



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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Armando Quintero, *Director*

## OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Kings Beach, CA

June 12, 2025

**STAFF REPORT:** Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Operations Update

**STAFF:** Jon O'Brien, Acting District Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District

**SUBJECT:** Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

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### Summary

Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) is the only coastal State Vehicle Recreation Area (SVRA) and is located just south San Luis Obispo, CA in the Five Cities area. It offers a diverse array of recreational opportunities including beach camping and off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity on the dunes. The park is approximately 3600 acres with approximately 800 acres currently open to OHV activity. The current use numbers are 300 units of beach camping, 1500 street legal vehicles for day use, and 1500 OHVs. Beach camping will be sold-out on weekends through the summer. Day use numbers will be high during the summer busy season and will sell out on most weekends.

Like all State Parks Districts, Oceano Dunes District has robust programs in public safety/visitor services, facilities and maintenance, interpretation and education, natural and cultural resource management, and planning and events.

The Public Safety Department is fully staffed with 15 State Park Peace Officers, 3 Sergeants, and the Chief Ranger. Between January and May 2025, there were 1500 calls to service. Oceano Dunes District Peace Officers participated in Peace Officer Memorial Day on May 15, 2025 and took part in the law enforcement vehicle procession. There was an enforcement sweep of the Pismo Lakes property with neighboring law enforcement agencies on May 21, 2025 leading to one arrest and two citations. The Law Enforcement Torch Run to support the Special Olympics of Southern California was on June 2, 2025. Oceano Dunes District Rangers participated in the event.

The Maintenance Department facilitates daily maintenance activities around the District and supports all of the different program areas. A long-term Water/Wastewater project was recently completed in collaboration with headquarters, IT, and our contractors. This project now allows the District to monitor, track, and receive alarms from the lift stations. Wind fences at Strand, Pier, and Grand Ave were installed in April 2025 and are being maintained weekly

by the heavy equipment crew. The housing project for state-owned housing is in its final phases. The plan is to complete the project within the next six months.

The Interpretation and Education Department (Interp) provides educational programs for schools and the public, in addition to general interpretive efforts for the District. The District is winding down 2024-2025 school group season having provided programs for 95 school groups, with 3,570 attendees for the school year. The programs included Discovering the Dunes Distance learning program, and yak tityu tityu yak tithini (YTT) Northern Chumash program.

Interp is now gearing up for summer with planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual sandcastle competition to Celebrate Parks Week. It will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025. For more information or to sign up go to [CaStateParksWeek.org](http://CaStateParksWeek.org).

The Natural and Cultural Resources Programs work to conserve resources throughout the District through monitoring and species protection efforts to ensure their long-term conservation. Activities include ongoing surveys for special status species, including western snowy plover and California least tern, and for other species identified in the ODSVRA Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan (WHPP). Other activities include planning for restoration projects and for dust control efforts for the 2025/26 planting season and working to complete and publish our Habitat Conservation Plan. The Habitat Conservation Plan is a multi-year effort with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to memorialize the conservation efforts for special status species in the District.

The Cultural Resource Program includes ongoing consultation with local tribal representatives, and initial discussions with tribes on Tribal Lands Acknowledgement.

The District Planning Department administers special events for the District, including films and other events, and is the lead on all District planning efforts. There are several upcoming special events including the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Cal Poly Rodeo. The Planning Department also works with concessionaires for services provided throughout the District.

## **Commission Action**

For information only