

October 10, 2023

APCD Hearing Board and Staff
San Luis Obispo County

Dear Hearing Board Members and Staff,

As I write my public comments for your upcoming board meeting on October 13, I noticed that I wrote an almost identical letter to you exactly two years ago.

In October of 2021 I wrote to urge you not to accept the provisionally approved Annual Work Plan for the Ocean Dunes SVRA because it fell far short on agreed measures between State Parks and the APCD. Two years later you are being asked to “accept and file” a work plan that proposes no new mitigation measures. For the second consecutive year you are presented with a work plan that essentially says no further action is needed.

The goal of the original SOA was set to achieve a 50% reduction in air quality hazards resulting from OHV activity on the dunes. It remains a reasonable goal that can be achieved. But as the years pass, we see continued efforts to dilute that goal. This board should not sit back and allow it to happen.

During the past 30 days there were high wind events causing residents on the Nipomo Mesa to experience poor air quality. When coupled with the recent heat wave, it made breathing very difficult especially for those with asthma or other respiratory conditions. Nipomo topped the list of worst air quality in the country. Is this not reason enough to stay the course with your efforts?

The California Air Resources Board said it best in a letter to the APCD dated September 26, 2023: *“Modeling and collected measurements continue to demonstrate that Oceano Dunes derived windblown dust is the largest contributor to the PM10 exceedances measured at air monitoring sites downwind of Oceano Dunes.”* Why then is this board being asked to ease up on the mitigation efforts that have been shown to be effective?

We residents of the Nipomo Mesa urge you not to accept the watered-down work plan for 2024. Please insist upon real mitigation efforts that will continue to improve our air quality and comply with both state and federal standards.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Williams
Nipomo, CA