



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

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OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

San Diego, CA

August 1, 2024

STAFF REPORT: Oceano Dunes SVRA
STAFF: Jon O'Brien, Environmental Program Manager
SUBJECT: Oceano Dunes SVRA Air Quality Update¹

Summary

State Parks entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA; Case No. 17-01) with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) in May of 2018². That agreement was amended in 2019³ and again in 2022⁴. The focus of the SOA is to reduce particulate matter levels downwind of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA), thereby improving air quality for downwind communities. The updated air quality target as per the 2022 amendment of the SOA is to 'eliminate emissions in excess of naturally occurring emissions...that contribute to downwind violations of the state and federal PM10 [particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less] air quality standards.'

State Parks has been working with the APCD and the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to develop a framework to quantify 'emissions in excess of naturally occurring emissions'. The SAG finalized the framework in December of 2023⁵. State Parks worked with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) to implement the framework. The results were submitted to the APCD on March 15, 2024⁶.

According to the results, the emissions coming off ODSVRA are NOT in excess of naturally occurring emissions, with the PM10 mitigation projects in place. State Parks is currently working with the SAG and DRI on outstanding air quality modeling updates and new emissivity measurements, but the initial results indicate that State Parks is in compliance with the SOA.

State Parks is currently working on the 2024 Annual Report and Work Plan (ARWP), as required by the SOA. The primary focus of the ARWP is the excess emissions framework and results. In addition, State Parks is proposing to convert 12.3 acres of straw treatments to native dune vegetation, in addition to 28.9 acres of supplemental planting to past projects. There will also be continued air quality and dune geomorphology monitoring to inform the air quality program and ongoing adaptive management. A draft of the ARWP

was submitted to the SAG on July 1, 2024 and an updated draft is on track to be submitted to the APCD by August 1, 2024.

The APCD Hearing Board⁷ meeting is set for October 15, 2024. The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial body that oversees the SOA. The excess emissions framework and results will be presented to the Hearing Board at that meeting as the proposed updated target of the SOA.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

1. <https://www.slocleanair.org/air-quality/oceano-dunes-efforts.php>
2. <https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/Filed%20%26%20Approved%20SOA%20Case%2017-01%20Apr-30-18.pdf>
3. https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/AMENDED%20Order%20of%20Abatement%2011-18-19_FILED_12.pdf
4. <https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/SOA%2017-01%20Second%20Amendment%20Final%20Adopted%2010-14-2022%20%26%20Filed.pdf>
5. https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/SAG%20Memo_Emissivity%20Grids%20for%20Future%20Modeling%20of%20Excess%20Emissions%20-%2020231219.pdf
6. https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/Modeling%20to%20Determine%20the%20Condition%20of%20Excess%20Emissions%20for%202023%20ODSVRA%2003_14_2024.pdf
7. <https://www.slocleanair.org/who/board/hearing-board.php>