

May 9, 2024

Hello Commissioners!

At 3:44PM on Thursday, May 9, 2024, the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (Division) of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) posted reports for your commission meeting to be held next Thursday, May 16, in Arroyo Grande. This meeting will occur the day after the Commission members and the public tour the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

What is interesting about the posted reports is not what is in them, but what was not provided.

By now you know that State Parks has spent more than \$25 million in an attempt to eliminate PM10 violations on the Nipomo Mesa. This was revealed in March 2022 at the Commission's meeting in Redding, CA. As the Commission's upcoming tour of Oceano Dunes SVRA will reveal, that spending continues in earnest, as does the sacrificing of hundreds of recreational acres of the park. To date, more than 740 acres of the park have been artificially covered to eliminate violations of the state's PM10 standard (more on this later).

Given that the May 2024 meeting is focused on Oceano Dunes, you might think the Division and DPR would provide you an update on that spending—you should not have to request it. But State Parks has not. Why? Well, it's an ostrich thing: On top of that \$25+ million, they have spent millions more. It's not stopping. And critically, they have nothing to show for it.

The point of all the Division's spending is to theoretically meet the obligations of the stipulated order of abatement (SOA) imposed against Oceano Dunes by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD). And the primary obligation of the SOA is to eliminate exceedances of the State's PM10 standard on the Nipomo Mesa (see chapter 3 of [this document](#) regarding PM10 and the state standard). And yet those exceedances continue in earnest.

Between this week and last week there were 14 violations of the state's PM10 standard on the Nipomo Mesa--14 violations in just 12 days (see image on the next page). And that's only the most recent data to show that the Division and DPR are getting NOTHING for the millions in public dollars they have spent. As you know, the [Scripps investigation](#), which the Division paid for, has proven that, contrary to SLOAPCD claims, the PM10 on the Mesa is not dust from Oceano Dunes. In fact, there is very little dust in the PM10, making it doubtful the Oceano Dunes OHV recreation contributes anything to Mesa PM10. So of course the PM10 violations continue--Oceano Dunes and OHV recreation have nothing to do with PM10 on the Mesa.

You deserve to know the latest spending on these ineffective SOA/PM10 related undertakings as does the public. I respectfully ask that you request an immediate update on the budget for this wasteful, meaningless effort.

Respectfully,

Will Harris, Professional Geologist

May 9, 2024

San Luis Obispo County Daily Average PM10 (BAM) Data Seven Day Display Ending 05/08/2024 Micrograms/Cubic Meter (ug/m3)									
Bas Cnty	Site Name	7 Day Max	05/02/2024	05/03/2024	05/04/2024	05/05/2024	05/06/2024	05/07/2024	05/08/2024
SCC SLO	Arroyo Grande-2391 Willow Road	64.6	64.6	17.5	5.6	44.0	45.7	56.8	
SCC SLO	Atascadero-Lift Station #5	11.7			5.4	7.8	9.8		
SCC SLO	Nipomo-Guadalupe Road	80.3	80.3	15.8	6.0	41.8	46.5	67.2	
SCC SLO	Nipomo-Oso Flaco Lake Road	47.3	47.3	47.3	8.6	26.3	31.4	41.2	
SCC SLO	Nipomo-Regional Park	40.5	40.5	16.6	6.1	18.7	19.9	32.8	
SCC SLO	Paso Robles-Santa Fe Avenue	22.1	22.1	13.3	5.4		10.6	13.3	
SCC SLO	SLO-Roberto	19.7	19.7	9.3	2.1	7.5	6.6	12.3	

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Asterisk (*) indicates 25% or more hourly values are missing. Cell color is red if national 24-hour standard level is exceeded. Cell color is yellow if state 24-hour standard level is exceeded.									
Change Selection									
2024 May 8									
Bas Cnty	Site Name	7 Day Max	04/27/2024	04/28/2024	04/29/2024	04/30/2024	05/01/2024	05/02/2024	05/03/2024
SCC SLO	Arroyo Grande-2391 Willow Road	79.9	64.5	67.4	76.3	79.9	57.6	64.6	17.5
SCC SLO	Atascadero-Lift Station #5	12.1	10.9	12.1	8.1				
SCC SLO	Nipomo-Guadalupe Road	96.7	72.6	78.2	80.2	96.7	58.8	80.3	15.8
SCC SLO	Nipomo-Oso Flaco Lake Road	57.5	34.9	43.8	48.6	57.5	50.9	47.3	47.3
SCC SLO	Nipomo-Regional Park	42.9	22.5	31.2	36.6	42.9	41.0	40.5	16.6
SCC SLO	Paso Robles-Santa Fe Avenue	25.6	14.2	12.8	18.9	25.6	24.9	22.1	13.3
SCC SLO	SLO-Roberto	24.5	10.2	10.3	18.8	24.5	20.4	19.7	9.3

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Violations of the California PM10 Standard from the Air Resources Board air quality website.

The red-circled items are the 24-hour PM10 readings from the two air quality monitoring stations that are on the Nipomo Mesa and operated by the SLOAPCD. These circled values indicate violations of the state's PM10 standard. There were 14 violations, including six days in a row. The violations spanned over just 12 days, from April 27, 2024 to May 7, 2024.