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**Agencies Embrace Streamlined Approach to  
Reduce Particulate Matter from Oceano Dunes**

The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD), the County of San Luis Obispo (County), and the California Department of Parks and Recreation announced today that their joint Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to work together on reducing particulate matter (PM) emissions from the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area will be dissolved and replaced with a more streamlined process. The MOA has accomplished its primary goal of bringing the three entities together to cooperatively address the issue; a more expeditious approach is now needed to ensure the process continues to move forward in a timely manner. Through the current MOA, prominent fugitive dust experts from the Desert Research Institute have been hired and are currently finalizing the design of a pilot project program for implementation in early spring. The agencies have also begun discussions on the scope and content of the long-term Particulate Matter Reduction Plan for the dunes.

Under a more streamlined process, State Parks will oversee the efforts of the technical experts to implement the three pilot projects, with APCD and the County providing input and guidance throughout the duration. At the same time, APCD will move forward in drafting a Fugitive Dust Rule for the Oceano Dunes. The long-term PM Reduction Plan will then be developed by technical experts overseen by State Parks, in consultation with the APCD and the County, to meet the requirements outlined in the APCD Rule. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft regulation through public workshops and Board hearings scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall of this year.

Larry Allen, the Air Pollution Control Officer, stated: "I'm very pleased at the cooperative efforts and progress made to date by the APCD, the County and State Parks on this most vexing issue. The joint decision to streamline the process shows the commitment of all three agencies to continue working together effectively while maximizing resources to accomplish the goal at hand – reducing airborne particulate matter downwind of the Oceano Dunes."