

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2018011012

Project Title: Oceano Dunes District Habitat Conservation Plan

Lead Agency: CDPR, OHMVR Division, Oceano Dunes District

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Project Location: Oceano, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach
City

San Luis Obispo
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR or State Parks) manages and operates Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) in San Luis Obispo County. Federally- and state-listed endangered or threatened species occur or potentially occur on the property, including western snowy plover (SNPL), California least tern (CLTE), California red-legged frog (CRLF), and tidewater goby, as well as six listed plant species. Two additional species that are federally proposed as threatened, southwestern pond turtle (SWPT) and western spadefoot (WSF), occur in the area.

Therefore, CDPR has prepared a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as part of its application for an incidental take permit (ITP), authorized under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). The HCP provides the basis for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issuance of a 25-year permit authorizing incidental take of listed animal species under FESA. CDPR has prepared a Recirculated Draft EIR due to changes to the Draft HCP, new species data, changed conditions, and public comments on the 2020 Draft HCP and Draft EIR.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The EIR impact analysis evaluates in detail potential impacts to land use, air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal resources, and recreation. The EIR concludes that impacts in all categories except air quality are not significant and do not require mitigation.

Impact AIR-1 (Impact of CA-50 on Sensitive Receptors and Achievement of Air Quality Standards): The proposed reduction of the East Boneyard Exclosure and 6 Exclosure (CA-50) could potentially change dune surface emissivity, increase dust generation, expose persons to substantial pollutant concentrations, and cause or contribute to exceedances of PM_{2.5} and/or PM₁₀ ambient air quality standards.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1: To ensure that implementation of HCP CA-50 (Reducing the Boneyard Exclosure and 6 Exclosure) does not cause or contribute to violations of air quality standards, CDPR shall plan for and incorporate potential surface emissivity changes into the Annual Report and Work Plan required by Stipulated Order of Abatement #17-01.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Coastal Development Permit (CDP). Disagreement exists regarding CDP condition compliance and authority.

Outstanding litigation. CDPR is named in other litigation regarding Oceano Dunes District, including 1) unauthorized SNPL take; and 2) quiet title claiming OHV recreation activities and camping are permanent uses that cannot be banned.

Existing Park Operations. The existing park operations are controversial, including use of motor vehicles on the beach and in sensitive dune habitat, dust and sand blown off site and downwind, and impacts to protected species.

Balance of Resource Protection and Recreation Opportunity. Interest groups and individuals may disagree whether the HCP is striking an acceptable balance between motorized recreation opportunity and protection of natural resources.

HCP Contribution toward Species Recovery. The lack of expanded protected habitat areas and increased restrictions on motorized recreation access in the HCP is controversial to conservation interests.

Effects of exclosure reduction on breeding birds. Reduction of the 6 Exclosure (CA-50) could reduce the acreage of protected, highly productive nesting habitat during the breeding season.

Mechanical trash removal. This activity could remove scattered debris and organics providing habitat for the invertebrate community supporting shorebirds, including SNPL and CLTE.

Dust Control Program Measures. Certain controversies under the Dust Control Program are issues to be resolved under the Dust Control Program and not the HCP.

Uncertainty of Air Quality Impacts. The air quality impact, if any, of reducing the Southern Exclosure to increase recreational access from seasonal to year-round will require monitoring as called for in mitigation.

Public Works Plan (PWP). Further action on the 2020 Draft PWP is on hold. Some projects envisioned in the PWP may be implemented during the HCP term. The need for an HCP amendment would be considered at the time such projects are proposed.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Approvals are required by the following agencies:

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office for issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to CDPR for six endangered, threatened, or proposed wildlife species: western snowy plover, California least tern, southwestern pond turtle, California red-legged frog, western spadefoot, and tidewater goby.

CDPR for approval of the HCP and certification of the EIR pursuant to CEQA.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife may review this project as a Trustee Agency. CDFW is not a permitting agency for the federal ITP supported by this HCP.