Luis Obispo County. As a result, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has designated the county a nonattainment area for these pollutants. The California Clean Air Act requires the development of plans to achieve and maintain the state ozone standard by the earliest practicable date. The SLO APCD currently operates according to its 2001 Clean Air Plan.

On March 24, 2010, the SLO APCD Board of Directors accepted the report and findings for the South County Phase 2 Particulate Study. That report concluded that OHV activity within Oceano Dunes SVRA is contributing to high levels of PM_{10} on the Nipomo Mesa, southeast of Oceano Dunes SVRA. The San Luis Obispo APCD has measured PM_{10} levels measured on the Nipomo Mesa that exceed the state 24-hour standards for PM_{10} of 50 micrograms per cubic meter.

On November 16, 2011, the SLO APCD Board of Directors adopted Rule 1001, Coastal Dunes Dust Control Requirements, which requires the operator of a coastal dune vehicle activity area (CDVAA) greater than 100 acres in size to prepare and implement a Particulate Matter

Reduction Plan to minimize emissions of PM_{10} for the area under its control. Rule 1001 defines the term CDVAA as "any area within 1.5 miles of the mean high tide line where public access to coastal dunes is allowed for vehicle activity." Oceano Dunes SVRA is the only area with location and size that meets the applicability criteria defined in Rule 1001. The SLO APCD and the OHMVR Division are in the process of implementing efforts to address the PM_{10} issue on the Nipoma Mesa.

While the open sand sheets within Oceano Dunes SVRA may, depending on the orientation and magnitude of the winds, contribute to PM_{10} levels on the Nipomo Mesa, it is not known what effect, if any, that OHV activity at Oceano Dunes SVRA has on PM_{10} levels generated within the Oceano Dunes SVRA and transported downwind. Wind moving across the open sand is the primary source of PM_{10} emissions, and PM_{10} emissions have been estimated to be generated at wind speeds of 5.3 to 13.3 miles per hour (SLO APCD 2010 and Desert Research Institute 2011). Pilot projects were implemented at Oceano Dunes SVRA in April and May of 2011 to compare PM_{10} levels associated with OHV riding versus non-riding areas and the effectiveness of reducing PM_{10} emissions with physical barriers such as hay bales or vegetative cover, which reduce wind speed. These pilot projects indicated the potential exists for control measures to be implemented that will reduce the movement of sand during high wind events experienced on the dunes. But, no correlation was made or conclusions reached as to the potential effectiveness of such measures in alleviating the PM_{10} exceedances as measured by the SLO APCD's monitoring stations (Desert Research Institute 2011).

3.3.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant Impact. (Responses a – d) Although the South County Phase 2 Particulate Study concluded that OHV activity within Oceano Dunes SVRA is contributing to measured PM_{10} concentrations on the Nipomo Mesa, the magnitude of this contribution is still under review. According to the Phase 2 Particulate Study, analysis of SVRA vehicle activity data shows a weak relationship between high PM_{10} concentrations and high vehicle activity. This indicates a very small direct emissions impact from OHV activity caused by wind entrainment of dust plumes raised by vehicles moving across the open sand. The data suggests the ability of winds to entrain sand particles from the dunes and carry them to the Mesa is the primary cause of the high PM levels measured on the Nipomo Mesa during episode days (SLO APCD 2010).

The Phase 2 Particulate Study states that historical air quality data demonstrate winds associated with high PM episodes are the strong northwesterly winds that occur most often in the spring and fall (pg. 3-26). The CARB online Air Quality and Meteorological Information

System (AQMIS) generally supports this statement. An AQMIS data query of daily average 2011 PM_{10} measurements for San Luis Obispo County indicates San Luis Obispo County exceeded daily state PM_{10} air quality standards most often in March (5 days), April (15 days), May (13 days), and June (7 days). In contrast, the County only exceeded daily state PM_{10} standards a total of ten days during the rest of the year: July (3 days), August (3 days), September (2 days), and November (2 days) (CARB 2012).

The proposed Huckfest event comprises up to 25 pickup trucks performing two jumps and finalist vehicles performing an additional two jumps on a single designated sand ramp and landing zone. Data analyzed to date have not found a statistically significant relationship between vehicle activity levels and PM levels measured on the Nipomo Mesa (SLO APCD 2011). Even if such a relationship does exist, the proposed Huckfest event would not increase any particulate emissions above levels that would occur without the project. The event would not generate increased vehicle activity in the open riding area than would otherwise occur under normal operations at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The event would occur in early June with the majority of the vehicle jumps occurring in the morning hours before noon when wind speeds are typically lowest. All jumps would be completed before 2 p.m.

Given that the event would not substantially increase the amount or nature of vehicle activity on the sand dunes and would not result in an additional number of vehicles, day users, campers, or OHVs at the beach beyond the established day use and camper limits, and that the Huckfest event would be limited to a few hours during what are typically low wind conditions, the project would not significantly contribute to PM_{10} emissions offsite. Therefore, the event does not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the San Luis Obispo County Clean Air Plan, nor would it contribute substantially to an air quality violation.

The event does not involve new land uses and would not contribute to urban growth or introduce new sources of air emissions into the air basin, nor would it affect sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Exhaust from vehicle traffic during the event could result in temporary air pollutant emissions; however, such emissions would be no greater than expected on a typical June weekend. The temporary nature of the impact is not expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in PM_{10} or ozone precursors. There would be no long-term pollutant emissions associated with the event.

The closest permanent sensitive receptors would be scattered rural residences about one mile away, which would not be affected by event activities.

e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The activities associated with the event would not result in the creation of objectionable odors.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4.1 Regulatory Setting

In addition to CEQA, other federal and state laws apply to the biological resources identified in this report. Each of these laws is identified and discussed below.

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA)

FESA establishes a broad public and federal interest in identifying, protecting, and providing for the recovery of threatened or endangered species. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are designated in FESA as responsible for identifying endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, carrying out programs for the conservation of these species, and rendering opinions regarding the impact of proposed federal actions on listed species. The USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are charged

with implementing and enforcing the ESA. USFWS has authority over terrestrial and continental aquatic species, and NMFS has authority over species that spend all or part of their life cycle at sea, such as salmonids.

Section 9 of FESA prohibits the unlawful "take" of any listed fish or wildlife species. Take, as defined by FESA, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such action." The USFWS's regulations define harm to mean "an act which actually kills or injures wildlife." Such an act "may include "significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering" (50 CFR § 17.3). Take can be permitted under FESA pursuant to sections 7 and 10. Section 7 provides a process for take permits for federal projects or projects subject to a federal permit, and Section 10 provides a process for incidental take permits for projects without a federal nexus. FESA does not extend the take prohibition to federally listed plants on private land, other than prohibiting the removal, damage, or destruction of such species in violation of state law.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA)

Under the MBTA, it is unlawful to "pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not." In short, under the MBTA it is illegal to disturb a nest that is in active use, since this could result in killing a bird or destroying an egg. The USFWS oversees implementation of the MBTA.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 (Section 404)

The United States does not have a federal, comprehensive law protecting wetlands. However, through the regulation of activities in "waters of the United States," the Clean Water Act of 1972 is the main federal law used to protect wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States," which includes traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, certain tributaries of any of these waters, and wetlands that meet these criteria or that are adjacent to any of these waters.

The USACE also regulates activities in waters of the United States under the federal Rivers and Harbors Act. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires permits for any work or structures in navigable waters of the United States, including wetlands within or adjacent to these waters. Both dredging and filling are regulated activities under the Act. Navigable waters are defined as those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, or that are presently, have been, or may be used for transport of interstate or foreign commerce.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

Provisions of CESA protect state-listed threatened and endangered species. The Fish and Game Commission is charged with establishing a list of endangered and threatened species. CDFG regulates activities that may result in "take" of individuals (i.e., "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill"). Habitat degradation or modification is not expressly included in the definition of "take" under the California Fish and Game Code, but CDFG has interpreted "take" to include the killing of a member of a species which is the proximate result of habitat modification.

Fish and Game Code Section 1602

Section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFG of any proposed activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing pavement where it may pass into any stream, river, or lake. CDFG uses the USFWS definition of wetlands when regulating these activities.

Fish and Game Code Section 3503 and 3503.5

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 3503, it is unlawful to "take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto." Section 3503.5 provides similar protection specifically to raptors and their nests. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered "taking" by CDFG.

Fish and Game Code Section 4150

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 4150, "[a]ll mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission."

3.4.2 Environmental Setting

Vegetation and Wildlife

Four sensitive habitat types are found in and around the project site: coastal strand, active pioneer coastal dune, central coast dune scrub, and central coast foredunes. Oceano Dunes SVRA represents the northern extent of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes system, having the plant and animal communities that are typical of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, and is therefore considered part of the larger dune system.

The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes is the largest remaining dune system south of San Francisco and the second largest in the state of California. It encompasses an 18-mile (29 km) stretch of coastline on the central coast of California and extends from southern San Luis Obispo County to northern Santa Barbara County. The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes system is home to a unique dunes ecosystem and is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are those plants and animals that are legally protected or otherwise recognized as vulnerable to habitat loss or population decline by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. In this analysis, special-status species include:

- Species that are state and/or federally listed threatened or endangered
- Species considered as candidates for listing as threatened or endangered
- CDFG Species of Special Concern
- Fully protected species per California Fish and Game Code
- Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the CDFG to be rare, threatened, or endangered [California rare plant ranked, (CRPR); e.g. CRPR 1B)

A list of those special-status species that have potential to occur in the project area is

presented in Appendix C. Due to the fact that the proposed project activity would occur within the open riding area of an SVRA, most of the species have no or low potential to occur in the proposed special event area. These species are summarized here and are not further addressed in this analysis. Two species with potential for occurrence, California least tern and western snowy plover, are discussed further below.

Insects

There is a single CNDDB record for sandy beach tiger beetle in the Oceano quad, and it is located near Oso Flaco Lake, approximately two miles to the south of the event area. There are no CNDDB records for globose dune beetle in the Oceano quad. No specific surveys for globose dune beetle or sandy beach tiger beetle were conducted for this project as it is considered extremely unlikely that either sensitive beetle would be found in the project area. The project area is open to OHV riding and camping throughout the year and has no native dune vegetation that could support these two species or the other sensitive invertebrates. None of these species has any formal designation under either the state or federal Endangered Species Acts, and none are on any candidate list maintained by either agency.

Fish

Tidewater goby and steelhead (south-central California coast DPS) both may occur within Arroyo Grande Creek. Arroyo Grande Creek must be crossed to reach the open riding and camping area, including the project staging site. The area of vehicle crossing is characterized as sandy beach, adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, varying in width from approximately 50 feet wide to several hundred feet wide, depending on tidal conditions. In this location, also referred to as the creek mouth, the stream conditions vary depending on the season of the year. Stream flow can vary from several thousand cubic feet per second during high flow periods in the winter and spring to no outflow to the ocean during the summer and fall, as the creek mouth is barred over until the first big rains of the season, usually in November or December. Since this event will take place in June when there is little or no flow to the ocean, the events would not affect the goby or steelhead.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Pond turtles, silvery legless lizards, and coast horned lizards are not expected to occur within the project area due to lack of habitat. The California red-legged frog is a federally-listed threatened species known to occur at Oceano Dunes SVRA. This species is restricted to the freshwater aquatic environment around Oso Flaco Lake and has been observed in upper Arroyo Grande Creek, outside of park boundaries, and would not be present in the areas of or affected by the special event.

Birds

As stated in Appendix C, sharp-shinned hawks and brown pelicans are not expected to occur on the project site and therefore would not be affected by the project. Brown pelicans occur offshore and on the beach of Oceano Dunes SVRA. The Huckfest event would occur on the beach one-half mile from the shore within an established open riding area of the SVRA. The event would not bring additional users to the park, and thus would not be expected to affect brown pelicans.

Plants

Oceano Dunes SVRA supports several special-status plant species, including the state and/or federally-listed species in Appendix C. These plants have been accurately mapped and are protected from OHV disturbance and other recreational uses. Most of these species are located in the back dunes and near Oso Flaco Lake. None of the listed sensitive plant populations are in close proximity to the project area and none would be affected by the project.

3.4.3 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. No special-status plant or wildlife species would be affected by the project.

Oceano Dunes SVRA contains known nesting habitat for the western snowy plover, a federally-listed threatened species, and the California least tern, a federally- and state-listed endangered species (Figure 3). The least tern is also fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code. The project area is not currently designated by the USFWS as critical habitat for either species. Both of these birds nest in dune environments.

The western snowy plover and California least tern populations are actively managed at Oceano Dunes SVRA. Appendix B contains the complete protection, monitoring, and management measures currently being implemented at Oceano Dunes SVRA for these species. The measures include establishing an approximately 300-acre fenced area at the southern portion of the riding and camping area that is closed to all park visitors (Figure 3). An additional approximately 62-acre area is fenced within the Oso Flaco Natural Area. The exclosures protect breeding plovers and terns not only from park visitors, but also from terrestrial predators. The great majority of plover and tern nesting at Oceano Dunes SVRA occur within the protected exclosures. Very few nesting attempts occur within the area open to riding. Monitors erect additional exclosures as needed around nests observed within the riding area consistent with current protocols (see Appendix B).

The intensive western snowy plover and California least tern protection and management program being carried out at Oceano Dunes SVRA has been effective in balancing the OHV recreation with plover and tern nesting as evidenced by recent population data. For the 10-year period from 2002-2011, Oceano Dunes SVRA averaged 1.35 fledged snowy plover chicks per adult breeding male, well above the USFWS recovery criterion of one fledged chick per adult breeding male. The 2011 snowy plover chick fledge rate at Oceano Dunes SVRA was 42%, with 160 nests, and a 82% hatch rate. This hatch rate far exceeds adjacent monitored plover nesting sites. The estimated minimum number of breeding adults in 2011 was 160, compared to 137 in 2010. The 2011 California least tern nesting monitoring at Oceano Dunes SVRA indicated a minimum of 33 breeding pairs, up from 23 pairs in 2010. The 2010 least tern chick fledge rate at Oceano Dunes SVRA was 91%, with 35 nests, and a 89% hatch rate (CDPR 2011).

The requested date for the 2012 Huckfest event falls within the nesting period for the California least tern and the western snowy plover and would occur approximately one-quarter mile from the nearest expected western snowy plover or California least tern nest within the exclosure (Figure 2 and Figure 3). Nests are unlikely to occur near the event area. Should nests occur in the special event area at the time of the event, park monitors would erect protective exclosures. The protocols described in Appendix B are already in place for the snowy plover and least tern nesting season to avoid "take" of either species. The protocols are drafted each year in cooperation with the USFWS and CDFG. These protocols apply to all park visitors including the event participants.

The Huckfest event would not draw additional visitors to the park beyond permitted limits, and the event would occur within an open riding area already active with OHV use. Therefore, the Huckfest event would not create new or increased risk of impact to western snowy plovers and California least terns.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. (Responses b – c) Arroyo Grande Creek typically has little to no outflow to the ocean in June; thus, vehicles entering Oceano Dunes SVRA during the Huckfest event to reach the open riding and camping area would not be driving through the creek. Existing protocols are already in effect to protect the adjacent sensitive aquatic habitat of Arroyo Grande Creek and the lagoon from adverse impacts during vehicular crossings. Vehicle entry into the lagoon is prohibited. No impact to riparian or other aquatic habitat would occur due to the proposed Huckfest event which would occur in the sand dune riding area. The portion of the dunes where the Huckfest event would be held is already open to riding, and the event would not change the amount or nature of the use within that area. Sensitive dune vegetation is fenced off from vehicular entry. No impact to sensitive dune habitat would occur. Implementation of the project would not result in the removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other disturbances to wetlands as no wetlands occur within the riding and camping area of the SVRA.

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. See response to a. above.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. No heritage or ordinance trees are in the project area. The project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The OHMVR Division is currently developing an HCP that includes Oceano Dunes SVRA, but the HCP has not been approved by the trustee agencies. This project would be consistent with activities anticipated by the HCP.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

There are two recorded archaeological sites in the SVRA. The recorded Native American sites within the park are fully protected with hard fencing that is in place throughout the year. These sites have been successfully closed to vehicular recreation for many years. No archaeological sites are known to occur within the open riding area of Oceano Dunes SVRA.

3.5.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No Impact (Responses a – b). The area identified for the special event has been open to OHV use for many years. The event was reviewed by the OHMVR Division, and it was determined that there are no known archaeological sites within the area to be used for event activities. Trespass within the closed areas during special events is not known to occur. Ample protections are in effect, along with ongoing monitoring, to prevent issues from arising. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are discovered, pursuant to standard CDPR protocols all activities surrounding the site would cease until the area has been cleared by a CDPR archaeologist.

c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. The event would not significantly modify existing topography or impact paleontological resources or geologic features. There has been no documentation of unique

paleontological resources or geological features in the project area by OHMVR Division cultural resource specialists, or by other resource staff.

d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No Impact. A cultural resource inventory performed in 2000 at Oceano Dunes SVRA (CDPR 2000) did not reveal evidence of human remains. However, Native American remains were located in June 2008. These remains were located more than three miles to the south of the proposed project area, well outside the open riding area of the park. The area identified for the event has been open to OHV use for many years. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, pursuant to standard OHMVR Division protocols all activities surrounding the site would cease until the area has been cleared by an OHMVR Division archaeologist and the County Coroner is notified.

3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.6.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

2. Strong seismic ground shaking?

3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

4. Landslides?

No Impact. (Responses a1 – a4). Although Oceano Dunes SVRA is located in a seismically active area associated with the San Andreas fault system, the proposed special event would not expose people or structures to seismic or landslide hazards. No new buildings or permanent facilities are proposed; small temporary structures associated with the event such as vendor tables or spectator fencing would not pose a hazard to park visitors during a seismic event. San Luis Obispo County hazard maps show the project area to have a low potential for landslides. Dunes are by their nature unstable and subject to movement, slippage, and blow out. Vehicular activity on active dunes can contribute to unstable soil conditions. However, the area proposed for the Huckfest is currently open to vehicular activity as part of the SVRA. No additional landslide risk would result from the operation of this event.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. The project activities would occur in sand, a highly erosive material, but typical of the area because of the beach location. The Huckfest event area is currently open to vehicular activity as part of the SVRA. No additional erosion would result from this event. All event activities would be located on the sandy beach and dunes; therefore, there would be no loss of topsoil.

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

No Impact. Staging facilities for the event would be located on the flat portions of the beach. The event course would be located in the dunes, which are in constant flux due to prevailing coastal winds. The sand in the project area is subject to seasonal and daily fluctuations from wind erosion, and the event would not affect the stability of the beach or dune sheet. Sand by nature is unstable; however, no impact would occur as the small, temporary nature of the event facilities would not expose people or buildings to any risk from sand movement.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soils are not a consideration in the sandy soils found in the project area.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The project does not propose installation of new septic tanks nor does the project create the need for a system for disposal of additional wastewater.

3.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.7.1 Regulatory and Environmental Setting

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. CARB identified 427 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO2e) as the total statewide GHG 1990 emissions level and adopted this level as the 2020 GHG emissions limit (CARB 2007). CARB estimates 2020 GHG emission levels will reach 600 MMTCO2e if no actions are taken under a "business-as-usual" scenario.

The most prominent GHGs that have been identified as contributing to global warming are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorucarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). Each GHG has a different capacity to trap heat in the atmosphere by absorbing infrared radiation. Almost 90% of the total GHG identified in the emission inventory is CO_2 (CARB 2007). Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable largely to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, residential, and agricultural sectors. The transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs in California, followed by electricity generation. CO_2 is a byproduct of the fossil fuel combustion associated with both the transportation and utility sectors. CH_4, a highly potent GHG, results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. GHGs from the residential sector are primarily related to energy consumption. Processes that absorb and accumulate CO_2, often called CO_2 "sinks," include uptake by vegetation and dissolution into the ocean. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, which are pollutants of regional and local concern, respectively.

CARB approved the AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan in December 2008, which contains the main strategies California will use to reduce GHG. Detailed strategies to implement all of the recommended measures must be in place by 2012. As stated in CARB's press release announcing approval of the Scoping Plan, key elements of the plan include:

- Developing a California cap-and-trade program that links with other Western Climate Initiative partner programs to create a regional market system

- Strategies to enhance and expand proven cost-saving energy efficiency programs, implementation of California's clean cars standards, increases in the amount of clean

and renewable energy used to power the state, and implementation of a low-carbon fuel standard that will make the fuels used in the state cleaner

- Full deployment of the California Solar Initiative, high-speed rail, water-related energy efficiency measures and a range of regulations to reduce emissions from trucks and from ships docked in California ports

- Measures designed to safely reduce or recover a range of very potent greenhouse gases - refrigerants and other industrial gases - that contribute to global warming at a level many times greater than carbon dioxide contributes

- Targeted fees to fund the state's long-term commitment to AB 32 administration

Pursuant to Senate Bill 97 (Chapter 185, 2007) the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) developed CEQA guidelines "for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions." The Natural Resources Agency completed the formal rulemaking process, and the amendments became effective on March 18, 2010.

3.7.2 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. The event would result in temporary emissions of greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2 and N_2O) from participant vehicles. As all vehicle quotas would remain in effect during the event, the number of vehicles would not exceed what would be allowed without the event. Given the extremely small size and short duration of the event, the vehicle quotas, and the summer weekend, any increase in vehicle activity in Oceano Dunes SVRA due to the Huckfest event would be negligible and would not cause a significant increase in greenhouse gas generation.

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. Currently, there are no adopted federal regulations regarding greenhouse gases produced by off-highway motor vehicles, and the proposed event would not conflict with CARB's Scoping Plan. While regional and county agencies such as the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department are currently drafting (e.g., County Climate Action Plan) and/or updating (e.g. SLOCOG 2010 Regional Transportation Plan) plans for reducing greenhouse gases, these plans have not been adopted at this date.

3.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.8.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or hazardous waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact (Responses a – c). Gasoline and diesel needed to power vehicles and generators would be the only hazardous materials in use on the project site, and park rules require that fuel be legally contained within the vehicles or in specially designed fuel cans. In addition, the event would not increase the number of park visitors or the amount of fuel used over the event weekend. The project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of other types of hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead, toxic waste, etc. The project would not involve hazardous emissions. The nearest school is over one mile from the event site.

d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact. No hazardous material sites are known to occur on or in the vicinity of the project site. The project site is not on the Department of Toxic Substance Control's Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese List).

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. (Responses e – f) The airport closest to the project site is the Oceano County Airport located in Oceano. This airport is a general aviation airport and has an adopted Airport Land Use Plan (2007). The airport is located less than a quarter-mile east of the northern portion of Oceano Dunes SVRA, just northeast of Marker Post 1. The project site is located over one mile south of the airport (near Marker Post 4) and is not located within the Oceano County Airport land use plan area (Airport Land Use Commission 2007). The airport would not pose a safety hazard to participants of the special event. There are no private air strips within two miles of the project site.

g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with the existing Oceano Dunes SVRA emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires, including where wild lands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands?

No Impact. The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized

areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. The project is not within the urban/wildland interface. Oceano Dunes SVRA has adequate fire fighting capabilities in the event of small fires within the park, and for larger fires, the area will be subject to existing Oceano Dunes SVRA emergency response plans.

3.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.9.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

No Impact. The project would not create the need for additional wastewater discharge and would not cause any discharge with the potential to violate water quality standards. As discussed previously, although vehicles must cross the Arroyo Grande Creek mouth area to reach the event area, the creek has little to no flow to the ocean during the month of June. Additionally, the event would not generate a substantial increase in vehicles within the park or additional creek crossings over what would otherwise occur regardless of the event. The Huckfest event would be subject to the Arroyo Grande Creek protection measures that are in effect at Oceano Dunes SVRA (refer to Appendix B). The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

No Impact. The project would not extract groundwater and therefore would not affect the quantity of subsurface water supplies. The project would not change the direction or rate of groundwater flow. The project does not involve the use of groundwater supplies and therefore does not impact the groundwater table or nearby wells.

c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

No Impact. (Responses c – e) The existing drainage pattern of the area would not be altered as a result of the event. The project would not alter the course of a stream or river, including Arroyo Grande Creek. As discussed previously, although vehicles must cross the Arroyo Grande Creek mouth area to reach the event area, the event would not generate additional vehicles within the park or additional creek crossings, and the creek would have little or no outflow to the ocean. There will be no increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, because no new impermeable surfaces would be developed for the event. The event would not create additional sources of polluted runoff.

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

No Impact. The small event would not affect water quality as it would not change the intensity or amount of use of Oceano Dunes SVRA.

g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

No Impact. (Responses g – i) According to the San Luis Obispo County Flood Hazard Map, the project site is located within a flood hazard area and/or a 100-year floodplain. However, the project does not involve construction of residential or other structures and would not occur during the most likely time for a flood event to occur (e.g., rainy season).

j. Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. The project is located in an area that could be subject to inundation by tsunamis; however, the event is of very short duration and would not cause an increase in visitor use limits at the park. In the unlikely event of a tsunami, an emergency response plan is in effect for the County.

3.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.10.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. There is no established community within the project area.

b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Than Significant Impact. No significant impacts would occur from the project as the event would not substantially increase the number of visitors on a typical weekend day or over the daily use limits imposed at the park; nor would it change the nature of use within the park. OHV use is a legal use allowed by the park's General Development Plan (CDPR 1975) and San Luis Obispo County's Local Coastal Plan (LCP; San Luis Obispo County 2009, 2007, 1989). Some land tracts within Oceano Dunes SVRA are currently owned by the County (commonly referred to as the La Grande Tract). The County's LCP does include a map (commonly referred to as Figure 4; San Luis Obispo County 1989) showing the County lands as a buffer area closed to OHV. When the Coastal Commission certified the County's LCP in 1984, the LCP reflected in general the conditions of Oceano Dunes SVRA's Coastal Development Permit 4-82-300, which allows for OHV use on the County-owned land. Oceano Dunes SVRA operates the County-owned land for OHV use consistent with the park's SVRA designation and in conformance with an operating agreement with the County. The proposed special event location between Marker Posts 7 and 8 near the Sand Highway does not affect the County-owned portion of Oceano Dunes SVRA; however, the special event is consistent with the designated use of the County land and would not cause a significant conflict with the LCP.

c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The project site is not located in an area covered by an HCP or natural community conservation plan. An HCP is being developed for Pismo State Beach/Oceano Dunes SVRA; however, it has not yet been finalized.

3.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local -general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. (Responses a – b) No locally important mineral resources are designated at this site in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan. The proposed special event would not affect any known mineral resources of regional or local importance.

3.12 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.12.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Expose persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

No Impact. The event would not result in additional street legal or OHVs within the SVRA beyond the current use limits. All sound restrictions governing OHVs would remain in place for the event.

b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed event would not generate or expose people to excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. Groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels are typically caused by blasting or pile driving. No blasting, pile driving, or similar activities would be required to erect card tables and related temporary structures.

c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

No Impact. The event is temporary and would not generate substantial noise or create a permanent source of noise.

d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Huckfest event would involve up to 25 participating vehicles and possibly 200 spectators. This visitor level is not a substantial increase above visitor levels occurring at the park on a typical summer weekend day and would not result in a substantial increase in noise levels experienced at the park.

e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The nearest airport to the project site is the Oceano County Airport, located over one mile north of the event. The project would not expose people to excessive noise levels associated with use of the Oceano County Airport.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The proposed project is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

3.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.13.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The project would not induce population growth in the community of Oceano or its environs. The project consists of a temporary event to be held on a single day within an SVRA, and no permanent population or housing would be generated as a result of the project. The project would not add any new permanent residents to the area.

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. (Responses b – c) The project would not affect existing housing at the SVRA, as there is no housing at the project site. The closest residence is over one mile from the project site.

3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.14.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

1. Fire protection?

2. Police protection?

3. Schools?

4. Parks?

5. Other public facilities?

No Impact. The OHMVR Division provides primary emergency response services within the SVRA. The event would not increase the need for fire or police protection services or create an adverse impact on such services as it would not increase the overall number of park visitors over the summer weekends or alter the use of the SVRA. The project would not result in increased number of students served by local schools or affect parks, as it comprises a single-

day special event in a SVRA and would not bring in new residents. No new public facilities would be required to accommodate the event or event visitors.

3.15 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.15.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The project would not increase the visitor use of ODSRVA or nearby community parks in Oceano or generate demand for recreational facilities. The project would not alter existing recreational opportunities or affect access to existing recreation areas as it would not cause the park to exceed permitted attendance levels.

b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The project does not include recreational facilities beyond what already exist in the SVRA or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The erection of temporary structures associated with event, such as spectator fencing and vendor tables would have no effect on the environment.

3.16 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.16.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures,

or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

No Impact. (Responses a – b) Oceano Dunes SVRA is subject to strict visitor quotas, including 1,000 camping units (a camping unit is defined as one street legal motorized vehicle registered for overnight use) per day and 2,580 street legal and 1,720 OHVs per day for day use. The overall vehicle limit for day use is thus limited to 4,300 vehicles (of this 60 percent street legal and 40 percent non-street legal). These visitor quotas would remain in effect during the event. The event organizers estimate up to 25 vehicles may participant in the event with possibly 200 spectators. Thus the event would not substantially increase the number of vehicles or visitors to the park and would not increase the number of vehicles or visitors beyond park limits. Event participants thus would not create additional traffic backups at entrance stations.

Pier Avenue does become congested during busy summer weekends. The event would occur on a single day in the early summer and would be limited to a small number (up to 25 vehicles). To the extent some or all of those vehicles would be in addition to those otherwise entering the park on June 9, the number of vehicles entering the park specifically for the event would have a negligible effect on local streets such as Pier Avenue. Any crowded traffic conditions on Pier Avenue are an existing condition during summer weekends that would not be exacerbated by the event.

c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not affect air traffic patterns.

d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The proposed special event is consistent with activities within an SVRA. The event organizers would use radio communications between drivers and spotters to ensure the runway ramp and landing area are clear and safe before each vehicle jumps. Fencing would be erected to keep spectators at least 200 feet away from the ramp and landing area for safety purposes. The speed limits in effect at Oceano Dunes SVRA would apply to the event participants. The Huckfest would not create any traffic hazards.

e. Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not affect emergency access. All entrances are required to allow emergency vehicles access at any time.

f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

No Impact. The proposed special event would not conflict with adopted alternative transportation policies. The event would not prevent pedestrians, cyclists, or equestrians from accessing Oceano Dunes SVRA.

3.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.17.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. (Responses a – e) No water uses are proposed that would exceed waste water treatment requirements. Existing CXTs (vault toilet facilities) would adequately serve the event, which would not bring additional visitors into the park. The project would not require construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. This project consists of a one-day special event taking place at the beach and in the dunes and would not affect storm water drainage or facilities. No new water supplies or entitlements would be needed; there would be no expansion of existing water use associated with this project.

f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. (Responses f – g) The project consists of a one-day special event and would not result in new housing or businesses that would require permanent year-round garbage collection. Event organizers would be responsible for picking up all garbage, markers, and event banners following the event. Garbage would be deposited in main dumpsters already maintained at Oceano Dunes SVRA, the number and capacity of which have been designed to accommodate users on a busy weekend. Oceano Dunes SVRA manages trash collection in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and statutes.

3.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the efforts of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.18.1 Discussion

Would the proposed project:

a. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

No Impact. As discussed above, all participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors, all speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA will apply to event participants, and all pre-existing Oceano Dunes SVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event. The proposed project would thus not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, significantly impact fish or wildlife species or their habitat, adversely affect plant or animal communities, or affect historic or other cultural resources.

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the efforts of

past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

No Impact. The project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The proposed event would be very short-term in duration and would not change usage at the SVRA during a busy summer weekend.

c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than Significant Impact. The Huckfest event could result in a slight increase in OHV activity occurring within the open riding area of Oceano Dunes SVRA. Any increase in noise, or increase in PM_{10} emissions or greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the Huckfest vehicle activity would be negligible. The project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly.

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Chapter 5 REPORT PREPARATION

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Kate Werner – Senior Project Manager

APPENDIX A

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
California Department of Parks and Recreation

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
TERMS AND CONDITIONS*

Special Event Permits, when approved, shall be issued subject to the following provisions:

1. All activities and arrangements for advance preparations within the above named unit, shall be at the direction of the District Superintendent or authorized representative.

2. Rules and regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation unless specifically exempted or otherwise noted shall be observed by the permittee, employees, agents, or contractors.

3. The only special activities granted permittee herein are those which are listed in writing on the permit.

4. No structures or sets may be constructed unless specifically provided for and described in writing, no digging or excavation is permitted, and no shrubbery or trees are to be cut, trimmed or injured. No additions, alterations, modification, or decorations may be affixed to any Department of Parks and Recreation facility without specific written approval of the District Superintendent.

5, Fires will not be permitted except upon the specific written approval of the District Superintendent and under specific direction.

6. Vehicles under the authority of the permittee will be parked in areas designated by the District Superintendent.

7. Permittee will control all traffic and vehicles associated with the event as directed by the District Superintendent.

8. Permittee will maintain the permitted area in a clean and sanitary condition and will restore the area to the condition in which it was received to the satisfaction of the State.

9. Permittee will repair or be billed at the discretion of the State any and all damage to the park unit or any State property which was a result of permittee's activities. State will be the sole judge of the extent of damage and the extent of repairs required to remedy the damage. All repairs will be performed to the satisfaction of the State.

10. The State may require at its discretion, the following special conditions:

    a) Fire control measures and additional fire fighting equipment to be furnished by permittee as required by the District Superintendent.

    b) First-aid service to be supplied by permittee, including ambulance service, doctors or nurses.

    c) Additional police protection and/or traffic control personnel. Policing of the event will be provided by permittee and at own expense.

    d) Parking arrangements required for permittee's operating personnel.

    e) Additional sanitary facilities as required by the District Superintendent. Sanitary facilities over and above those furnished by State may be provided by permittee and at own expense.

    f) The permittee will be charged a fee based on the number of hours and job classification of State personnel required to meet any special condition.

    All special conditions and associated fees will be listed on the permit.

11. Unless otherwise specified on the Special Event Permit, the State agrees to provide the following services, if available or appropriate.

a) Maintain public restrooms.

b) Provide fresh water.

c) Provide electricity.

d) Provide garbage cans and remove refuse.

e) Clean all areas prior to occupancy by permittee.

12. The interest of permittee created by this agreement may be subject to property taxation. Permittee agrees to pay any possessory interest tax or any other tax levied on such interest and to indemnify the State from any damage or loss arising, by reason of such tax or Revenue Taxation Code Section 107.6.

13. Permittee may be charged a permit fee in addition to normal park fees, based on costs incurred by the State, size and scope of the event, and prevailing fees for commercial facilities in the locality.

14. Depending on circumstances and probability of occurrence, permittee may be charged a damage deposit as determined by the District Superintendent. Costs for damage repair and any fines or penalties for noncompliance with permit conditions will be deducted from this deposit, The District Superintendent shall determine if all or only a portion of the deposit is refundable.

15. The District Superintendent may terminate without prior notice any special event activity when it is necessary for the safety and enjoyment of the public for the protection of resources, or for violation of any rules or regulations of the Department of Parks and Recreation or conditions of this permit. In addition, any Special Event Permit may be cancelled without notice in the event of disaster or unforeseen emergency.

16. It is an express condition of this permit that the State, its officers, agents and employees shall be free from any and all liabilities and claims for damages and/or suit for or by reason of any death of or injury or injuries to any person or persons or damages to property of any kind whatsoever, whether the person or property of permittee. its agents or employees, or third persons, from any cause or causes whatsoever while in or upon said premises or any part thereof during the term of this permit or occasioned by any occupancy or use of said premises or any activity carried on by permittee in connection therewith; and permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and to save harmless the State, its officers, agents and employees from all liabilities charges, expenses (including counsel fees) and costs on account of or by reason of any such deaths, injury, liabilities, claims, suits, or losses however occurring or damage growing out of same.

17. For events having greater potential hazard or liability to the State than is incurred through typical daily park activities, permittee will be required to provide the District Superintendent with a certificate of insurance with required endorsements as proof of liability insurance coverage. The policy will cover the period of the permit and will be in an amount no less than one of the following as determined by the District Superintendent:

- Public Liability $300,000 each person, $500,000 each occurrence. Property Damage Liability and Products Damage Liability $200,000; OR

- Combined single limit (CSL) $500,000 per occurrence; OR

- Combined single limit (CSL) $1,000,000 per occurrence.

Insurance policies shall be underwritten to the satisfaction of the State and shall contain the following special endorsement:

State of California, its officers, employees, and servants are included as additional insured but only insofar as operations under this contract or permit are concerned;

The insurer will not cancel or reduce the insured's coverage during the period that this permit is in effect or without 30 days prior written notice, whichever is shorter, to State.

This cancellation provision shall not be construed in derogation of the duty of the permittee to furnish insurance during the entire term of the permit.

18. Contacts relating to the insurance policy and payment of fee and in regard to the permit generally may be made through the District Superintendent.

*Source: DPR Form 246, Special Event Permit Application

Oceano Dunes District

Pismo Beach Huckfest Special Event IS/ND

APPENDIX B

2012 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN

WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER AND CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN

California Department of Parks and Recreation, Oceano Dunes SVRA

2012 NESTING SEASON MANAGEMENT PLAN

TO AVOID TAKE OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER AT OCEANO DUNES STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

February 2012

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

On March 21, 2001 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Oceano Dunes District State Vehicular Recreation Area's (ODSVRA) incidental take authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act expired. The incidental take authorization with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was not renewed. The ACOE determined that the activity being conducted at the ODSVRA was no longer under ACOE jurisdiction. Therefore ODSVRA lost the federal nexus needed to renew the Section 7 permit.

The biological opinion of the Section 7 permit had authorized incidental take of two-federally listed species: the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) (LETE) and the western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) (SNPL). Both birds have documented nesting and foraging habitat at ODSVRA. The Biological and Conference Opinion for the Section 7 (dated January 25, 1996) provides a list of rules governing the recreational activities at the ODSVRA; program elements of a SNPL and LETE monitoring program; reasonable and prudent measures necessary and appropriate to minimize incidental take; and additional terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures.

ODSVRA has been diligently implementing the terms of the biological opinion since its issuance. As anticipated by the biological opinion, some incidental take of SNPL and LETE has taken place, however measures undertaken at ODSVRA have resulted in the overall protection of the bird populations within park boundaries, which has contributed to the overall recovery of both SNPL and LETE at the ODSVRA.

The absence of ACOE jurisdiction has left ODSVRA without incidental take authorization. ODSVRA / DPR has met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to address the situation and to determine the best course of action to resolve conflicts between listed species and ongoing off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. At present DPR believes that it can continue to operate the SVRA and provide protection (attempting no take) of the listed species through the implementation of various protections, monitoring, and management measures as described below.

The measures following are intended to be carried out throughout the 2012 SNPL and LETE nesting season. A subset of these will also be used after the nesting season to assure that SNPL and LETE are afforded protection during the non-nesting season. Measures to be implemented during the non-nesting season (October 1 through February 28) will consist of:

- Weekly monitoring for location of SNPL within the ODSVRA
- Continued enforcement of dog leash laws
- Continued enforcement of the posted 15 MPH vehicle speed limits on the beach.

ODSVRA/DPR have contracted with TRA Environmental to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In the absence of the HCP and to continue operations under the "no-take" scenario; ODSVRA has been working closely with the USFWS, and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to develop yearly management plans for the LETE and SNPL. ODSVRA meets with USFWS and DFG prior to the

start of each nesting season to map out distinctive measures for this management plan.

PROTECTION MEASURES AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

Specific protection measures and prescribed management protocols for implementation by DPR as contained within US Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion (1-8-95-F/C-17) prepared under Section 7 consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the issuance of Regional General Permit No. 42 (Corps of Engineers File No. 95-50035-TAW), dated January 25, 1996; FWS permit No. PRT 815214; FWS "*Exclosure Protocols For Snowy Plover Nests"*, dated January, 1994 and July, 1999; and California Department of Fish and Game letter concerning DPR management protocols for the avoidance of take of LETE within ODSVRA, dated May 8, 2001, and additional measures added in 2002, 2003 and 2006 are incorporated by reference and are components of this plan. The following detail describes modifications, changes, or additions to the management protocols contained in the above referenced documents. Additional measures listed are derived from ODSVRA monitoring of the prior nesting season. These measures are listed as recommendations in the annual CDPR report written in consultation with PRBO Conservation Science. ODSVRA / DPR oversee the SNPL and LETE program using data collected by staff and consultants. Through these consultations and data collection ODSVRA reviews all recommendations and implements what is reasonable and sound given all issues. ODSVRA continues to implement management actions that will ensure the highest extent of protection to both the SNPL and LETE. ODSVRA is responsible for the management of these two species within its boundaries. All measures will be operational and in place by March 1, 2012, unless otherwise noted.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- The management measures and protocols contained in this proposal represent the best management practices at this time. However, adaptive management practices may be employed in the protection efforts for SNPL and LETE during the course of the 2012 nesting season. Adaptive management will be used to provide management flexibility to best afford protection for these species. Program adaptations causing initiation of changes of these proposed management actions could result from the following:

- Observations and data collected by ODSVRA resource management staff, who monitor SNPL and LETE, might indicate protocols, which are proposed herein as ineffective.

- USFWS or DFG may indicate more recent findings on species management.

- Recognition and response to currently unforeseen threats to the species, or other factors.

ROLE OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: USFWS staff is available to provide quick and timely responses to informational requests by DPR on aspects of the plan that need immediate action.

During the course of the 2012 nesting season, the USFWS may recommend protocol alterations or modifications for the management and protection of SNPL and LETE. USFWS agrees to consult with DPR to coordinate and gain concurrence on any new management protocol changes that may affect SNPL and LETE.

California Department of Fish and Game: DFG may recommend protocol alterations or modifications for the management and protection of LETE during the course of the 2012 LETE nesting season. USFWS and DPR have agreed to consult with DFG on any modifications suggested or required by DFG.

EXCLOSURES FOR SNPL AND LETE

- The following seasonal exclosures totaling approximately 300 acres will be maintained throughout the 2012 SNPL and LETE nesting season:

  Arroyo Grande Creek/

  Post 1.5 Area Exclosure …… Posted and signed. Will be fenced if a nest is established. No successful plover nesting in 2001, and 2010. No nest attempts in 2002-2004; 2006 – 2009; 2011; and (1) successful LETE nest in 2005. ODSVRA staff will monitor area frequently. If a nest is found in this area a 50- meter single nest exclosure will be erected.

  Southern Exclosure ……..…250 acres. 2x4 no-climb fencing, second layer of predator fencing, and posted.

  Oso Flaco Natural Area...……..1-mile stretch of fore dunes closed by 2x4 no-climband a second layer of predator fencing south of the camping/riding area and symbolic fence and sign postings, approximately 62 acres.

EXCLOSURES for SNPL and LETE

Additional exclosures will be erected and maintained based upon SNPL nesting activities as described below.

- The size of individual SNPL / LETE exclosures will be constructed with a minimum 50-meter diameter. Fencing material will consist of 2x4 inch galvanized wire mesh fence fabric, steel "t" posts every 15 feet and intermediate line posts as needed.

- When individual SNPL / LETE nests are established outside of the existing seasonal exclosures, within the riding area, are located within 200 meters of the established seasonal exclosure, fencing will be erected to enlarge the seasonal exclosure so as to encompass the nest site. Fencing so erected will be placed a minimum distance of 50 meters away from the nest site. Fencing will be extended westerly to the surf line if evaluation by ODSVRA staff and/or USFWS/DFG determine SNPL / LETE chick travel corridor needs require such an action, thereby affording additional protection to SNPL.

- When two or more nests sites are located within 200 meters of each other, and are 200 meters or more away from the seasonal exclosure they will be encompassed into a new large seasonal exclosure. Seasonal exclosures so erected will include fencing that extends to the surf line if chick travel corridors establish that need, so as to provide a secure travel corridor for foraging activity for SNPL chicks. Fencing for such new seasonal exclosures will maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters from nest sites.

- If a single SNPL / LETE nest is established further than 200 meters from a seasonal exclosure with no other nest(s) located within 200 meters, ODSVRA will erect a single nest exclosure fence as described above. If feasible a westerly travel corridor may be erected to provide safe foraging for chicks.

- The bottom edge of wire mesh fencing will be buried 6 – 8 inches deep at installation of all exclosures to prevent or discourage predator access inside the exclosure.

- If a SNPL/ LETE nest is established within 50 meters of a restroom facility, the following protocols will be implemented:

  1. Permanent Restroom Buildings will be closed to public use and exclosure fencing will

surround and isolate the restroom to prevent public use.

2. Chemical toilets will be relocated to a minimum distance of 100 meters from any nest site.

- If a SNPL or LETE nest is initiated inside the seasonal exclosure and within 100 feet from the exclosure fence, staff will install additional fencing to maintain a perimeter of a minimum of 100 feet from the riding and camping area to the nest. These "bumpouts" will be monitored regularly. If an incubating bird is disturbed by recreational activity, the bumpout will be increased in size as needed. All nests are monitored for disturbance and any nest that is disturbed by regular recreational activity may receive a bumpout.

- 10'x10' nest exclosures, as called for in the ODSVRA predator management plan, may be used if deemed necessary by staff for SNPL nest protection. 2x4 steel no-climb fence will be used and 5/8 by 5/8 inch nylon mesh netting will be placed on top. Fence will be buried to a depth of 6-8 inches.

- Miniature exclosures measuring approximately 3 foot by 3 foot were first used at ODSVRA during the 2010 nesting season. These are constructed with 2x4 inch steel non-climb fence (with a top of the same material) and buried 8 inches deep. These mini-exclosures are if deemed necessary for SNPL nest protection. Mini-exclosures can be used interchangeably with 10 x 10 foot exclosures based on site characteristics and other factors.

- In the event that LETE chicks are observed traveling outside of a single exclosure, the exclosure will be doubled in size. Doubling the setback distance will continue in this fashion if chicks are observed leaving the newly expanded exclosure and so on. DPR will consult with DFG for agreement and approval if the appropriate setback distances can not be achieved as a result of operational needs.

<u>MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE NON-OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE AREA OF ODSVRA</u>

- SNPL nesting activity occurs within the non-off highway vehicle use area of the ODSVRA in Oso Flaco Lake Area. This area will be monitored regularly during the nesting season. Individual exclosures or symbolic fencing may be erected around nests when in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist and/or monitors the exclosure or symbolic fencing is necessary to ensure the protection of nest sites from human disturbance or predation. Single nest exclosures within the Oso Flaco area will be at minimum 30- foot radius but will not be as large as within the riding area of ODSVRA due to the terrain limitations. Single nest exclosures in Oso Flaco will be erected at the 2 - egg stage of the clutch to help reduce abandonment threat.

- Symbolic fencing will be erected at the terminus end of the boardwalk trail at the beach to direct visitors to the wet sand area of the beach and away from potential nesting and chick rearing areas.

- Signs explaining SNPL natural history and protection measures in effect will be posted for visitor information and education.

- A large seasonal exclosure will be used at Oso Flaco, north of the public access boardwalk. It will be constructed of 2x4 no-climb fence buried to a depth of 6-8 inches. Approximate size will be 62 acres.

<u>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS SPECIFIC TO CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN</u>

- DPR will implement provisions and measures agreed to for LETE management and protection that are contained within a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from DFG to DPR that is in effect for the 2012 nesting season. ODSVRA in consultation with DFG Wildlife Biologists are confident the

measures mentioned within this take avoidance document, if faithfully implemented at ODSVRA, will avoid take of this State listed, fully protected species. ODSVRA proposes that these same measures will be adequate to assure USFWS that there will be no take of LETE in the operation of ODSVRA during the 2012 nesting season.

- The footbridge hand railing at Oso Flaco Lake is used by LETE for perching after chicks have fledged and when adult birds are teaching fledglings to fish in the lake. The visiting public will be provided with information about the LETE presence and activity at Oso Flaco Lake, and will be provided with guidelines to avoid disturbance of the activities of LETE. If, in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist or monitors, visitor activities are significantly disrupting LETE behavior, the footbridge may be closed to public use, or types of public use on the boardwalk may be temporarily prohibited until the LETE have left the lake area.

- Banding of LETE chicks will be implemented for the eighth season at ODSVRA for 2012. A permitted Master Bander from PRBO Conservation Science has been contracted to perform this duty.

- One design of tern shelter will be evaluated in the 2012 nesting season. This design was tested from 2007 - 2011 and a sufficient number of tern chicks used the shelters to justify additional evaluation. DPR will continue to place driftwood and native plants throughout the seasonally exclosed area to serve as natural shelter.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

- All first time visitors will be provided with a flyer or pamphlet describing the natural history of the species, their status under endangered species acts, recovery efforts in place within the SVRA and a list or description of activities either prohibited or desired by the public that serve to protect both LETE and SNPL.

- All first time visitors entering the ODSVRA by vehicle will be provided with a copy of the ODSVRA park brochure that contains information on the federally and state listed status of the SNPL and LETE, and management actions in place to aid in the recovery effort of these species.

- All visitors entering the ODSVRA by vehicle to camp will be offered plastic garbage bags and will be informed they are to haul their trash out of the ODSVRA at the end of their visit. Visitor participation in reducing or eliminating trash within the SVRA will discourage predators from frequenting the visitor use area and thus reduce the likelihood of predation on SNPL and LETE.

- Trash dumpsters will be provided for the deposit of trash bags near the OHV staging area, near Post 2. The location of the trash dumpsters will be changed as necessary to avoid disturbance to any nearby active LETE or SNPL nests.

- Interpretive panels describing the LETE and SNPL population status and threats to their survival will be posted at ODSVRA Safety Center located at the entrance to Sand Highway, at Oso Flaco Lake and at the Pier Avenue and Grand Avenue entrances ramps to the SVRA.

- 7 days a week, 24-hours a day the ODSVRA AM radio station will again be used for the 2012 nesting season. The radio station will broadcast visitor safety, park rules and regulations and information on the SNPL and LETE including actions that visitors can take to help assure the survival of the species.

- Visitors entering ODSVRA by vehicle with a dog will be provided with an informational handout about the ill effects of unleashed dogs on wildlife. Pedestrian visitors with dogs who have not entered the recreation area by vehicle will be provided the same pamphlet by ODSVRA staff.

- ODSVRA A.M. radio station will be updated with new measures taken in the 2012 season.

SNPL AND LETE BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

- During anticipated high visitor use periods as determined by historic visitor attendance records, e.g., Memorial Day Weekend, July 4th Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, monitoring staff will provide extended hours of monitoring within the off highway vehicle use area of the ODSVRA.

- Monitoring will take place daily for a minimum of 8 hours per day to enable a better identification of potential human use related threats to SNPL and LETE and to summon law enforcement assistance if needed to prevent or eliminate any human use related threats to the species. Monitors will be those individuals approved by USFWS for this function.

- PRBO Conservation Science has been contracted by DPR to furnish a master bander for the 2012 SNPL and LETE nesting season. The PRBO bander will be responsible for the banding of all SNPL and LETE chicks, "floating eggs" of SNPL, and if determined necessary, to band SNPL adults. The PRBO bander will be in consultation with and under the direction of the Senior Environmental Scientist assigned to ODSVRA. The PRBO bander will assist in the preparation of a written end of nesting season report for OSVSRA. The banding of newly hatched SNPL / LETE chicks will follow protocols approved by USFWS and DFG. PRBO bander will report all banding data and records per guidelines established by USFWS and PRBO.

- During holiday periods, one (1) monitor will be assigned the specific duty during daylight and evening hours of ensuring that no unauthorized entry is made into the north end of the large southern seasonal exclosure.

- Monitors will select and track SNPL / LETE chicks/broods hatched from any area within the riding area (single nest exclosures) that is not within a seasonal exclosure to determine travel routes and travel patterns associated with foraging and exploration. Information gathered by such monitoring will be used during the 2012 nesting season and subsequent nesting seasons to establish additions to or reconfiguration of existing exclosures, to establish the need for fenced travel corridors, or serve to modify other measures to allow better protection for SNPL. Monitors will attempt to follow the broods if and when leaving the single nest exclosures, identify threats to brood movement or safety, obtain assistance as necessary from SVRA patrol staff, and will oversee the erection of signs and/or symbolic fencing to assure brood safety until they reach a non vehicle use area of the SVRA. Should the broods engage in foraging activity in the wrack line near these exclosures, vehicle traffic flow will be diverted or regulated to allow safe movement of the brood.

- ODSVRA does and will continue to participate in the Region 5 working group for SNPL recovery.

- A predator management plan will be implemented again in the 2012 nesting season as in previous seasons (2002 – 2011) to address predation issues at ODSVRA.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

- All protocols for maintenance activities and maintenance vehicle movement and routing contained in the biological opinion remain in effect. In 2012, ODSVRA is proposing to cease conducting surveys for plover nests specifically prior to maintenance activities on the sand ramps. Over the past ten years, ODSVRA has been conducting surveys prior to sand ramp maintenance and no nests or birds have been recorded. There is too much visitor use activity at the sand ramps for these areas to be considered viable nesting or roosting areas. ODSVRA will suspend surveys for nests specifically prior to ramp

maintenance. However, these areas will be regularly inspected a minimum of once per day associated with the regular monitoring activities within the riding area. During these daily surveys (also called the lower transect), the park is surveyed from Pismo Creek to the large seasonal exclosure to identify snowy plover individuals and nests. The sand ramps will be covered in this daily survey.

- At least one vehicle will be present and available within the SVRA daily throughout the 2012 nesting season with all tools and equipment necessary to immediately construct nest exclosure(s) for SNPL or LETE when requested by monitoring staff.

- Maintenance staff will carry trash bags in each vehicle and provide trash bags to visitors for the removal of trash and litter from visitor use areas.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

- State Park peace officers will aggressively enforce trespass into the nesting exclosures, the dog leash laws, the posted 15 MPH beach speed limit, fire work violations, kite flying violations and litter violations as part of a focused law enforcement action throughout the 2012 nesting season. During periods of anticipated high visitor use, additional ranger staff will be dedicated solely to this focused law enforcement function so as to eliminate threats to SNPL or LETE associated with those visitor activities.

- State Park peace officers will respond to requests by monitors for assistance with SNPL and LETE protection and security. The enforcement of laws affecting the safety of SNPL and LETE will be the highest non-emergency priority for law enforcement focus and action within the ODSVRA.

- During anticipated high visitor attendance periods, State Park peace officer staff will provide additional enforcement focus on ensuring that the integrity of exclosures is maintained and that no trespass occurs with SNPL or LETE exclosures.

- On weekends State Park Rangers will diligently peruse the Oso Flaco hard fenced and symbolically fenced area for trespass and other violations.

- Sundays through Thursdays, except for holiday periods, a minimum of two (2) State Park Ranger/peace officers will be on duty and available from 0700 through 2000 hrs each day to respond to:

    1. Requests for assistance by monitors for the protection of SNPL and LETE
    2. Exclosure trespass violations
    3. Enforce dog leash laws
    4. Enforce the posted 15 MPH beach speed limit
    5. Firework violations
    6. Kite flying violations
    7. Litter violations

- During non-holiday weekends (Friday and Saturday), a minimum of two (2) State Park peace officers will be on duty and available from 0600 through 2400 hrs each day to enforce the above mentioned violations

- During major holiday periods State Park peace officers will be on duty 24 hrs/day. From 0700 to 2000 and a minimum of three (3) ranger/peace officers will be on duty at any one time. From 2000 to 0200 a minimum of three (3) ranger/peace officers will be on duty at any one time. From 0200 to 0700 two (2) ranger/peace officers will be on duty. During mid day periods, when visitor attendance is highest, as

many as four (4) ranger/peace officers will be on duty. During all shifts ranger/peace officers will be available to enforce the above listed violations.

- During daylight hours on major holiday periods, one (1) State Park peace officers will be assigned the primary duty of patrolling the beach, including the nest exclosure areas and ensuring that no entry is made into exclosures established for LETE and SNPL nest site protection.

- On July 4th, State Park Visitor Service Staff, or State Park Volunteers will be assigned to the large southern exclosure to help quell the use of fireworks over the area, which could endanger nest success.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ORDERS

- The District Superintendent of ODSVRA will issue orders:
  1) Establishing a buffer zone around individual nest exclosures prohibiting the camping, stopping or parking of vehicles within 100 ft of the exclosure perimeter fencing
  2) Prohibition of kite flying south of the Pier Ave. ramp during the SNPL and LETE nesting season
  3) Prohibition of fireworks
  4) No entrance into any signed or closed area within the Oso Flaco Natural Area, and
  5) No dogs or horses allowed in the Oso Flaco Natural Area.
- Temporary closure of the Oso Flaco Lake footbridge may be made if, in the opinion of the Senior Environmental Scientist and or the biological monitors, human activity at the footbridge is adversely affecting least tern adult or fledgling feeding activities at the lake.

DPR 2011 SNPL AND LETE NESTING REPORT

DPR prepared a report in consultation with PRBO Conservation Science entitled "Nesting of the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern at Oceano Dunes SVRA in 2011". In the report were several recommendations regarding Monitoring, enhancement of available nesting habitat, enhancement of hatching success, fledging success, and winter survival.

ODSVRA is prepared to implement the recommended measures of the annual report and the subsequent recommendations of the Scientific Subcommittee, with the exception to implementation of year-round closures in any portion of the camping and riding area of the SVRA.

Attachments: Recommendation Section of DPR 2011 Nesting of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover at ODSVRA.

Scientific Subcommittee recommendations 2011

Oceano Dunes District

Pismo Beach Huckfest Special Event IS/ND

APPENDIX C

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES LIST

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Appendix C: Special-Status Species with Potential to Occur within the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status[1]**	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Invertebrates			
Mimic tryonia (=california brackishwater snail) *Tryonia imitator*	-	Inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries and salt marshes, from Sonoma County south to San Diego County. Found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types; able to withstand a wide range of salinities.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Sandy beach tiger beetle *Cicindela hirticollis gravid*	-	Found in moist sand near the ocean, for example in swales behind dunes or upper beaches beyond normal high tides.	Low. No native dune vegetation within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Globose dune beetle *Coelus globosus*	-	Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks immediately bordering the coast from Bodega Bay head to Ensenada, Baja California, and all of the Channel Islands except San Clemente Island.	Low. No native dune vegetation within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
White sand bear scarab beetle *Lichnanthe albipilosa*	-	Inhabits coastal sand dunes of San Luis Obispo County, in the vicinity of Dune Lakes. Found hovering close to the surface of the dunes near the lake, but some distance from the surf.	Low. No habitat within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Oso Flaco robber fly *Ablautus schlingeri*	-	Sand dunes	Low. No habitat within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Oso Flaco flightless moth *Areniscythris brachypteris*	-	Open, coastal sand dune slopes in San Luis Obispo County. Larvae live in tubes attached to buried, green parts of plants at the margin of the active, moving sand dunes.	Low. No on-site habitat exists due to ongoing disturbance and no occurrences of the species are known within the project site. Suitable habitat is adjacent to site.
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	-	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	Low. No roost sites are on or in close proximity to the project site.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Morro Bay blue butterfly *Plebejus icarioides moroensis*	-	Inhabits stabilized dunes and adjacent areas of coastal San Luis Obispo and NW Santa Barbara Counties. Larval foodplant thought to be *Lupinus chamissonis*.	Low. No on-site habitat due to ongoing disturbance, but adjacent habitat combined with flight has potential to result in occurrence.
Fish			
Steelhead - south/central California coast DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	FT, SSC	Fed listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River.	Low. No habitat present on or adjacent to event site; access route passes through known movement habitat. CDPR manages stream crossings during rainy season.
Tidewater goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*	FE, SSC	Brackish water habitats along the Calif. coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co. to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Low. Population likely extirpated in 2008. No habitat present on or adjacent to site; access route passes near known habitat. CDPR manages stream crossings during rainy season.
Amphibians and Reptiles			
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT, SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to aestivation habitat.	Low. Habitat is adjacent to site, but all project activities will occur well away from the habitat.
Southwestern pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata pallida*	SSC	Permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; below 6,000 ft elev. Require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks. Need suitable nesting sites.	None. Habitat is adjacent to site but all project activities will occur well away from the habitat.
Coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvilli*	SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	Low. No habitat within project site, no known occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Silvery legless lizard *Anniella pulchra pulchra*	SSC	Loose soils of beach, chaparral, pine-oak woodland, and streamside growth of sycamores, cottonwoods, and oaks. Burrows in dune sand of beaches, washes, and loose soil near bases of slopes and near streams. Forages in leaf litter by day.	None. No habitat within project site due to ongoing disturbance, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Birds			
Sharp-shinned hawk *Accipiter striatus*	-	Ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer and Jeffrey pine habitats. Prefers riparian areas. North-facing slopes with plucking perches are critical requirements. Nests usually within 275 ft of water.	None. Mature trees are not present on site.
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	ST, SP	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depth of about 1 inch that does not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Western snowy plover *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*	FT, SSC	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting.	Moderate. Species uses portions of the park for nesting and foraging. A comprehensive plover/tern management plan minimizes impacts from park users (Appendix B).
California least tern *Sternula antillarum browni*	FE, SE, SP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	Moderate. Species uses portions of the park for nesting and foraging. A comprehensive plover/tern management plan minimizes impacts from park users (Appendix B).
California brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*	SP	California brown pelicans usually rest on water or inaccessible rocks (either offshore or on mainland), but also use mudflats, sandy beaches, wharfs, and jetties.	Breeding: None. There are currently no California brown pelican breeding colonies within the project area. Foraging: low. Brown pelicans become fairly common on the beaches throughout the project area after the breeding season from June through October.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Plants			
Marsh sandwort *Arenaria paludicola*	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Found growing up through dense mats of *Typha*, *Juncus*, *Scirpus*, etc. in freshwater marsh. 10-170m.	None. No on-site habitat exists and no occurrences of the species are known within the project site.
La Graciosa thistle *Cirsium loncholepis*	FE, ST, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal dunes, brackish marshes, riparian scrub. Lake edges, riverbanks, other wetlands; often in dune areas. 5-185m.	None. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site. The event areas are not included within the proposed critical habitat for this species.
Surf thistle *Cirsium rhothophilum*	ST, CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal bluff scrub. Open areas in central dune scrub; usually in coastal dunes. 3-60m.	None. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
California saw-grass *Cladium californicum*	CRPR 2.2	Freshwater and alkali marshes, seeps. Freshwater or alkaline moist habitats. 60-600m.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Pismo clarkia *Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *Immaculata*	FE, CRPR 1b.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. On ancient sand dunes not far from the coast. Sandy soils, openings. 25-185m.	None. No habitat present on or adjacent to site.
Dune larkspur *Delphinium parryi* ssp. *blochmaniae*	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal dunes (maritime). On rocky areas and dunes. 30-375m.	Low. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Beach spectaclepod *Dithyrea maritima*	ST, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Formerly more widespread in coastal habitats in so. Calif. Sea shores, on sand dunes, and sandy places near the shore. 3-50m.	Low. On-site habitat is highly degraded but occurrences of species have been recorded very near the project site.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
Blochman's leafy daisy *Erigeron blochmaniae*	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes. Sand dunes and hills. 3-185m.	Low. On-site habitat is highly degraded but occurrences of species have been recorded very near the project site.
Hoover's button-celery *Eryngium aristulatum* var. *Hooveri*	CRPR 1B.1	Vernal pools. Alkaline depressions, vernal pools, roadside ditches and other wet places near the coast. 5-45m.	None. No habitat present on or adjacent to site.
Nipomo Mesa lupine *Lupinus nipomensis*	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Coastal dunes. Dry sandy flats, restricted to back dunes, assoc. with central dune scrub habitat. 10-50m.	Low. Project area subject to routine disturbance; no habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Crisp monardella *Monardella crispa*	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Often on the borders of open, sand areas, usually adjacent to typical backdune scrub vegetation. 5-120m.	Low. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
San Luis Obispo monardella *Monardella frutescens*	CRPR 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Stabilized sand of the immediate coast. 10-100m.	Low. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.
Gambel's water cress *Nasturtium gambelii*	FE, ST, CRPR 1B.1	Marshes and swamps. Freshwater and brackish marshes at the margins of lakes and along streams, in or just above the water level. 5-1305m.	None. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site.
Black-flowered figwort *Scrophularia atrata*	CRPR 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub. Sand, diatomaceous shales, and soils derived from other parent material; around swales and in sand dunes. 10-250m.	None. No habitat present on or adjacent to site.
San Bernardino aster *Symphyotrichum defoliatum*	CRPR 1B.2	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, grassland. Vernally mesic grassland or near ditches, streams, and springs; disturbed areas. 2-2040m.	Low. No habitat within project site, no occurrences of the species within or immediately adjacent to the project site; however, suitable habitat exists adjacent to the site.

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Listing Status**[1]	**Habitat**	**Potential to Occur On Site**
[1]Listing Status Key: FE – Federal Endangered FT – Federal Threatened FC – Federal Candidate SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened SC – State Candidate CSSC – Calif. Species of Special Concern SFP – State Fully Protected		California Rare Plant Rank: CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. CRPR 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in Calif. but common elsewhere. CRPR 3: More information about this plant needed (Review List). CRPR 4: Limited distribution (Watch List). CRPR Threat Code extensions and their meanings: .1 – Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat) .2 – Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened) .3 – Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known).	

Sources: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2011) and 2011 field observations and local knowledge of Oceano Dunes SVRA Resource Ecology personnel.