State of California • The Natural Resources Agency
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OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Palm Desert, CA

November 19, 2026

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

STAFF: Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No Action Needed. For information only

II. BACKGROUND

Katie Metraux of the Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning and Recreational Services Division will present a report highlighting several planning efforts underway within State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs).

The update includes information on the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan and the OHV Access Initiative.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- SVRA General Plans Chart

OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Palm Desert, CA

November 19, 2026

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

STAFF: Erik Taylor, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

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.

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

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OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Palm Desert, CA

November 19, 2026

STAFF REPORT: Planning Program Update

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SUBJECT: Status of Planning Efforts for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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Summary

The following summarizes recent State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and OHV planning projects and initiatives.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan

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OHV Access Initiative (SB155)

Senate Bill 155 (2021) directs California State Parks to pursue opportunities to expand off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation, prioritizing large urban areas such as the Bay Area and the Central Valley. Potential ways to expand OHV recreation include acquisition, lease, land swap, partnerships, donation, transfer, legislation, and other approaches outlined in the Public Resources Code.

Phase One of the OHV Access Initiative ran from 2024 to 2025, focusing on data collection and community participation and culminating in the development of an OHV Access and Enhancement Plan. This plan included an assessment of numerous potential sites across federal, private, and state lands.

Phase Two, started in Summer 2026, has involved ongoing research and evaluation, including meetings with representatives from SVRAs and federal entities to discuss potential projects and sites. Projects and sites have been appraised based on criteria such as cost, location, and projected completion timelines, as well as their compatibility with existing OHV Grant projects, ensuring they complement rather than compete with them. These projects are organized into a phased approach to deliver benefits to the public as quickly as possible: 1-3 years, 3-5 years, and 5-10 years. The Department will prioritize and select based on project funding availability and project readiness.

Draft Final Report. State Parks has prepared a draft final report on the OHV Access Initiative that documents the project's phases, processes, outcomes, and next steps. State Parks welcomes feedback from the OHMVR Commission and the public on this draft report. Staff will revise the report, and the final version will be available on the project webpage: https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=31220.

A. Status of SVRA General and Management Plans

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	Plan Status & Updates in Progress
Prairie City SVRA	2016 1991		Approved by the OHMVR Commission in September 2016
Carnegie SVRA	2024 2016 1981		The Commission rescinded the 2024 GP and EIR in June 2026. Working on recirculating the EIR with two additional alternatives. The Revised EIR to the General Plan will be brought to the Commission in Spring 2027.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012		The OHMVR Commission approved the GP in June 2012
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011		The OHMVR Commission approved GP in December 2011
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981		The Commission approved the GP on Feb 26, 2026.
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981		It is anticipated to be brought to the Commission in 2027 for consideration and action.
Onyx Ranch SVRA			Awaiting project funding.

Commission Action: For information only.

Attachments: N/A