



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division  
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**Armando Quintero, *Director***

**OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

**STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE**

Santa Clarita, CA

February 26, 2026

**STAFF REPORT:** Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update  
**STAFF:** Katie Metraux, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division  
**SUBJECT:** Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report

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**I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

1. Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update, and adopt the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations and Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan (MMRP) associated with the FEIR.
2. Approve the Draft General Plan Update for Hungry Valley SVRA.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Katie Metraux of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Strategic Planning and Recreational Services Division, is submitting the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and Draft General Plan Update to the OHMVR Commission for its proposed certification and approval.

**III. ATTACHMENTS**

- Staff Report
- Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program
- Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan proposed plan map



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**Summary**

State Parks is submitting the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan, and Draft General Plan Update to the OHMVR Commission for its proposed certification and approval.

**Discussion**

***Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update***

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update (General Plan or Update) will offer a comprehensive management strategy for the park's roughly 19,625 acres. It serves as a blueprint for future decisions about land use, facilities, recreational opportunities, and the management of natural and cultural resources. The Update considers changing conditions, reviews the latest information and data, and includes lands added to the park since the 1981 General Plan was adopted.

***Project Location and Setting***

Hungry Valley is the third largest SVRA in the California State Park System. Located in Tejon Pass, north of Los Angeles along Interstate 5, Hungry Valley covers 19,625 acres and features over 130 miles of scenic trails for motorized recreation. The varied terrain and trails provide challenges for all skill levels. Camping is also a popular activity.

Since the park is approximately 45 miles from downtown Bakersfield and 60 miles from downtown Los Angeles, it is conveniently close to many members of the Southern California riding community. The towns of Gorman and Lebec are within a 10-minute drive from the park.

Hungry Valley SVRA is surrounded by extensive open space and rural lands. Most of the land surrounding the park is managed by the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests, as well as the Department of Water Resources. In 2015, California State Parks acquired 845 acres adjacent to the park's northern boundary, known as the Condor

Mesa Area. The Update adds the Condor Mesa Area to the SVRA to support public enjoyment, park operations, and resource management.

### ***Purpose of the General Plan Update***

The General Plan Update will guide the park's management and development for public use and resource protection over the coming decades. The plan sets forth goals and guidelines to support daily and long-term management of the units, ensuring the preservation of natural and cultural resources while providing various appropriate recreational opportunities. In line with State Parks Planning efforts, the Update includes a programmatic Environmental Impact Report that examines the environmental impact of implementing the plan. Certain projects proposed by the General Plan may require additional California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review at the time of execution, including second-tier environmental evaluations of their potential impacts. Once approved, this General Plan Update will replace the 1981 General Plan.

### ***General Plan and EIR Timeline***

The following is the timeline for the preparation of the General Plan and EIR:

- The Notice of Preparation for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was distributed to relevant agencies from November 2 to December 1, 2023. A virtual public meeting was held on November 15, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR were available for public review from August 18 to October 2, 2025, on the General Plan Project website, <https://www.planhungryvalley.com/>, at the Great Basin District Office, and at the California State Library.
- The Department and OHMVR Commission held a public tour of the SVRA on February 25, 2026.
- The Final EIR was prepared from October 2025 to January 2026 and made available for review starting January 23, 2026, on the project website, at the Great Basin District Office, the California State Library in Sacramento, and the OHMVR Commission Meetings page.
- The OHMVR Commission hearing to consider certifying the Final EIR and approving the General Plan Update is scheduled for February 26, 2026.
- The Final General Plan Update and Final EIR will be published on the California State Park General Plan webpage and the project website after the Commission hearing and adoption of resolutions.
- A Notice of Determination will be filed with the State Clearinghouse after certification of the Final EIR on February 26, 2026, at the OHMVR Commission hearing.

### **General Plan Proposed Changes and Additions**

The Declaration of Purpose outlines the goals of Hungry Valley SVRA and serves as the broadest statement of management objectives aimed at fulfilling the vision of the SVRA. A Declaration of Purpose is mandated by California PRC Section 5002.2(b). The previous Declaration of Purpose, adopted in December 1981, was revised during this General Plan process:

*The purpose of Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area is to provide a destination for off-highway vehicle recreation use given the recreational capacity of the valley floors and surrounding hillsides, with their varying steepness and landscapes; to offer a variety of recreational activities and a unique experience for visitors in and around the Southern California region; to ensure that there are appropriate facilities to serve the needs of present and future users; and to preserve natural, scenic, and cultural values in the SVRA through management, interpretation, and education.*

The Vision Statement anticipates what Hungry Valley SVRA will look like once it has achieved the General Plan Update's objectives and delivered the intended visitor experiences. The 1981 General Plan did not include a vision statement. The following vision statement was developed for Hungry Valley SVRA during the General Plan Update process:

*An area of open vistas, Hungry Valley SVRA offers high scenic interest with its open grasslands and wildflower fields on the rolling hills in the north, steep canyon and barren cliffs in the center and riparian vegetation in the south. Hungry Valley SVRA's vision is to continue to attract visitors for its various recreational amenities, facilities, and natural resources; to further opportunities for interpretation, education, and events; to support multiple recreation opportunities; and to appreciate the environment, including cultural and natural resources. Hungry Valley SVRA represents a longtime tradition of riding and camping with family and friends. The SVRA is a convenient escape from urban areas offering trails for OHV recreation over a wide variety of terrains and topographic features that appeal to many OHV enthusiasts and other outdoor recreationists. Visitors are encouraged to learn and follow the principles of safe and responsible recreation and resource stewardship. Hungry Valley SVRA will continue to maintain and foster partnerships with surrounding landowners and stakeholders to preserve its success for decades to come.*

### **Summary of Proposed Projects in the General Plan Update**

See the attached General Plan maps (Figures 4-2, 4-3, and 4-4) and corresponding legend labels (e.g., R1, F3) for the locations of the proposed projects.

#### **Circulation**

The General Plan Update includes repaving Gold Hill Road (R1) and paving Hungry Valley Road (R2) and Quail Canyon Road (R3) to improve circulation through the SVRA (Figure 4-2). Permanent erosion-control measures will be implemented as needed to address historical erosion along these roadways and maintain access and connectivity throughout Hungry Valley SVRA during severe weather events.

#### **Facilities**

The General Plan Update proposes improvements to existing facilities and the construction of new ones within Hungry Valley SVRA (Figure 4-3). New operational support office buildings (F1)

would be constructed at the northern boundary, adjacent to the Gorman House, to support operations in the Hungry Valley SVRA. The existing maintenance and administration buildings (F2) are proposed for upgrades to meet current accessibility and safety standards and to support the park's operational needs. Upgrades would occur within existing building footprints, and buildings that cannot be upgraded to meet current standards would be demolished. The Gorman House (F3) would remain in its current location and use.

A new Visitor Center (V1) is proposed at the Smith Forks Campground. The current Visitor Center at the North Entrance will be repurposed into a storage facility, and the new location will be more accessible to visitors.

A community event area (E2) is proposed for local, community-oriented, or State Parks events along Frazier Mountain Park Road in the Condor Mesa Area.

### **Camping**

A reservable group campground is proposed near the Smith Forks Campground (G2), along with the addition of ADA-accessible restrooms. A new RV campground with full hookups (G3) is proposed in the Condor Mesa Area along Frazier Mountain Park Road.

### **Recreation**

The General Plan Update proposes a designated unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) area (U1) within the Quail Canyon Special Event Area.

To expand opportunities for use of practice track facilities, a new kids' track (KT) is proposed near the Edison Canyon Campground, and a new skills track (ST) is proposed near the Smith Forks Campground.

A new staging area (SA) is proposed in the southern portion of Hungry Valley SVRA near the Smith Forks Campground to support equipment loading for both overnight and day-use visitors. The new staging area will include a designated parking area, shade ramadas, and OHV loading/offloading ramps. Figure 4-4 shows the general location of these recreation opportunities.

### **Distributed Riding Area**

Hungry Valley SVRA will maintain a Distributed Riding Area with boundaries adjusted from 3,200 acres to about 2,400 acres, protecting sensitive resources without changing management.

### **Trails Only Area**

Hungry Valley SVRA will keep its Trails-Only Area. About 3.5 miles of new trails will be added in the Condor Mesa Area, totaling roughly 134 miles. The area will suit various skill levels, with trail accessibility affected by terrain, resources, and weather. Signage will stay appropriately placed. Although management of the Trails Only Area remains unchanged, around 800 acres near the western boundary will be redesignated from Distributed Riding Area to Trails Only to protect sensitive resources. Existing trails will remain unchanged.

### **Amenities**

Automatic payment systems (AP) are proposed at the North and South Entrances and at the proposed entrance on Frazier Mountain Park Road. The entrance kiosks will continue to be staffed by State Parks employees.

Electric vehicle (EV) dual-port charging stations are proposed near the North Entrance Station, the Condor Mesa Area along Frazier Mountain Park Road, the Gorman House, the Quail Canyon Special Event Area, and Smith Forks Campground.

### **Concessions**

A mobile concession (MC) for seasonal use and/or special events is proposed within the Quail Canyon Special Event Area.

### ***Revisions after the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR***

Public comments were received from August 18 to October 2, 2025, for the Draft Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR. Staff carefully considered all comments received when formulating the final Draft General Plan. Throughout the planning process, some changes were made in response to the comments listed below. The revisions to the General Plan and Draft EIR have been made for clarification purposes or, where needed, to add information or correct minor errors. Deletions are shown in strikeout and additions are shown in underline.

#### *Changes to Draft EIR*

The following text of Chapter 3, Section 3.3, Biological Resources, Table 3.3-2, on page 3.3-21 was revised as follows:

- Scientific Name: *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*
- Common Name: Western burrowing owl  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CDFW Status: SSG SE or ST Candidate Species

The following text of Chapter 3, Section 3.2, Air Quality, SJVAPCD Rules and Regulations, on page 3.2-14 was revised as follows:

SJVAPCD adopts rules and regulations to limit the generation of emissions from a range of sources and activities. All projects are subject to SJVAPCD rules and regulations in effect at the time of their construction. The following specific rules could potentially be relevant to the Proposed Project:

- Regulation II, Rule 2010: Permits Required
- Regulation II, Rule 2201: New and Modified Stationary Source Review
- Regulation III, Rule 3135: Dust Control Plan Fee
- Regulation IV, Rule 4002: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
- Regulation IV, Rule 4101: Visible Emissions
- Regulation IV, Rule 4102: Nuisance
- Regulation IV, Rule 4601: Architectural Coatings
- Regulation IV, Rule 4641: Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations

- Regulation VIII: Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions, including the following rules:
- Rule 8011—General Requirements
- Rule 8021—Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities
- Rule 8041—Carryout and Trackout (of dirt and other materials onto paved public roads)
- Rule 8051—Open Areas
- Rule 8061—Paved and Unpaved Roads (construction and use)
- Rule 8071—Unpaved Vehicle/Equipment Traffic Areas
- Regulation IV, Rule 9110: General Conformity
- Regulation IV, Rule 9510: Indirect Source Review (ISR)

The following text of Chapter 3, Section 3.2, Air Quality, Mitigation Measure (MM)-AQ-2, on page 3.2-30 was revised as follows:

All diesel off-road equipment rated 25 horsepower or more shall have engines that meet, at a minimum, the CARB-certified Tier 4 Interim or Tier 4 Final off-road emission standards (as specified by project site element below) during construction activities of the following project elements:

- New Group Campground (Tier 4 Interim)
- New RV Campground (Tier 4 Interim)
- Paving of Hungry Valley Road (Tier 4 Final)
- Paving of Quail Canyon Road (Tier 4 Final)

This requirement shall be verified through submittal of an equipment inventory to State Parks that includes the following information: (1) Type of Equipment, (2) Engine Year and Age, (3) either a photo of the CARB- or EPA-issued engine emission control label or written engine specifications confirming that the equipment meets the Tier 4 Interim or Tier 4 Final standard, ~~(3)~~ (4) Number of Years Since Rebuild of Engine (if applicable), ~~(4)~~ (5) Type of Fuel Used, and ~~(5)~~ (6) Engine HP, ~~(6)~~ (7) Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategy (VDECS) information if applicable and other related equipment data prior to the start of construction.

An exemption from these requirements may be granted by State Parks in the event that the contractor documents that equipment with the required tier is not reasonably available and corresponding reductions in criteria air pollutant emissions are achieved from other construction equipment. Before an exemption may be considered by State Parks, the contractor shall be required to demonstrate that two construction fleet owners/operators in the region were contacted and that those owners/operators confirmed Tier 4 Interim/Final equipment, as applicable, could not be located within Ventura County. If an exemption is granted by State Parks, the contractor shall use, at a minimum, Tier 3 equipment with a CARB-certified Level 3 diesel particulate filter in place of Tier 4 Interim/Final equipment.

*Changes to Draft Preliminary General Plan Update*

The following text of Chapter 2, Existing Conditions, Section 2.7.3, on page 139 was revised as follows:

Stormwater General Permit for Construction Activity (~~Order 2009-0009-DWQ~~) (Order 2022-0057-DWQ)

The following text of Chapter 2, Existing Conditions, Section 2.3.12, Table 2-7, on page 100 was revised as follows:

- Scientific Name: *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*
- Common Name: Western burrowing owl
- USFWS, CDFW Status: ~~SSG~~ SE or ST Candidate Species

### **Major Issues**

Chapter 3 of the General Plan Update outlines the primary planning issues, summarized below. Chapter 4, the Plan, addresses these issues through various goals, guidelines, and proposed projects.

- Additional Land Acquisition: State Parks seeks to acquire new lands adjacent to Hungry Valley SVRA to enhance recreation opportunities and ensure compatible land uses for OHV activities.
- Land Use in the Condor Mesa Area: The recently acquired Condor Mesa Area presents opportunities to introduce new recreation types, but development must consider nearby schools, cultural, and natural resource constraints.
- Camping Facilities Improvements: While new campgrounds aren't needed now, future upgrades may include more amenities or group camping, though water availability may be a limiting factor.
- Other Recreation: Expanding non-motorized activities (like hiking, biking, UAV use, and nature viewing) and special uses (filming, training) should be evaluated for compatibility with existing OHV activities.
- Development of Visitor Facilities: New amenities such as RV dump stations, event space, and improved entrances can enhance visitor experience, though limited water, staffing, and sensitive resources must be considered.
- Additional Tracks/Courses/Trails: There is interest in developing more trails and training tracks, including those for specific vehicle types and for beginners or children.
- Development of Operations Facilities: Existing ranger and maintenance facilities need upgrades or relocation to better serve staff and operations.
- Signage and Wayfinding: Improvements can include bilingual signage and modern wayfinding technologies (like apps), with design consistent throughout the park.
- Access and Circulation: Challenges include unstaffed entrances, road maintenance, flooding, and connecting to nearby USFS trails, requiring long-term planning and coordination.
- Improve Emergency Response: The lack of communication infrastructure and rugged, remote terrain limits effective emergency response. Improving ranger facilities and interagency coordination is needed, though vandalism and land ownership present challenges.

- **Contain Alcohol Consumption:** Limiting alcohol to campgrounds could reduce litter, but enforcement would require more staff.
- **Combating Wind Erosion and Maintaining Air Quality:** Wind erosion and dust from OHV activities can be mitigated through road improvements, closures, or watering.
- **Maintaining Water Quality and Mitigating Soil Erosion:** Stormwater runoff affects local water quality and requires ongoing road and trail maintenance and best management practices.
- **Biological Resources:** Special-status wildlife and habitats require careful management and may limit where recreation can occur.
- **Invasive Exotic Plant Species:** Ongoing management of invasive plants is necessary to protect natural resources, with early detection and rapid response being key.
- **Cultural Resources Constraints:** Known cultural sites require protection, which may restrict recreational uses; ongoing tribal coordination and public education are important.
- **Sensitive Receptors Exposure to Noise:** While noise complaints are low, land use near sensitive areas like schools must consider noise impacts and implement buffers.
- **Development of New Programs:** Additional safety and educational programs can improve public safety and resource stewardship, with a focus on youth and leveraging new technologies.
- **Foster Partnerships with Other Stakeholders:** Building relationships with local groups and stakeholders can enhance interpretation, education, and volunteer programs.
- **Climate Change Impacts:** Climate change will affect park operations, wildlife, and visitation patterns, requiring adaptive management and input from staff and leadership.

### ***Legal Issues***

No known legal issues relate to the OHMVR Commission's approval of the General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report for Hungry Valley SVRA.

### ***EIR Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures***

The EIR provides a detailed analysis of the potential significant environmental effects resulting from the implementation of the General Plan Update. The environmental analysis found that, with the incorporation of the project design features, implementation of goals and guidelines as directed by the General Plan Update, and adherence to regulatory requirements (e.g., State Parks and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation [OHMVR] Division requirements and guidelines, and requirements from regulatory agencies), implementation of the General Plan Update would result in no impact or less than significant environmental impacts to the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

No mitigation measures are required for the above resource areas because the impacts were found to be less than significant or have no impact. However, as identified in Section 3.2, Air Quality of the EIR, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in the significant air quality impacts listed below:

- Fugitive dust emissions in exceedance of applicable air district thresholds (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District)
- Valley Fever (*Coccidioides immitis*) risks associated with increased fugitive dust emissions

Even with the implementation of feasible mitigation measures (Mitigation Measures MM-AQ-1, MM-AQ-2, MM-AQ-3, and MM-AQ-4), impacts from operational fugitive dust emissions and associated health risk impacts would be significant and unavoidable due to the exceedance of local air pollution control district thresholds, the infeasibility of providing dust control in all areas of the park, and the infeasibility of controlling fugitive dust emissions through other methods.

### **Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations**

Pursuant to Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Commission may adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations, determining that the project's significant and unavoidable air quality impacts, as detailed in the EIR, are acceptable due to the legislative mandate to operate Hungry Valley SVRA as an OHV recreation facility; its proximity to urban centers, which reduces travel emissions, the inclusion of air quality goals, guidelines, and mitigation measures in the General Plan Update and MMRP; and the infeasibility of additional mitigation measures after thorough evaluation and consultation with local air districts.

All feasible mitigation measures have been incorporated to substantially reduce significant effects on the environment, as described in the findings, and the legal, social, and other benefits of the General Plan Update outweigh the unavoidable air quality impacts and are, therefore, acceptable.

### **Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program**

Pursuant to Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program has been prepared for the General Plan Update. The MMRP identifies proposed construction and operational avoidance measures to be implemented by State Parks or its contractors. Mitigation Measures MM-AQ-1 (Implement Fugitive Dust Reduction Measures during Construction), MM-AQ-2 (Require Tier 4 Interim/Final Construction Equipment), MM-AQ-3 (Additional Fugitive Dust Reduction Measures to Minimize Valley Fever Risk during Construction), and MM-AQ-4 (Increase Awareness of Valley Fever) are established to minimize

construction and operational air quality effects to the maximum extent feasible. The MMRP identifies responsible parties for implementation of these measures, timing, and reporting requirements/performance criteria. All other environmental effects from the General Plan Update would be avoided or minimized through implementation of the goals and guidelines described in the plan or by adherence to existing regulatory programs.

### **Potential Areas of Concern and Issues to be Resolved**

No areas of known controversy related to this project have been identified. The OHMVR Division of State Parks is the CEQA lead agency for this project. The lead agency must consider community needs and desires, long-term planning, and the OHMVR Division's mission to determine the appropriate uses and management of Hungry Valley SVRA. The General Plan Update included an extensive public outreach program and stakeholder coordination to inform the proposed alternative and proactively resolve issues.

### **Commission Action**

California State Parks recommends that the Commission take actions related to the Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Update by adopting resolutions to:

- Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report and adopt associated Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan; and,
- Approve the Draft Final General Plan

### **Attachments:**

- Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan Preferred Alternative Maps
- Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan