**Friends of El Mirage**

Comments submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to individual Grant Applicants should in no way be construed as a guarantee of successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grants process or a commitment of funding. Additionally, the lack of comments by the OHMVR Division to any specific Applicant does not ensure successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grant process or a commitment of funding.

All final Applications will be reviewed by the OHMVR Division. The OHMVR Division may, at its sole discretion, decrease the requested amount and eliminate activities pursuant with regulation Section 4970.07.2 (f)(1-5) and for law enforcement Projects, regulation Section 4970.15.3(b)(1-5).

Failure by Applicant to respond to any OHMVR Division comment of their preliminary Application may be cause for eliminating that item from the Applicant’s Application.

If multiple proposed Projects are requesting funding for the same deliverable, and multiple projects are successful, only one project will receive funding for the deliverable.

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for snow and/or winter activities. Applicants must ensure the activities and/or Equipment/Heavy Equipment requested are not and/or cannot be funded by the Department’s Winter Program (commonly referred to as the Snow Grooming Program).

*For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for the maintenance of roads and/or trails, note that only roads and/or trails that allow “green sticker” Off-Highway Vehicles are allowed to receive Grant funding.*

Applicants are reminded that no Grant funds and/or match can be expended, or Project activities conducted in any land owned or managed by the Department except as allowed in the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program regulations section 4970.09 (b)(10).

**General Evaluation Criteria**

* #2-5 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.
* #7c – Although Applicant’s response matches the Land Manager, note the Land Manager received a comment.
* #8b – Although Applicant’s response matches the Land Manager, note the Land Manager received a comment.
* #10a – Although Applicant’s response matches the Land Manager, note the Land Manager received a comment.
* #11a – Although Applicant’s response matches the Land Manager, note the Land Manager received a comment.
* #11d – Although Applicant’s response matches the Land Manager, note the Land Manager received a comment.
* #13 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.

**Ground Operations, 2024 Ground Operations - El Mirage OHV Area G23-04-11-G01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* No comment.

***Project Description – List of Project Deliverables***

* #1 – Applying a road base to Twin Hills Road where degradation impacts soil erosion was in the previous year’s Application. Applicant must confirm and clarify this Project deliverable is still needed.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Contracts #1 “Visitor Center Staff” – Applicant must confirm the total cost does not include 1.6% of contractor time that handles non-OHV related inquiries and contacts.
* Materials / Supplies #1 “Signs & Decals” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. Costs did not increase from previous year’s Application.
* Materials / Supplies #5 “Supplies-Safety Equip” – Applicant must clarify the need for this line item as it was in the previous year’s Application. In addition, spare safety equipment is considered an indirect expense as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move the verbiage for this item and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Costs category.
* Materials / Supplies #6 “Supplies-Kiosks” – A similar line item was also included in last year’s Application. Applicant must clarify how the activities in this line item are different from the previous year’s Application.
* Materials / Supplies #7 “Supplies-Road Base per ton” – Rate significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the rate.
* Equipment Use Expenses #3 “Mid-Size 4x4 (3) (FOEM)” – Quantity significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the quantity.
* Equipment Use Expenses #9 “Dump Truck (FOEM)” – Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. Rate was not the “same as last year”, the rate was less.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #3 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Maintaining trails that provide for multiuse”. Applicant must provide example(s) of the activities performed as part of the Project to support the selection.
* #6 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Protecting water quality”. Project Area does not contain any bodies of water.

**Restoration, [El Mirage / Stoddard Valley Subregions] G23-04-11-R01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* Both the Applicant and the Barstow Field Office are proposing Restoration activities, such as site selection and cultural clearance, within the Stoddard Valley Subregions. Applicant must further clarify how these Project activities are different and will not overlap.

***Project Description – List of Project Deliverables***

* #2 – Patrolling for illegal incursions is a law enforcement activity and is not part of the Project; Applicant must clarify the meaning of patrol in this Project.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Equipment Use Expenses #1 “Light Equip Miles” – Applicant is reminded that fuel cost from mileage are eligible expenses, but Equipment not purchased through the Grants Program is not eligible for regular maintenance expenses.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #2 – Narrative does not support the selections of “Sensitive areas…”, “Threatened and Endangered…” and “Other special-status...”. Applicant must identify the *number* (e.g.,1, 2, 3) of “Sensitive areas”, “T&E listed species” and “Other special-status…” rather than the names in the boxes to the far right of the selections. Applicant must also move the sensitive areas and species listed to the narrative. Lastly, “Bodies of Water” is not supported by the narrative; Applicant must clarify impacts that would occur if the Project failed to be funded.
* #4 – The Project Description section does not support the selection of “Identification of alternative OHV routes…”. Applicant must provide additional details in this section to support the selection.
* #11 – Project Description section does not support “Greater than 10 acres…” of sensitive habitats which will be actively restored within the Project Area. It is not clear if the areas listed are “sensitive habitats”. Applicant must provide additional details in this section to support the selection.

**Education & Safety, El Mirage Lakebed Protection Education Program G23-04-11-S01**

The activities identified in this Project are Restoration in nature. Applicant is advised to move these activities and the cost associated with them to the G23 El Mirage/Stoddard Valley Subregions Restoration Project.

**Education & Safety, Education & Safety - OHV Visitor Safety G23-04-11-S02**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* Applicant must spell out the acronym for SCTA.
* SCTA time trail events are not considered OHV Recreation under 16.5 California Vehicle Code. Applicant must remove any language related, and any cost associated in the Project Cost Estimate with SCTA time trails events.
* Promoting and recruiting students for the monthly ASI ATV instruction course is not an eligible Project activity in an Education & Safety Project. Applicant must remove language and the cost associated with the activity from the Project Cost Estimate.

***Project Description – List of Project Deliverables***

* No comment.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Contracts #1 “OHV Parks Rangers” – Applicant must provide additional information on the OHV Parks Rangers (i.e., BLM employees, Main Street Murals employees, or other).
* Contracts #1 & 2 – Contracts appear duplicative. Applicant must either remove or explain the need for separate line items completing Project activities.
* Contracts #2 “Main Street Murals, Inc.” – Compared to like Projects, cost appears excessive. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the cost of this line item.
* Material / Supplies #2 "ATV rider supplies" – Line item is ineligible as the Project does not provide ASI ATV Training courses. Applicant must remove line item.
* Materials / Supplies #3 “Supplies for outreach events” – Line item is considered indirect as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move this line item to Indirect Costs category.
* Equipment Use Expenses #2 “Cargo trailer rental” – The need for this line item is unclear, as Main Street Murals is listed as a contractor and possesses a trailer. In addition, Applicant must verify if the trailer, in question, was purchased through the Grants Program.
* Indirect Costs #2 “Uniforms for staff” – Purchasing safety vests worn by ATV/UTV staff and volunteers is an ineligible expense as the Project does not provide ATV/UTV Training. Applicant must remove language and cost to purchase safety vests from the line item. In addition, purchasing uniforms for part-time Park Rangers is not eligible as they are the responsibility of the contractor. Applicant must remove language and cost to purchase safety vests from the line item.
* Indirect Costs #4 "Diem Cost for Dumont Dunes and KOH " – Per diem is an allowable expense for an organization's employees. This Project does not have any staff who would be eligible for per diem. Applicant must remove line item.

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #4 – Narrative does not support the selection. "ATV Safety Institute" is not a partner as ATV training is not part of the Project.  In addition, SCTA is not an eligible partner.
* #6 – Narrative does not support the selection of “The Applicant held a meeting(s), held either in person or virtual, with multiple distinct stakeholders…”. Applicant must clarify how they are stakeholders to the Project.
* #8 – “Social Media” and “Website” are not eligible selections, as they are not a part of this Education and Safety Project. The Project Description section does not support the selections of "Hands on learning" and "formal class setting" as methods of education. Applicant must provide additional details in this section to support the selections.
* #10 – Narrative does not support the selection. Data must align with information provided in evaluation criteria #8 and correlate with the response provided in the narrative of evaluation criteria #9.
* #11 – Narrative does not support the selection. Providing ASI ATV Safety training is not part of this Project.