



March 12, 2021

TO: California Coastal Commission; California State Parks; California Department of Resources;
California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Oceano Advisory Council

Dear Sirs and Madams,

The Oceano Advisory Council is an advisory body to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, representing citizens living in the unincorporated area of Oceano which straddles Highway 1 and fronts the Pacific Ocean in Southern SLO County.

We have previously commented to your agencies on the significance and acuteness of environmental justice issues as they relate to our community and the negative impacts of continued operation of motor vehicles on our beaches for our cultural and economic development.

In reference to the proposed closing of the entry ramp at Pier Avenue we ask that the Commission consider the following recommendations:

1. The OAC supports the closing of Pier Ave by September 30, 2021 and no vehicles South of Pier Avenue
2. When such closing occurs, and in preparation for such, the County and State Parks implement more inclusive and expanded parking availability for beach goers on Pier Ave as well as in the Oceano State Park Visitors Center parking lot on Pier Ave.
3. That State Parks provide a temporary ADA accessible "sidewalk" across the sand so disabled and wheelchair bound beach goers have access.
4. Transitional compensation must be given for Pier Ave businesses that are temporarily negatively impacted by the closing of the beach onramp and those negatively impacted by the phasing off of the ODSVRA to be paid for by OHV funds.
5. Regarding continued vehicle access to the beach at Grand Avenue we further recommend that beach access from Grand Avenue be limited to no more than 500 vehicles per day between Grand and Pier Aves.
6. Finally, we recommend a reasonable non-vehicle buffer zone of a minimum 150 yards north of Pier Avenue.

We have recently been made aware of a very important legal opinion presented to your agencies by the Dunes Alliance, prepared by the Mills Legal Clinic at the Stanford School of Law, dated March 5, 2021.

Never before have we seen such a comprehensive and definitive review of the Coastal Commission's and State Park's legal authority and obligation to terminate OHV activity which violates multiple provisions of San Luis Obispo County, California, and Federal laws, policies, mandates, and regulations. This body of work, overviewed in the Table of Contents below, provides the legal basis, authority, and obligation for the CCC to impose an immediate moratorium on all motor vehicle activity on the beaches and dunes until such time the many issues of environmental protection, air quality, endangered species, and environmental justice (among others) are fully resolved.

On behalf of the Oceano Advisory Council we thank you for your attention and work to help us reclaim our beach for people rather than vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allene Villa', written in a cursive style.

Allene Villa, Chair
Oceano Advisory Council

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