



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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Armando Quintero, *Director*

OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Pomona, CA

November 4, 2022

STAFF REPORT: Resolution Recognizing Howard Harris of Hollister Hills SVRA

STAFF: Mike Lynch, Park and Recreation Specialist
Cheryl Ashton, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist

SUBJECT: Adoption by the Commission of a Resolution Recognizing the many OHV Recreation contributions of Howard Harris

Summary

On October 21, 2022, the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) designated Hollister Hills Ranch as a California Point of Historical Interest (CPHI). On December 3, 2022, a ceremony will be held at Hollister Hills SVRA to recognize this designation and dedicate a Point of Historical Interest plaque. A significant portion of the CPHI designation was the historical use and development of OHV recreation at Hollister Hills Ranch, beginning in the early 1950s, by Howard Harris, owner of the ranch. Harris would, in 1970, open the first OHV park (Hollister Hills Motorcycle Playground) approved by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors. In 1975, Harris sold his Hollister Hills Ranch to the State of California, instead of developers for a much greater profit, to ensure the continued use of OHV recreation on the property. Harris for decades, starting in the late 1960s, was deeply involved in developing and promoting safe and responsible OHV recreation in California. For instance, he was Chairman of Bureau of Land Management's Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Council which developed and adopted the 64-page Federal "Operation ORVAC – Recommendations and Guidelines for the Management of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Domain Lands in California" in 1973, which resulted in the recommendations being incorporated into Presidential Executive Order 11644 on off-road vehicle management in California. Harris' more detailed contributions to OHV recreation in California are contained in the resolution. The resolution will be presented to the Harris family at the December 3rd event.

Discussion

Questions, comments are statements regarding Howard Harris.

Commission Action

Approve Resolution

Attachments

Resolution Recognizing the Significant Contributions of Howard W. Harris to OHV
Recreation