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161 W. Chestnut Street
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San Luis Obispo County
Air Pollution Control District
3433 Roberto Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA)

To: The Board of The Air Pollution control District

I am writing as a lifelong resident of Nipomo, in regards OHV recreation in the Oceano Dune area. The riding area continues to get smaller and it's only a matter of time before you will have it closed, as we are all aware that is the ultimate goal. The pretense of temporarily closing or fencing areas for rejuvenation and plant growth will only result in permanent closures a little piece at a time. As an off-road enthusiast, it's a common practice I've seen on many trails. Anyone who believes a trail or open space will be closed temporarily, is fooling themselves and will be disappointed to learn it will never open again.

I grew up on the Nipomo Mesa, my Father and I took many drives thru Oso Flaco, onto the beach and dunes. It was something we both enjoyed and created some of the best memories of my childhood. One thing that always stuck with me from those rides in the dunes, was my Father stopping at the top of each dune to carefully look before we would proceed down. When asked why he would say, "the wind blows out here constantly. That blows the sand and changes the dunes shape and size all the time" It made sense and explained why he was always cautious.

Over the years I've seen access to the beach via Oso Flaco disappear. Then large areas of the dunes started to disappear by being fenced off. All of which have never come back, as some poor fools believed it would. Now we have acres and acres of trees that have been removed for big expensive homes and golf courses. Trees that lined the edge of the Mesa for many, many years and provided a certain amount of shielding and lessened some of the wind and dust. We always kept our windows closed on windy days because yes, the dust would blow. The dust has blown up onto the mesa for the 54 years I have been alive, it blew before that, and it will blow after I am gone. The homes that were built on the Mesa will always have dust to contend with, with or without OHV recreation in the dunes. Because as my Dad said, "The wind blows the sand."

None of my family have any health effects from 50 plus years of living on the Mesa, I don't know of any neighbors that had any growing up, nor do I know of any now. We have people that have moved here from many areas. Areas we know nothing about in regards to the amount or type of pollution they have been breathing for 1 to 60 years. Now these same people have been here less than 12 years and claim they are dying from dust OHV is causing. I find that odd and believe there needs to be more solid scientific information from multiple, non-bias sources.

I don't feel people that have moved into this area, which is known for sand dunes and OHV recreation, did their due diligence. They are wanting to end something that has been part of this area for hundreds of years. It's part of every person's life that grew up on the Central Coast and I would love for it to be part of my Grandchildren's lives also. There are thousands of people that enjoy the Oceano Dunes and recreate there with their families. There are memories being made, just like the ones I have with my Father, every weekend with hundreds of other kids. This closure effects the livelihood of hundreds of employees, business owners and residents that rely on the revenue from the OHV recreation. These people aren't in the financial position of those calling for the closure and they will be causing financial ruin for residents that have been here much longer than they have.

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