

October 10, 2023

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

Dear Hearing Board Members:

The San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (District) has the important authority and responsibility to adopt and enforce rules and regulations for controlling local anthropogenic sources of air pollution, including windblown dust, to achieve and maintain State and federal air quality standards in San Luis Obispo County. For the past two decades, the District has been investigating elevated coarse particulate (PM₁₀) levels downwind of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (the SVRA) which is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). A portion of the elevated PM₁₀ levels measured downwind of the SVRA results from off-road vehicle activity managed by State Parks within the SVRA.

The Stipulated Order of Abatement (the Order), a legal agreement between State Parks and the District, was adopted in 2018 and amended in 2019 and 2022. In accordance with the Order, the District and State Parks have successfully worked together to reduce emissions from the SVRA. To date, State Parks has implemented dust controls on over 400 acres and provided additional dust control benefits by prohibiting public access to nearly 300 acres to protect nesting Snowy Plovers and California Least Terns.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) commends the District and State Parks for their collective efforts to reduce particulate emissions in areas downwind of the SVRA, thereby improving air quality for local residents. Since State Parks implementation of dust controls within the SVRA, PM₁₀ air quality in and around the SVRA has improved significantly. CARB also recognizes that dust control projects take time to reach full effectiveness, especially in the case of vegetation projects. CARB expects that the maturation of the vegetation projects will continue to reduce emissions and downwind PM₁₀ levels going forward.

As required by the Order, State Parks has submitted their 2023 Annual Report and Work Plan (Work Plan), outlining the prior year's progress and a work plan for the upcoming year. CARB is supportive of the District's provisional approval of the Work Plan, and supportive of continued consultation with the Scientific Advisory Group needed to further refine modeling and emissivity grids to develop a final model that can be used to determine compliance with the Order.

Hearing Board Members, SLOAPCD

October 10, 2023

Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 322-2739, or have your staff contact Michael Benjamin, D. Env., Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division, at (916) 201-8968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edie Chang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "E".

Edie Chang, Deputy Executive Officer

cc: Gary Willey, Air Pollution Control Officer, San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District

gwilley@co.slo.ca.us

Michael Benjamin, D. Env., Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division