



TO: State Parks

With cc: CCC, Crowfoot Dept of Resources, Quiintero State Parks, SLO BOS,
Grover Beach CC, Arroyo grande CC, Pismo Beach CC

FROM: Oceano Advisory Council

Dear State Parks,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pismo/Oceano Public Works Plan. Our Oceano Advisory Council reports to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. Our Council wishes to express our unanimous opposition to the continued use of Pier Ave as an access point for the SVRA. The PWP is proposing that Pier and Grand Ave be permanently designated as primary entry points to the beach and the SVRA.

This PWP includes the following recommendations to address issues identified during the planning effort: • Permanently designate Grand and Pier avenues as primary access points to Oceano Dunes SVRA. The Plan 3-5

In the early 1980's this entrance was defined as temporary and, more than 40 years later, it is still in use with massive increases in traffic volume which impact our community in many negative ways. In addition, major and costly upgrades to the entrance points are also proposed.

3.3.10 A4. Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project This project will replace the entrance kiosks at Pier and Grand avenues that are outdated, in poor condition, and not ADA compliant. A new design will improve operational efficiencies and allow staff to assist park visitors better.

Our primary concerns revolve around the CEQA and CCC requirements in relation to environmental justice in the economically disadvantaged community of Oceano with approximately 50%+ of its residents defined as Latino. It is our position that State Parks is in violation of the spirit and letter of this regulation and it needs to be corrected now, not made permanent.

As quoted in the PWP Planning Process 2.0, the purpose of the Environmental

Justice component of CEQA is the following (2.2 Environmental Justice):
The purpose of the policy is described as a way: "...to empower these communities [as defined in the Policy] that have been historically excluded from accessing the benefits of coastal development and resources due to discriminatory implementation of local, state, and federal policies and lack of access to the process and decision-makers." (California Coastal Commission, 2019, p. 4).

The clear facts are that Oceano has been "...historically excluded from accessing the benefits of coastal development and resources due to discriminatory implementation of local, state, and federal policies and lack of access to the process and decision-makers." This exclusion from benefits is all because of the fact that our beaches are filled with all forms of automobiles and trucks which means all forms of animals (including homo sapiens) are at physical and emotional risk when seeking to recreate on the beach.

For decades the temporary use of our main access route to our community's beach has been dominated by motor vehicles which is an inappropriate use of a public beach. And this temporary use has resulted in economic and recreational losses to our community.

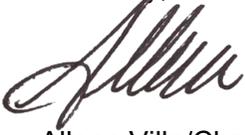
Unlike other California beach communities, Oceano has never been able to achieve any significant benefits from coastal development because the great majority of Californians (and locals) do not want to recreate on a beach made dangerous and uninviting by thousands of motor vehicles. Pier Avenue is a shabby, rundown hodgepodge of ATV rentals and off-roader accessories and supplies stores with tracked out beach sand blowing in the street and air. Pismo Beach only became a desired tourist destination after it banned vehicles from its beaches. We want the same opportunity to develop our local economy, create hundreds of new jobs, and have a beach where our families, children, grandparents and visitors can RELAX, rather than dodge vehicles and stress about their kids playing in the sand.

Section 2.2.2 Meaningful Engagement purports to enumerate all the ways State Parks has engaged our community over the years. We are not experiencing this. Only recently did communications or outreach be presented in Spanish and English. Surveys done by State Parks are notoriously biased with unrepresentative samples, leading questions, and unsubstantiated data on mythical revenues from the SVRA. New comparative econometric research from

Cal Poly (unpublished) comparing Oceano to other coastal non-SVRA communities (e.g. Avila Beach) show there are no significant positive economic impacts from the SVRA. In fact, during the SVRA Covid-19 closure, County Transient Occupancy Taxes in Oceano were the highest in five years. In conclusion, our community is tired of decades of being the "doormat of the dunes." We are long overdue for our chance to enjoy and prosper from a beach

without vehicles. We have suffered from State Park's policies, procedures, and operations that continue to use our beach as the access to the SVRA—and continue to keep us off of the beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allene Villa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Allene Villa/Chair
Oceano Advisory Council

