



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

PO Box 942896

Sacramento, California 94296

Armando Quintero, *Director*

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION

West Sacramento, CA

April 2, 2025

STAFF REPORT: Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

STAFF: Jon O'Brien, Acting District Superintendent, Oceano Dunes District;
Environmental Program Manager, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle
Recreation Division

SUBJECT: Air Quality Program Update

Summary

In May 2018, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA; Case No. 17-01)¹ with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to address elevated levels of coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) downwind of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA). That agreement was amended in 2019², 2022³, and in October 2024⁴. The air quality objective of the SOA is 'to eliminate emissions in excess of naturally occurring emissions...that contribute to downwind violations of the state and federal air quality standards.'

Based on the Scientific Advisory Group's (SAG) developed Excess Emissions Framework⁵, the mass emissions from a 'pre-disturbance' scenario are compared to the mass emissions from the current scenario to determine compliance with the SOA. The emissions from the pre-disturbance scenario are currently greater than the emissions from the current scenario and as such State Parks is currently in compliance with the SOA.

The air quality model used to calculate mass emissions is being updated with the 2024 emissivity data collected at OSDVRA. These data will further inform the emissivity for both the pre-disturbance and current scenarios although it is not expected that the results will significantly influence compliance with the SOA. As such, it is expected that State Parks will remain in compliance with the SOA. These results are expected in the first half of 2025.

As per the 2024 amendment of the SOA, the agreement is transitioning to a maintenance and adaptive management phase, with no new acreage of dust mitigation being proposed.

As per the 2024 Annual Report and Work Plan (ARWP)⁶, State Parks has converted 12.3 acres of past temporary dust mitigation projects to native dune vegetation. In addition,

there was supplemental planting of 28.9 acres of past dust mitigation vegetation projects. The work was completed in late winter 2025.

At the October 2024 APCD Hearing Board meeting⁷, the Hearing Board requested a new air quality metric, based on measured PM10 concentrations, be developed to inform compliance with the SOA. The SAG is working on this metric and it is expected to be finalized in 2025. There will be a Hearing Board meeting regarding this metric on June 25, 2025⁸.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

1. Original Stipulated Order of Abatement: <https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/Filed%20%26%20Approved%20SOA%20Case%2017-01%20Apr-30-18.pdf>
2. 2019 amendment of Stipulated Order of Abatement: <https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/AMENDED%20Order%20of%20Abatement%2011-18-19 FILED 12.pdf>
3. 2022 amendment of Stipulated Order of Abatement: <https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/SOA%2017-01%20Second%20Amendment%20Final%20Adopted%2010-14-2022%20%26%20Filed.pdf>
4. 2024 amendment of Stipulated Order of Abatement: <https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/Proposed%20Modification%20to%20Stipulated%20Order%20of%20Abatement%2017-01.pdf>
5. Excess Emissions Framework: https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/SAG%20Memo_Emissivity%20Grids%20for%20Future%20Modeling%20of%20Excess%20Emissions%20-%2020231219.pdf
6. 2024 Annual Report and Work Plan: https://storage.googleapis.com/slocleanair-org/images/cms/upload/files/2024ARWP_ProvFinal_20240911_reduced.pdf
7. October 15, 2024 Hearing Board Meeting: https://slocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/4679?view_id=7&redirect=true
8. APCD Hearing Board: <https://www.slocleanair.org/who/board/hearing-board.php>