

Bonita Ernst

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San Luis Obispo County
Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board
3433 Roberto Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

I am a 20 year tax paying homeowner/resident of Oceano, CA just off Hwy 1. I first lived here for a short time on Strand Ave in 1977.

I beg the Board to do the right thing and give nearby homeowners and residents a right to breath non toxic air again and shut down all ATV activity in the Oceano Dunes.

As Coast Commission Steve Padilla stated "It blows my mind.... It's like we have to weigh between the value of people's right to recreate in a cool way and abhorrent public health impacts. To me, I'm sorry, in my world, forgive me if you think I'm crazy, but it is ludicrous that that's even a discussion."

As a resident for 20 years, it has blown my mind too that the town of Oceano and it's mainly lower income residents have been held hostage to State Parks, the ORVA and companies like Sun Buggy from Las Vegas. (<https://youtu.be/9hjSEuyR8QA>)

Some health problems have already been well documented, but some have not. Personally, I have experienced numerous eye problems over the past 8 years. All required doctor visits and various eye medications (including one surgery) - thousands of dollars. When I asked my Ophthalmologist if all my problems could possibly associated with the particulate dust from the dunes he said - that's highly likely. So health problems for myself and others, though not documented, have been happening and will continue if the situation does not change.

I appreciate the efforts of the APCD and staff for working on this very difficult problem. The ORVA is a well-funded & vocal organization - I'd say akin to the NRA. State Parks has done nothing but drag their feet on this problem.

And they will soon want full control with their so called "Habitat Conservation Plan". Both ORVA and State Parks have been taking advantage of an economically dis-enfranchised population and it needs to STOP.

I recently saw a documentary about Mesothelioma - cancer caused by breathing asbestos. Now when most people hear the word asbestos - they KNOW it's dangerous and deadly and must be avoided.

But when people hear "Particulate dust" they think - dust is on my desk, dust is under my bed....what's the big deal. Even though this dunes dust has proven to be extremely

unhealthy and deadly. I believe if you substituted the word “Asbestos” for “particulate matter” you would soon have a different feeling about this deadly problem.

Please do the right thing for all residents in Oceano and Nipomo.

Bonnie Ernst

Home owner and resident – Oceano, CA