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**Subject:** Re: KEEP THE OHV RECREATION AT PISMO OCEANO DUNES SVRA OPEN!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:13:16 PM

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On Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 7:02 PM, Derek Roberts <[drobotcscehs@gmail.com](mailto:drobotcscehs@gmail.com)> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I have been going to the dunes my whole life and they are a big part of why I moved my family here. I also care deeply about the environment and animals.

I don't know if you read these letters, but I am unable to attend the meetings in person tomorrow as they are scheduled during business hours. I cannot take time off work as it is very expensive to live on the Nipomo/AG Mesa.

I would like to start out by explaining the life cycle of sand. Sand is made up of many different elements but is mostly broken up rock, shell, coral, and bone that is ground down over time by the ocean's current. The surge of the water and the break of every wave every day, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the ocean is constantly grinding the sand into silt. As the tide goes up and down the silt is deposited on the beach. It then dries and the wind blows it back on land where it settles and turns back into rock through time.

One of the complaints is that off-road vehicles are grinding the sand into a finer silica dust that then blows on to the Mesa. I am sure there is some very small amount of this that happens; however, it is miniscule compared to the life cycle of sand and the amount of dust that is naturally occurring. The ocean is going to grind the sand and the wind is going to blow it inland. Closing the OHV park is not going to change that fact. Proof of this natural concept can be seen in the closure of the Guadalupe Dunes. The town of Guadalupe still has massive amounts of sand blown into the streets from the dunes that are no longer driven on.

Another major contributor to dust is the agricultural fields off Highway 1 that separate the dunes from the Mesa residences. The plumes of dust from the dirt as farmers are constantly turning the fields create dust storms on a regular basis. Those dust storms blow directly onto the Trilogy residents.

The non-native eucalyptus trees were planted years ago to keep the naturally occurring dust down, to make the land more desirable. However, cutting off the eucalyptus trees to make way for housing and golf courses began. During the pre-construction environmental studies, the Trilogy home builders were warned of the potential dust issues because of the NATURALLY occurring dust problem. The builders ignored the recommendation and built million dollar homes anyways. The homes were purchased mostly by older retired couples that are susceptible to

health issues or have pre-existing respiratory conditions. A wet cold climate is not conducive for respiratory health. The fact of the matter is, Trilogy residents have deep pockets and want the dunes shut down because they do not like or understand OHV recreation. Unfortunately, they have focused in on naturally occurring dust from sand dunes to shut the dunes down.

The rich and retired residents of Trilogy have banded together. They are retired and able to make it to day meetings. However, they do not represent the hundreds of thousands of people that use the park each year. As a matter of fact, I believe we have enough information to warrant opening more of the park.

The Trilogy residents would like to see non-native species of plants planted in the dunes. Sand is an extremely harsh growing environment, so fertilizer must be used to make the plants grow. As a Coastal Commission charged with protecting the coast environment, I would think you would be more concerned with man-made fertilizer being used that close to the ocean. It could wash into our ocean and cause horrible damage.

Another issue that has been discussed is the occasional running of the Arroyo Grande Creek into the ocean and vehicles driving through that creek. 2016 brought on massive amounts of rain. As a resident, I could go check the river out daily. What I found was massive amounts of garbage, vegetable scraps and a massive amount of debris from the agricultural operations upstream being pumped onto the beach and into the ocean. As a dune riding community, we came together and cleaned up all this garbage to keep our beloved beach clean. If driving through the creek is truly an issue, there are other entrance options like opening the Oso Flocco entrance or another entrance off Willow or access through Phillips 66.

Originally the park was 15,000 acres it has been reduced to 1,500 acres. Reducing it further and taking away such a beloved place from thousands of people is the real tragedy here. The massive amount of park users are requesting for you to open more riding area, not close anymore. We have already been robbed of 91% of our OHV park. The park should grow along with more riding area.

The last issue I would like to touch on would be the financial impact the community. As I'm sure you know, Diablo Canyon power plant is slated to close. The local community will be losing hundreds of millions of dollars of income in addition to a lot of high paying jobs they support the small businesses. The small businesses are going to be dependent on the income from tourism to stay open. The biggest draw of tourism is the OHV park. Anything other than leaving the park as it is or opening more riding area will directly decrease the amount of tourism and be detrimental to the community.

The most important reason to keep the dunes open is that it is a wonderful place to take family and friends. The best memories are made out there. Most of our trips I am able to get three, sometimes four generations of my family together to have fun and enjoy one another's company. This past Thanksgiving we had at least 10 families all come together and enjoy Thanksgiving under the stars listening to the waves crashing. I love this place as do thousands of others. Please let that weigh heavily into your considerations of the park's future.

There is a 2010 and 2017 sand mitigation report that states we are not the cause and there is no measurable trace of silica....

PLEASE investigate the validity of silica coming from the SVRA and what impact does the marine biological material coming from the ocean have on all the air monitoring data?

What percentage of dust is coming from the SVRA?

Until these vital questions are answered, areas of the Oceano Dunes SVRA should not be closed down!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Derek Roberts

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Thank you,

Derek