

FREEMAN PROPERTIES ACQUISITION

This proposal requests approval for California State Parks to spend \$670,000 of Opportunity Purchase funds from the OHV Trust Fund. In combination with \$680,000 of federal grant funds, this acquisition (Phase 1) would purchase approximately 4000 acres of property owned by the Freeman Trust. The area is comprised of public and private lands, consisting of approximately 14,727 acres.

Trust For Public Lands has been instrumental in helping to coordinate this project and holds the option agreement on these properties. The option expires July 17, 2006. If this land is not acquired by California State Parks, it is feared that much of the area will be developed. The area lies north of County Road S22 and west of State Route 86, adjacent and east of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and north of Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area.

In addition to the \$670,000 necessary for this purchase, the OHV Trust Fund would advance \$408,000 against monies to be received for the federal grant. The monies would be repaid to the Trust Fund by CalTrans over a three-year period.

The attached materials will provide an overview of this project. Future management of the property will be determined by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, based on an open and public planning process that would determine the most appropriate use of the property.