



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Redding, CA

March 24, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Dust Reduction and Bird Conservation Expenditures at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA)

STAFF: Desiree Goyette, Staff Services Manager II

SUBJECT: Air Quality and Bird Conservation

Summary

Air Quality Mitigative Costs -Oceano Dunes SVRA

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCO) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division (OHMVR Division) entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA) (Case No. 17-01) on April 30, 2018, which was modified on November 18, 2019, and October 14, 2022. Pursuant to the SOA, the Hearing Board retains jurisdiction over the matter until December 1, 2025. The original SOA requires that the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) “evaluate, assess, and provide recommendations on the mitigation of windblown PM10 emissions from Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA)” The 2022 amendment to the SOA requires that the mass-based PM10 emissions be reduced to a level consistent with the pre-disturbance scenario identified by the SAG.

To effectively manage the ODSVRA and meet the legally binding commitments of the SOA for its future, the OHMVR Division prepares Annual Report and Work Plans (ARWPs) to satisfy the requirements of the Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (Plan). The Plan is a companion document to the SOA that captures the history, legal requirements, policies and regulatory commitments involved in ODSVRA land management activities. These ARWPs are informed to “eliminate emissions in excess of naturally occurring emissions that violate the state and federal total PM10 air quality standards”. All of these activities and costs are documented by the OHMVR Division and available to inform community members and stakeholders about the resources required to maintain and meet the SOA. These efforts are necessary to support operations that are viable for continued OHV recreation. Projects include

installing foredune vegetation, removing wind fencing and replacing with native dune scrub vegetation, collecting field data on meteorology and air quality parameters, performing scientific analysis on data collected during field work, rental of equipment needed to implement projects and labor crews to assist with activities.

**Air Quality Expenses at Oceano Dunes
District
FY 2011-12 through 2022-23**

Fiscal Year	Air Quality Expenses
2011-12	\$860,262.80
2012-13	\$1,398,060.00
2013-14	\$1,480,397.63
2014-15	\$1,671,675.81
2015-16	\$1,295,593.36
2016-17	\$1,380,027.51
2017-18	\$927,186.53
2018-19	\$2,756,937
2019-20*	\$2,699,305
2020-21*	\$3,128,576
2021-22*	\$4,087,509
2022-23*	\$3,072,911
Total	\$24,758,441.64

Bird Conservation Mitigative Costs -Oceano Dunes SVRA

Projects are implemented each fiscal year to comply with the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and the provisions of a legal settlement with the Sierra Club dating back to 2004. These management activities are also implemented each year as part of annual agreements with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Bird Conservation efforts rely heavily on a labor workforce for daily monitoring of shorebird populations, fence maintenance and installation, enhancement of habitat for nesting areas, and the gathering and entering data for annual reports. In the current fiscal year of 2021-22, you will notice an increase in costs as seasonal staff have been added to better maintain and install bird fencing. Thanks to these efforts, the Plover and Tern program at ODSVRA is one of the most successful programs on the west coast.

Bird Conservation Expenses at ODSVRA FY 2011-12 through 2022-23

Fiscal Year	Bird Conservation Expenses
2013-14	\$875,220.27
2014-15	\$972,437.72
2015-16	\$1,023,164.99
2016-17	\$1,151,914.75
2017-18	\$1,240,154.13
2018-19	\$1,658,255.10
2019-20	\$1,353,233.06
2020-21*	\$1,386,391.54
2021-22*	\$1,382,708.13
2022-23*	\$769,244.37
Total	\$11,812,724.06

*Expenditures and encumbrances have not been finalized and may be adjusted.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None