



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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Armando Quintero, Director

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tracy, CA

October 24, 2024

STAFF REPORT: Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program
STAFF: Jenn Grady, Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manager
SUBJECT: Grants Program Update

Summary

Update on the status of the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program (Grants Program).

Discussion

Public Resources Code (PRC) 5090.23(b)

PRC 5090.23(b) states in part: *The meetings (Talking about the minimum four Commission meetings) shall include a public meeting, before the beginning of each grant program cycle to collect public input concerning the program, recommendations for program improvements, and specific project needs for the system.*

This meeting and Grants report will serve to meet our statutory requirement of allowing the public to provide their input.

The OHMVR Division is utilizing this meeting to welcome input from both the Commission and the public. This is the opportune time for the Commission and the public to provide valuable feedback on how our program may improve. Once all input is received from this meeting, the Division will carefully review, consider and analyze all input to ensure applicability and adherence to statutory requirements. Any changes made will be provided in future grant reports.

G24 Grant Cycle

The Grants G24 Intent to Award was posted on August 5, 2024. This began the 30-day appeal process. The Program Regulations allow for applicants to appeal the intent to award if they feel one of the two scenarios has happened:

- 1) The OHMVR Division failed to follow *the* regulations, and/or
- 2) The OHMVR Division lacked sufficient evidence to support or deny the award of a Grant(s).

The appeals are sent to the Deputy Director of OHMVR for review and reply. Should the appeals be denied, the applicant may then appeal to the Director of Parks and Recreation for final determination. As funding for this cycle was very competitive, the Division received ten appeals, seven in the Ground Operations category and three in the Law Enforcement category. Nine appeals were denied by the Deputy Director, one was partially accepted with some points being returned to the Applicant.

The final awards for the G24 grant cycle became final on Friday, September 27, 2024, after the appeals that were received on the intent to award were resolved. The final awards were posted on the OHMVR Division website on Monday, September 29, 2024.

Grants staff are currently working with the successful candidates to process the new project agreements. Additionally, staff is starting the preparation for the next grant cycle (G25) that begins in January 2025. We anticipate having a hybrid model workshop with an in-person and virtual component to it. The workshop will be two separate days, January 8, 2025 and January 9, 2025, both held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Sacramento.

January 8, 2025 will be for our Law Enforcement applicants. This year the Division has chosen to include a snippet of the OHV Laws course taught by Division Law Enforcement Team members as part of the workshop. The intent is to assist those Law Enforcement applicants in understanding the true intent of the Grants and what is allowable enforcement under the Grant program.

January 9, 2025 will be for all other Project types. This year the Division has chosen to become more interactive with the attendees in hopes to reinforce the ideas and topics that are being discussed.

Regulations

The OHMVR Division is currently working on a regulatory package to make amendments to Program regulations and documents incorporated by reference. The proposed regulation revisions will make the regulatory language more concise, clear and consistent. Specifically, there were nomenclature changes when referring to Native American Tribes within California, updates to numbering, spelling and an update to the equipment policy for all Applicant types.

A completed package was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review in July 2024. The written comment period ran until September 9, 2024. The Division did not receive any comments.

Simultaneously the Environmental team is working on a regulatory package for proposed changes that focus on the environmental requirements of the program and aim to improve the clarity of existing regulations, eliminate inconsistencies, and strengthen the connection between statute and program regulations. The proposed changes were developed over the past several years in working groups, including input from grantees and the public. The public comment period opened June 21st and closed

on August 12th. The Division received comments from three commentors. Those comments require response to be addressed within final regulatory package submission.

Both final regulatory packages were submitted mid-October to OAL for final review. The effective implementation of these new regulations is expected in early 2025 for the start of the G25 cycle.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

Final award summary