

From: [Luis Sousa](#)
To: info@slocleanair.org
Subject: Please Do Not Close the Oceano Dunes
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 2:20:32 PM

My name is Louie Sousa. I live in Turlock, CA, and I have been riding at The Oceano Dunes for over 27 years. Many of the best times with my wife and daughter have been spent at the Oceano dunes. Part the courtship of my wife involved our visits to the Oceano Dunes. Many of the life lessons I taught my daughter were on the Oceano dunes. I have a 10 year old nephew whose parents are not in his life. I have become his father figure, and I have begun teaching him the same lessons I taught my daughter through our visits to the Oceano dunes. The Oceano dunes are much more than a riding area. It is a place where family and friends go to reconnect, enjoy each other's Company, and create bonds and relationships that last a life time. I heard an interesting comment at last February's Coastal Commission meeting. How often in these times do you see teen agers want to be with their parents? I know when, and where, at the Oceano Dunes. If you take these dunes away for off road use, you take all these things away.

I have not seen any information to support the resident's claims. I see information, but it does not make any sense. Wind blows at the beach. The beach has soft sand. The wind will pick up the sand and it will become dusty. It did this before anyone ever rode vehicle on the dunes; it does it now, and will continue to do it until Mother Nature decides to stop it.

As I previously stated, I have been going to Pismo for 27 years. I have been exposed to the environment at the Oceano Dunes. I do not have any respiratory health issues related to the being exposed to the Oceano environment. Neither does my wife, daughter, or nephew. None of the people I know who also go to the Oceano suffer from any respiratory health problems related to their time spent at the Oceano dunes. From the Social Media posts I see, there are people who are on the dunes on a weekly basis, and I believe it would be safe to say, they do not suffer from any respiratory problems related to their time on the Ocean Dunes. So how is it that the sand from Oceano causes health issue to the residents, but not to the users? I know you can argue about time spent, etc, but one would think that if the dust is really the catalyst for respiratory disease, we would see a tick somewhere in the off road user population with this condition. With the way social media and our news

organizations operate, if there was any occurrence where an off road enthusiast was experiencing the same respiratory problems due to their time spent at the Oceano Dunes, somebody would have gotten that information out. I do not know about you, but I have not seen it.

I heard an interesting, reoccurring statement from residents at the Coastal Commission Meeting in February. It was stated by some of the residents that they already had respiratory problems before they moved to the area. Well, I am sorry for them, but if you move into an area next to the ocean, then you should expect some sand in the air. Do not blame us, blame your selves.

There was already a barrier in place to help with the dust in the area. It was the eucalyptus trees. But the developers cut down the 600 plus acres of eucalyptus trees to build their houses. So if you want to blame someone for your so called dust problem, blame the developers.

There is a lot of farming where I live. There are times were there is a lot of dust in the air from crops being harvested and fields being prepared for the next crops. We also get some interesting smells from the dairies. You know what we do? We deal with it. What are we going to do, tell agriculture to stop? No, it doesn't work that way. You learn to adjust and live with it. And live we do. I haven't heard of anyone dying from an almond crop being harvested, or from a farmer working his ground to plant his corn.

In conclusion, I would like to hear answers from anyone in favor of closing the Oceano dunes to off road use, to answer a few questions...

1. What is your plan for the businesses that rely on the activities at Oceano Dunes?
2. What are you going to for the business owners who have to close their doors?
3. What are you going to do for the businesses that lose revenue?
4. And, probably most importantly, what are you going to do for the people who lose their jobs? How are you going to help them put food on their families' tables and help them pay their bills?

Respectfully,

Louie Sousa