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OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Ocotillo, CA

November 19, 2026

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update Ocotillo Wells SVRA

STAFF: Eric Taylor

SUBJECT: Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan

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Summary

The following summarizes the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan Project

Discussion

Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update project began in 2009 to include newly added properties in the SVRA and to reflect policies and resource management requirements established following approval of the 1982 General Plan. In 2015, Ocotillo Wells SVRA and BLM's El Centro Field Office agreed to develop a joint General Plan and Recreation Area Management Plan for the Ocotillo Wells SVRA/Ocotillo Wells Special Recreation Management Area.

The project was paused in 2019 and resumed in 2024 due to budget constraints and the COVID pandemic. In Summer 2025, BLM changed its administrative direction and withdrew from the project. The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update will continue to focus on providing management guidance for state park-owned lands, as well as 26,000 acres of connected BLM land that State Parks manages as part of the SVRA under an existing memorandum of understanding.

The project website was relaunched in early 2026: https://planocotillowells.org/. State Parks filed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on February 20, 2026. The NOP included a 30-day scoping phase and public comment period, which concluded on March 23. Preparation of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR is ongoing and is expected to be released to the public for review and consideration in early 2027. The project is projected to come before the Commission for consideration in mid- to late-2027.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

N/A