



**JOEL ANDERSON**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** February 10, 2021

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT**

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, also known as California State Parks, manages the 1.4 million-acre state parks system. Since 1971, California State Parks has overseen an off-highway motor vehicle program, managing the strong demand for off-highway recreation while fostering respect for private property rights and protecting California's natural and cultural resources.

Although the siting of an off-highway motor vehicle park in the County of San Diego has been considered, the County has not submitted an application to California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR) seeking grants to investigate the feasibility of establishing an off-highway motor vehicle park in the County. The OHMVR has opened its 2021 grant cycle, setting a preliminary application deadline of March 1, 2021. This board letter would authorize the County's application to OHMVR requesting a 2021 planning grant.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

1. Find that these proposed actions are not a project in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State Guidelines sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(4).
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare and submit an application by March 1, 2021, to the California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division's 2021 Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program, seeking an award to fund the planning activities to identify and establish an off-highway motor vehicle park in the County of San Diego.
3. Adopt a resolution titled: APPROVING THE APPLICANT TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANT FUNDS

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer, upon the award of an Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division grant, to take all necessary actions to secure the awarded grant funding.
5. Following the award of an Off-Highway Motor Vehicle planning grant to the County, direct the Chief Administrative Officer to conduct the activities necessary to begin the process to site an off-highway motor vehicle park in the County of San Diego, including conducting any necessary review under CEQA once a site is identified, and return to the Board as necessary.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's request to apply for and accept grant funds from California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Grant Program. If approved, today's actions would authorize the submittal of one, or more, project application(s) for grant funds up to \$1,000,000 for an off-highway motor vehicle park. Acceptance of a grant award requires the County to provide a match of twenty-five percent. If approved, and the grant(s) are awarded, matching funds will be provided through in-kind services in the form of County of San Diego staff time up to twenty-five percent of the value of the grant. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue in the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Board approved a waiver of Board Policy B-29 for LUEG grants on June 24, 2020 (12), therefore a waiver is not requested as part of this action. If grant funds are awarded, the Department of Parks and Recreation will return to the Board to establish the necessary appropriations in the applicable fiscal year. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

The receipt of a grant award resulting from an application to California State Parks would provide the County an opportunity to enter into a contract with a private-sector consultant to undertake the work necessary to locate an off-highway motor vehicle park. If a park is established, additional new business opportunities involving the sale of recreational vehicles and equipment and related tourism activities would result in new revenue opportunities for the region's business community.

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, also known as California State Parks, manages the 1.4 million-acre state parks system. Since 1971, California State Parks has overseen an off-highway motor vehicle program, managing the strong demand for off-highway recreation while fostering respect for private property rights and protecting California's natural and cultural resources.

The Department's Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program provides financial assistance to cities, counties, districts, federal and state agencies, educational institutions, Native American Tribes, community conservation corps and nonprofit entities. This program awards funding to these entities to support the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration,

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

operation, enforcement, restoration and conservation of trails and other facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles and related safety or education programs. Although the siting of an off-highway motor vehicle recreation area in the County of San Diego has been considered, a formal process has not yet been undertaken. As a result, off-highway motor vehicle enthusiasts must travel long-distances, adding a significant number of unnecessary miles to the region's vehicle miles traveled and related emissions from those trips.

The popularity of off-highway motor vehicle recreation has continued to grow, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic, as our region's residents seek healthy outdoor activities away from populated areas. To illustrate this fact, the number of off-highway motor vehicles registered in San Diego County in 2020 totaled 118,735 – the third highest county total in the state.

Approximately two-thirds of the County's 4,526 square miles consist of mountains and deserts in the mostly undeveloped backcountry. This provides an abundance of land that can be considered for the establishment of the County's first off-highway motor vehicle park. The siting of a park would also assist in the region's economic recovery efforts by providing new opportunities for the sale of vehicles and equipment and could result in an expansion in the County's tourism industry.

California State Parks opened its 2021 grant cycle and application process on January 11, 2021. The County can submit a preliminary application to the department by the March 1, 2021 deadline. The County is eligible to apply for a planning grant by this deadline to fund the initial step of identifying a location within the County of San Diego compatible for off-highway vehicle recreation activities.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

The proposed actions authorized by this Board letter are not a project in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State Guidelines sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(4). The approval to apply for the state off-highway recreational grant is the creation of government funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. If the grant is approved, the County will use the funds to locate potential sites for an off-highway motor vehicle park, and the Department of Parks and Recreation will return to the Board for to establish the necessary appropriations for future projects, and perform the necessary CEQA review for any future identified sites.

**SUBJECT:** CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE  
RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

These actions support the County of San Diego's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan Sustainable Environments/Thriving Initiative by enhancing the County's infrastructure to strengthen the local economy and by fostering an environment where residents engage in recreational interests by enjoying parks, open spaces and outdoor experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOEL ANDERSON  
Supervisor, Second District

**SUBJECT:** CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**  Yes  No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**

Yes  No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

B-29

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

Board Policy B-29 mandates that departments seek to recover the full cost of all services provided to agencies or individuals outside the County of San Diego organization. Reimbursement by fees, contracts and grants will be for the full cost of all services, with certain exceptions approved by the Board. The Board approved a waiver of Board Policy B-29 for LUEG grants on June 24, 2020 (12), therefore a waiver is not requested as part of this action.

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**

N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Board of Supervisors, District 2

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):** N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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