



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Sacramento, CA 95816**

August 6, 2020

STAFF REPORT: Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines

STAFF: Jon O'Brien, Environmental Program Manager, OHV, and
Will Harris, Senior Engineering Geologist, CGS

SUBJECT: Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines Update

Summary

Beginning in 2004, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), working with the California Geologic Survey (CGS) and other partners updated the 1991 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines to create the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines (2008 Standard and Guidelines), per Assembly Bill 2666 (Maldonado 2004). The 2008 Standard and Guidelines provides guidance in the design and management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreational facilities to ensure soil loss, erosion, and sedimentation are minimized.

The OHMVR Division is currently coordinating with CGS and the Department to update the 2008 document, as per Senate Bill 249.

Discussion

Senate Bill 249 (Allen 2017) required that the “[OHMVR] division, in consultation with specified bodies and departments, review, and if deemed necessary, update the 2008 Soil Conservation Standard and Guidelines to establish a generic and measurable soil conservation standard by December 31, 2020.”

The Charge Review Letter to the Consulting Agency Review Panel dated July 1, 2020 (see attached) states:

“The objective of this review and update is to ensure a generic and measurable standard founded in best available science and subject to public review. This update was to occur in consultation with the US Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Geological Survey, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Land Management, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the CA Department of Conservation

(Public Resources Code, Section 5090.35 (b)). The new standard is required by the Public Resources Code to be adopted by December 31, 2020.

Review and Update Process:

2020 Update Team: DPR assembled a multidisciplinary team composed of environmental scientists and engineering geologists, including staff from the California Geologic Survey, and initiated review of the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines in Fall 2019. This preliminary review which included specific recommendations tendered from the California Geologic Survey, identified a series of refinements to be carried out with relation to best available science, clarifying definitions, and updating sections of the document which provide guidance on Soil Conservation Planning.”

The document was reviewed by Parks OHV legal counsel in June of 2020. The Consulting Agency Review Panel met on July 16, 2020, via video-conference. With input received from the Review Panel, the document was updated accordingly. The updated document will go through an internal review process that will include meeting with the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRA) resource managers (July or August 2020) and other Parks staff to receive their feedback.

The Parks Natural Resource Division (NRD) requested that an executive summary of the document be sent to the EPIC group (Environmental Program Integration Committee, made up of Environmental Program Managers and other key resource staff from DPR). This will not be a part of the formal internal review process. The NRD also requested the Park Operations Chiefs receive a briefing on the revised Guidelines.

Public Resources Code section 5090(a)(2) requires a public comment period for this document. The mechanism of public comment has not been determined but it needs to be completed by October or November 2020.

In the late fall of 2020, the document will be presented to Parks Executive staff through the Director’s Action Request (DAR) process. As part of the DAR process, there would be an additional Parks legal review of the document.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

CGS letter to OHV regarding Soils Update, Harris, 6/30/2020
Review Charge Letter, 7/1/2020