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Hello my name is Santiago Lopez. Here is a letter/email. Debbie sits on the Grover Beach City Council and use to serve on APCD until she was removed for questioning the APCD's direction on this issue and she has always supported ODSVRA and Friends of Oceano Dunes. She was nervous of making me nervous by sitting next me at the last meeting releasing the Economic Impact Report, I laughed, told her to sit herself down, I would NEVER be worried to be seen with her!!!!

“Dear Friends,

You haven't heard from me for a long while because I have been recuperating from multiple injuries, the slowest to heal being a brain injury, following an auto accident in June 2017. Thank you for bearing with me in this process and understanding that electronics and large gatherings are contraindicated. However, the news I heard this morning is too important not to share because community action is critical.

Last night the Grover Beach City Council agreed to pay its share of the two-county \$1m economic impact study addressing the loss of 1,500 Diablo jobs. Tourism is the number one economic engine in our cities, county and state. The February 2018 Economic Impact Report (<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov>) on our 19 miles of Beach, uniquely visited because it is driveable, estimates it generates 2,500 local jobs. So what's the most important thing we can do to mitigate the loss of 1,500 jobs at Diablo? Protect 2,500 jobs generated by our Off Highway Vehicle park and pro-actively pursue additional economic opportunities it could provide.

You may recall that as mayor I was, and continue to be, condemned by the then city council and the Tribune for my advocacy for just this. While on the Air Pollution Control District Board I carefully researched several years of reports and agreed with now Pismo Beach Mayor Ed Waage, PhD Chemistry, that the APCD claim that vehicles in the dunes cause dangerous particulate on the Mesa was incomplete and inaccurate. When Will Harris, Senior Engineering Geologist for the California Geological Survey expressed the same concerns he was demoted for several months because Supervisors Adam Hill and Bruce Gibson made an unauthorized complaint to his boss on Board letterhead.

On March 8, 2017, State Parks completed the third of three tests of the crystalline silica (sand) content of the particulate blowing onto the Mesa and all three show "non detect". For 10 years the APCD scared Mesa residents with the threat of silicosis caused by vehicles in the dunes. The APCD implied and later outright claimed crystalline silica was present when in fact, it was not. They enlisted County Health Officer Penny Borenstein to make claims about silicosis, that the Coastal Commission castigated Parks about. The threat of silicosis was repeatedly covered in the press and in public comment. It is now conclusive. There is no risk of silicosis. The APCD never actually tested for airborne silica until April 2017. They sat on that report and tested again in May 2017 and in June 2017. And still they sat on the data. Why? Because the analyses said it wasn't there.

Additionally, the renowned Scripps Institute has analyzed the particulate and concluded vehicles on the dunes are not causing it. The particulate is made up primarily of salt and biological material blowing off the ocean, which is (of course) much bigger than the riding area. These reports are on the OHV website and are linked below.

The takeaway? The particulate isn't coming from the riding area, and it isn't going to give anyone silicosis. Despite this very reliable science, State Parks has continued to cooperate with the APCD to attempt to reduce the sand blowing onto the Mesa. Tomorrow is the second hearing of an appeal by the former Chief Executive whose desired outcome is to have state parks shut down more of the park every time an air quality exedence (the natural process of dune creation when high prevailing winds from the northwest blow sand onto the Mesa) is recorded. We can't stop the wind, so the inevitable outcome is to shrink and close the riding area over a course of years.

Even if, like me, you suffer from lung disease and do not like to ride off highway vehicles in the dunes, now that we know conclusively that we are not killing people by having vehicles in the dunes, you will understand that the loss of 1,500 jobs at Diablo with up to 2,500 in the dunes would devastate the Five Cities and seriously harm the County.

Public Reports on the OHV Website:

A report by Scripps regarding plankton and related bacteria contributing to PM10:  
[http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/25010/files/Oceano\\_Dunes\\_SVRA\\_Scripps\\_Investigation\\_Planktonic\\_Aerosolized\\_Partacula.pdf](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/25010/files/Oceano_Dunes_SVRA_Scripps_Investigation_Planktonic_Aerosolized_Partacula.pdf)

From Will Harris: This report regards LACK OF CRYSTALLINE SILICA IN DUST. NO RISK WHATSOEVER:  
[http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/25010/files/Determination\\_of\\_Airborne\\_Crystalline%20Silica\\_Quartz\\_Exposure\\_ODSVRA\\_12-14-2017.pdf](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/25010/files/Determination_of_Airborne_Crystalline%20Silica_Quartz_Exposure_ODSVRA_12-14-2017.pdf)