



FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

CALIFORNIA OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Certification of the Environmental Impact Report for the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plan Update

February 26, 2026

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to balance the environmental benefits of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse effects, the lead agency may determine that the effects are acceptable and must state in writing the specific reasons to support its action. The statement of overriding considerations must be based on information in the record, included in the record of the project approval, and mentioned in the notice of determination.

This Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the General Plan Update and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), including the impact analysis in Section 3.2, Air Quality, under CEQA Appendix G checklist questions “a”, “b”, and “c”, which state that the operation of Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) as envisioned in the General Plan Update, even with the implementation of all goals and guidelines and mitigation measures to reduce impacts, would have significant and unavoidable impacts associated with Air Quality due to operational fugitive dust emissions in exceedance of local air district thresholds (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District) and associated potential health risks. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Commission provides the following statement of overriding considerations.

The project’s significant and unavoidable effects related to these emissions, as described in the EIR, are acceptable given the following conditions:

- Hungry Valley SVRA is legislatively established and sited through Public Resource Code 5006.48, which directs California State Parks to operate Hungry Valley SVRA as an off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation facility;
- California State Parks is directed by Public Resources Code 5090.43(a) to make the fullest public use of outdoor recreational opportunities on SVRA lands, and inherent in the operation of an OHV recreation facility are air quality impacts associated with engine emissions and fugitive dust emissions;
- Hungry Valley SVRA provides an OHV recreation destination in proximity to large Southern California urban centers, limiting the amount of criteria air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions associated with citizens traveling to and from the SVRA;
- The General Plan Update contains a set of goals and guidelines to be implemented to reduce adverse impacts on air quality resulting from General Plan implementation, and mitigation measures as outlined in the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP); and
- A variety of additional mitigation measures were examined during the EIR process,

in consultation with local air district staff, along with various project alternatives (No Project, Reduced Intensity, and Focused Development Alternatives), and when considering staff availability, funding requirements, topographical and water supply constraints, effectiveness, and the General Plan objectives, no additional mitigation measures or alternatives were found feasible to reduce the identified significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Therefore, as stated in Resolution OHV-26-01, the Commission adopts a statement of overriding considerations, finding that a commitment to responsibly managing Hungry Valley SVRA in accordance with the mandates of the Public Resources Code outweighs the effects of the project's emissions.

Furthermore, the Commission finds that the statement of overriding considerations is based on information contained in the General Plan Update and EIR, that the conclusions contained within the EIR are supported by facts therein, and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that the plan goals and guidelines incorporated into the General Plan Update will avoid or substantially lessen the potential impacts on all other resource areas analyzed in the EIR.

Moreover, the Commission determined that all feasible mitigation measures have been incorporated to substantially reduce significant effects on the environment, as described in these Findings, and that the legal, social, and other benefits of the General Plan Update described herein outweigh the unavoidable air quality impacts, and so the unavoidable significant environmental impacts are overridden by these factors and are, therefore, acceptable.

