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John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov; info@slocleanair.org; jim@oceanodunes.org
Subject: From a 4x4 enthusiasts and closet tree hugger re: possible Oceano Dunes closure, please read.
Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018 8:42:04 AM

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Pete Williamsen. I work in the four wheel drive aftermarket, I am an avid four wheel drive enthusiast, but I also care deeply about the conversation, pollution and environmental issues that plague our country. I am somewhat of a unicorn in the industry; I strongly advocate that people on both sides of these issues come together for a common sense fix that works for everyone.

I acknowledge that my sport has some downsides, and as a four wheel drive enthusiast I take full responsibility for the part I play in these issues. However, I also feel that the four wheel drive community, just like other outdoor enthusiasts from hikers to hunters, can be a resource and play a part in larger solution instead of being part of the problem. Most in this community do care about issues related to pollution and land management, but like everything in the political and social climate in this country right now they are often forced to take a side, leading to a polarized debate that gets us nowhere. Within my own community I often feel pressure to side against environmental groups and land management organizations despite the fact that I feel very passionately about these issues. I do not understand why these issues lead to an us versus them debate, with proposed solutions that only address one side of the issue. That is what I am seeing happen now with the debate regarding Oceano Dunes, and frankly it frustrates and angers me not because those advocating closure are entirely wrong, but just like the other side of the argument, they tend to only discuss the issue within their own echo chamber instead of involving others with opposing views.

Oceano Dunes has been a destination for four wheel drive enthusiasts since there were four wheel drive vehicles. I myself have been going to Pismo beach to throw my Land Cruisers around on the dunes and camp on the beach since I was a teenager. I urge the people involved in this decision to work with people in the four wheel drive community to come up with a solution that keeps Oceano Dunes open to OHV activities while addressing some of the concerns of the local community and environmental groups. Limiting the number of vehicles able to enter the dunes at any given time, requiring entry fees, and even seasonal closures are just some of the ways that I can see there being some middle ground that gives everyone something of what they want, and I am sure there are people smarter than I am that can come up with something better than those solutions. The complete closure of Ocean Dunes to OHVs will only serve to further drive a wedge between auto enthusiasts and conservationists, which helps *no one*. I beg you to consider solutions that can be used as an example of how to find common ground so that we can move forward together on addressing the broader issue of American's attitudes toward land use, conservation and pollution. Publicly acknowledging compromise can be difficult when you represent a community where those with the most extreme views have the loudest voices. I know how hard it is to advocate for everyone to calm down when I myself am so passionate about the issues that effect me. People on both sides of this issue will be upset with a compromise, everyone thinks they're right of course. But if one side can show some restraint, understanding and forethought, maybe there is the possibility of the two sides coming together on more of these issues in the future, making our outdoor spaces better, cleaner and better managed for everyone and everything.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Pete Williamsen