

July 10, 2019

c/o: [ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov)

Mr. John Ainsworth  
Executive Director  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street  
Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: SEMA Recommendation to Renew Current Permit for Oceano Dunes SVRA

Dear Executive Director Ainsworth:

The Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) respectfully urges the California Coastal Commission to renew the current permit which allows off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. The area is already implementing a five-year comprehensive planning effort for OHV management between the California State Parks Department and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.

SEMA represents the \$45 billion specialty automotive industry comprised of 7,500 member companies nationwide. The industry provides appearance, performance, comfort, convenience and technology for passenger and recreational motor vehicles. Many SEMA member companies provide the equipment necessary for enthusiasts to enjoy outdoor recreation.

SEMA also operates the SEMA Action Network (SAN), a nationwide partnership of vehicle clubs, enthusiasts and members of the specialty auto parts industry who want to protect their hobby. Founded in 1997, the SAN has over 65,000 individual and car club members throughout the United States and Canada and is in direct contact with at least several million Americans through electronic communication, publications and social media. A primary mission of the SAN is to support and protect reasonable access to motorized recreation.

Oceano Dunes SVRA provides the only opportunity for outdoor motorized recreation at a state park along California's Pacific coast. It has been enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts from across the country for decades under a permit first issued by the Commission in 1982.

OHV recreation is an important contributor to the local economy. While bringing pleasure to thousands of enthusiasts, the monies spent at area stores, motels, restaurants and gas stations support jobs and generate tax revenues. In fact, the California State Parks Department estimated that the Oceano Dunes SVRA generated over \$240 million in economic impact for San Luis Obispo County over during FY 2017 (July 2016-June 2017).

**Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)**  
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The OHV community wants to make sure this valuable resource is available for generations to come. For that reason, it entered into the above-referenced five-year settlement agreement between the California State Parks Department and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. The agreement is intended to decrease fine particulate matter (PM10) emissions by about 30% by 2023. Under the agreement, about 100 acres of riding area would be immediately fenced-off, including some within the popular La Grande Tract. State Parks will be seeking to achieve additional 5% PM10 reductions each year for the next four years. The program includes reintroduction of native vegetation within fenced-off areas, deployment of wind fences, and installment of grooved concrete to help remove sand from vehicle as they exit the park.

Oceano Dunes SVRA is a valuable resource which is already subject to reduced OHV access to address environmental issues. SEMA respectfully recommends that the California Coastal Commission allow the settlement agreement to be fully implemented under the current permit.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Gosswein", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Stuart Gosswein  
Sr. Director, Federal Government Affairs  
202/777-1220; [stuartg@sema.org](mailto:stuartg@sema.org)