



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1623
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov

MAR 09 2010

In Reply Refer To:
1781(P)
CA910

Mr. Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.
555 Honey Lane
Oakley, California 94561

Dear Mr. Amador:

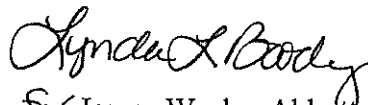
Thank you for your letter of March 4, 2010 commenting on and requesting an extension of the public comment period for the Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

BLM received numerous requests, including from county and state government and Congressional offices, to extend the comment period on the draft RMP/EIS. Because the plan addresses potential long term restrictions on public lands, we are extending the comment period to allow further input.

The public comment period for the Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement has been extended by 45 days. We have enclosed our news release for your convenience.

BLM is committed to managing these important public resources in a manner that protects public health and safety while allowing the public access to use and enjoy their public lands. Please feel free to call me at your convenience if you require additional clarification or have any questions.

Sincerely,


By James Wesley Abbott
Acting State Director

Enclosures:
News Release



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release

For Release: Sept. 1, 2009

CA-CC-09-85

Contact: David Christy (916) 941-3146

BLM Closes Clear Creek Management Area to New Mining Claims

The Bureau of Land Management has closed 28,953 acres of public lands in Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties to new mining claims for two years. The notice of proposed withdrawal was published today in the Federal Register.

The Secretary of the Interior proposes to withdraw the lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws for a period of 20 years. This action temporarily segregates the lands for up to two years from new mining claims while various studies and analyses are made to support a final decision on the withdrawal application.

Comments, objections or requests for a public meeting in connection with the proposed withdrawal will be accepted until DATE. Written comments should be addressed to the Field Manager, Hollister Field Office, BLM, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, Calif. 95023.

BLM closed CCMA to public entry on May 1, 2008, in response to a human health risk assessment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that concludes recreational off-highway vehicle use (OHV) of "more than one visit per year put(s) adults and children above EPA's acceptable excess lifetime cancer risk range," adding that "children may be at greater risk...because of their life expectancy."

Rick Cooper, BLM's Hollister Field Manager stated, "Protecting the public's health and safety is BLM's number one priority. Based on EPA's results, we believe a temporary closure of most of the CCMA to new mining claims is in the public interest."

BLM manages approximately 63,000 acres of public lands in the CCMA. The area has been used extensively for OHV recreation for many years as well as for other recreational uses such as hunting and rock hounding. The lands include a variety of landforms, including the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area, and three major watersheds, the Pajaro, the Arroyo Pasajaro and Silver Creek.

For further information on the mining closure contact Dan Byrne, realty specialist in the Hollister Field Office at (831) 630-5021, Duane Marti, realty specialist in the BLM State Office, at (916) 978-4675, Brandon Anderson, BLM lands clerk, at (916) 978-4674.

-BLM-

Central California District, 5152 Hillside Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Rick Cooper
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 630-5010
Fax Number: 831-630-5055



10 MAR -8 PM 2:46

Dear: Rick Cooper

I am requesting that you extend the comment period for the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Hollister Field.

The public comment process is being severely restricted and compromised by only allowing 90 days for the public to develop substantive comments. 90 days to obtain documents, [with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)] and analyze them for both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) DEIS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report, which prompted the CCMA DEIS, that took several years for both agencies to develop. 90 days is clearly not enough time for substantive comments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The CCMA encompass 90,000 acres of our public lands that will have tax payers access severely restricted without good substantive public comments because of the severe lack of enough time to research, analyze and develop substantive comments that would impact the final out come.

Please extend the comment period by 120 days to allow us sufficient time to do the required research to provide excellent substantive comments.

Thank You

Joe Bettencourt & family

GENE CUNNINGHAM

January 15, 2010

Mr. Rick Cooper
Field Manager
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister
California 95023

Dear Mr. Cooper:

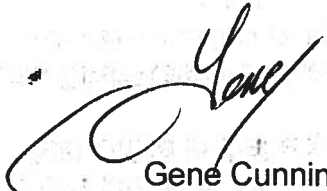
My experience with the BLM in the past was that time was used to promote the agenda of the BLM. In the past I have received notice of meetings after the meeting had taken place. I was hoping that this would change upon the replacement of Mr. Beehler. I am truly disappointed in the Hollister Field Office in that apparently it has not changed.

The Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released just before the Holiday period began. It was released on December 5, 2009 and therefore the comment period expires on March 5, 2010. The timing of this release effectively cut the comment period to 60 days in lieu of 90 days, due to the holiday activities of interested parties.

I respectfully request that you review the timing of the release, and I respectfully request that the comment period be extended at a minimum to April 5, 2010.

Please understand that interested parties who wish to comment on the document work an eight hour day. It is reasonable for the interested parties to have a full 90 days to review the document. As it is interested parties will have to devote most of their weekends to review and digest the maps, charts and about 700 pages of text.

Sincerely,



Gene Cunningham

Rick Cooper
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 630-5010
Fax Number: 831-630-5055

10 FEB 26 PM 1:36

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HOLLISTER FIELD OFFICE

Dear: Rick Cooper

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Please extend the comment period by 120 days to allow us sufficient time to do the required research to provide excellent substantive comments.

Thank You

Michael Damaso

Michael Damaso, President
Merced Dirt Riders Inc
1119 East Linwood Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380

Rick Cooper Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 630-5010
Fax Number: 831-630-5055

10 FEB 29 PM 1:09
RECEIVED
U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HOLLISTER, CA 95023

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Thank You


Janette Damaso
1119 East Linwood Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380

10 MAR - 1 PM 5:27
RECEIVED
U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HOLLISTER, CA 95023

Rick Cooper
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 630-5010
Fax Number: 831-630-5055

Ext Comment

10 FEB 25 AM 10:38

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HOLLISTER, CA 95023

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Thank You

Richard R Fern

Richard R. Fern
2720 Caldwell Court
Sacramento, CA 95826-3156
Phone/Fax: 916-383-1238

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834
Sacramento, California 95825-1886

February 25, 2010

SHORT NOTE TRANSMITTAL

To: FM, Hollister
From: Duane Marti, CA-930
Subject: Forwarding of fax

The attached fax was received by CA-930 today. It appears to be only one page.

FAX TRANSMITTAL	No. of pages: TWO
TO: Hollister FO, BLM	FROM: DUANE MARTI
AGENCY:	AGENCY: BLM
FAX NO.	FAX NO. 916-978-4657

10 FEB 25 AM 11:10

2/25/2010

DEAR BLM,

PLEASE EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA DRAFT RESOURCE

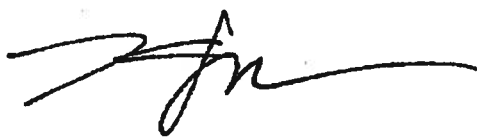
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR A FURTHER

90 DAYS. WE NEED THIS TIME TO

FAIRLY EXAMINE THE HEFTY DOCUMENT &

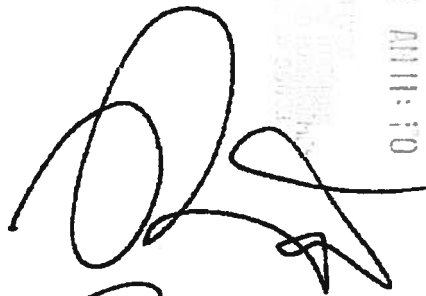
PREPARE A RESPONSE.

SINCERELY,



KELLY GROVES

AND



PHILLIP KOKEN

10FEB25 AM11:10

2/25/2010

DEAR BLM,

10 FEB 25 AM 10:47

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
3000 EAST WYOMING STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84143

PLEASE EXTEND THE PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA DRAFT RESOURCE

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR A FURTHER

90 DAYS. WE NEED THIS TIME TO

FAIRLY EXAMINE THE HEFTY DOCUMENT &

PREPARE A RESPONSE.

SINCERELY,



KELLY GROVES

AND



PHILLIP KOKEN

2/25/2010

Rick



I hereby Demand that
you, as a public servant
put your own agenda aside
and grant the public a
90 day extension to the
Clear Creek Management
Area Draft Resource
Management Plan / Draft
EIS Comment Period!

10 FEB 25 AM 8:24
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

STEVE HINTON
PENNGROVE, CA 94957

(831) 630-5055



Business Magic!

February 20, 2010

Rick Cooper
Field Manager
Hollister Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023

Dear Rick,

The following organizations, each representing and advocating on behalf of thousands of members throughout California and the United States, are requesting a 90-day extension to the comments period for the Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

 American Motorcyclist Association
 California Off-Road Vehicle Association,
 Cal4Wheel Drive Association,
 BlueRibbon Coalition,
 District 36 AMA,
 AMA District 37 AMA
 Friends of Clear Creek Management Area,
 Off-Road Business Organization
 Salinas Ramblers Motorcycle Club
 Timekeepers Motorcycle Club

There are numerous reasons for this request for this extension including, but not limited to, the following:

1.The BLM took 18 months to produce a 735-page document dealing with very technical, complex issues and 90 days is not a sufficient time frame for the public to research the issues and provide substantial comments.

2.The BLM released this document just prior to the Christmas/New Year holiday season when the public was distracted and members of the BLM staff were on vacation.

3.The printed copies of the document were not immediately available to members of the public who do not have access to the internet.

4.The first public meeting was not held until 40 days into the public comment period, denying the public the opportunity to receive presentations and additional information about the document.

5.A meeting to discuss the financial/economic impacts of the actions suggested in the plan will not be held until February 22, 2010 leaving less than two weeks for comments based upon discussions and questions raised in this meeting.

The OHV community desires to provide the BLM with comprehensive and constructive comments and in order to do so will require a greater length of time than the 90-day period currently afforded us.

We trust the BLM will understand the need for the public to review, understand, and comment on this document and will affirm our request for this extension. Please inform us as regarding the new due date as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Steven Hinton, AMA, BRC, District 36

Nick Harris: AMA

Bruce Whitcher: CORVA

Amy Granat: CA4WD

Don Amador: BRC

Dave Pickett: District 36

Jerry Grabow: District 37

Mike Wubbels: FOCCMA

Matt Beck: SRMC

Terry Pederson: TMC

Fred Wiley: ORBA

Windows Live Hotmail Print Message

Page 1 of 1

Closure of Clear Creek

From: **Ian Hobson** (hobsonconstruction@hotmail.com)

Sent: Sun 2/21/10 5:50 PM

To: rick_cooper@ca.blm.gov; kathryn_hardy@blm.gov; jim_abbott@blm.gov;
robert_abbey@blm.gov*Sky
responded
via email
RC*

February 21, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I am formally writing to request a second review of our request to get a 90 day extension for the Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period.

We should have, at least, the equivalent time that you had to submit the proposal to comment on the reasons why we think Clear Creek should stay open since you took 180 days to submit the proposal. You submitted the proposal right before you went on vacation for Christmas and then you didn't hold a meeting for us to tell you our comments until 30 days after your submission. You have not given us a fair amount of time to speak our mind and try to come to an agreement to keep everyone happy.

Why do you want to close Clear Creek anyway? It is out in the middle of nowhere and there are no people out there to bother!

You don't have to patrol it, or put bathrooms, or make it nice to go camping there. The only people that camp there are off-road people that like it like that! We like that we can ride all day and go wherever we want. Clear Creek is a great place for families and for anyone who likes to watch and perform off road sports. We always wear protective gear and are usually safe. Clear Creek is the perfect place to go because off road sports are loud and all the people that are there, like it loud. If you don't like loud, don't go to Clear Creek. You need to be reminded that you work for the people, not the other way around.

There should be a place for everyone to go, our population is growing and Clear Creek is a great outlet for our "loud and obnoxious" sport. People that like off-road sports aren't going to change, so there needs to be some compromise to your rules or else we won't have anywhere to go. Nobody should ever be denied to do what they like to do. Please grant the extension and let all of us say our share, and show you that more people care than you think.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,

Stephanie Hobson
(831) 234-6388

10 FEB 22 AM 6:00
MAILBOX FULL

Martin Markham
PO Box 1827
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
January 29, 2010

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: CCMA RMP/EIS
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023

Dear Rick Cooper:

The public comment period for the CCMA RMP/EIS must be extended a minimum of 60 days. The complexity of the document, the technical nature of the supporting EPA reports and timing of the initial release necessitate the extension.



Martin Markham

[Faint, illegible text]

[Faint, illegible text]

09 FEB - 1 PM 4:13
[Faint, illegible text]

Rick Cooper
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 630-5010
Fax Number: 831-630-5055

Dear: Rick Cooper

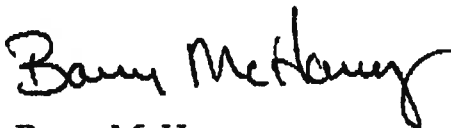
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Please extend the comment period by 120 days to allow us sufficient time to do the required research to provide excellent substantive comments.

Thank You



Barry McHaney
Modesto, CA

10 FEB 25 AM 8:23
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HOLLISTER FIELD OFFICE
HOLLISTER, CA 95023

Jim Abbott, Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4600
Fax: (916) 978-4416

10 MAR -5 PM 12:46
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
2010 MAR -2
RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Dear: Mr. Abbott

I am requesting that you intervene in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Hollister Field office, in California.


The public comment process is being severely restricted and compromised by only allowing 90 days for the public to develop substantive comments. 90 days to obtain documents, [with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)] and analyze them for both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) DEIS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report, which prompted the CCMA DEIS, that took several years for both agencies to develop. 90 days is clearly not enough time for substantive comments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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Thank You



 Loro Paterson
Hc 2 Box 316
La Honda, CA 94020

FAXED
2.25.10

831.630.5055

Ed Poe (CW)

From: Zed [zedpoe@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 5:32 PM
To: 'rick_cooper@ca.blm.gov'
Subject: REQUEST: 90 Day Extension to public comment deadline for DEIS/RMP for CCMA
Importance: High

Hello Rick,

I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT AND URGENT REQUEST FOR YOU & BLM:

PLEASE provide us riders (and all the other folks that also care) with at least a 90 day extension to the review & comment period for the DEIS/RMP for the Clear Creek Management Area document. As BLM's Rick Cooper himself said "this is by far the most complex land management plan that I have ever been involved in", so it should be relatively easy for you/BLM to understand that it will take us Average Joe Cyclists a little longer (than lawyers & environmental experts) to fully understand the depth, breadth, impacts and implications of the study and proposed its actions, and *then* to get our questions addressed. I understand it took the BLM ~18 MONTHS to create and release the document to the public, yet the public was only given only 90 days to review and comment on it - and that 90 days spanned two major holidays (Christmas & New Years) where many of us were on vacations and therefore not in a position to do this work.

PLEASE EXTEND THE DEADLINE BY AT LEAST 90 DAYS - ITS A FAIR REQUEST.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this email request by courtesy of a reply email.

And please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions for *me*, or if I can help you in any way to achieve this 90 day extension.

Thanks!

Ed Poe
3428 Windsor Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-426-6006

AMA Member # 1055884
D36 Member # 592D
Ghostriders MC Member
SVMC Member
LGMC Supporter

10 FEB 26 AM 6:05
118
005220
MAIL

Feb 26 10 01:07p

MIKE & JANETTE DAMASO

209-634-4810

p.1

Deputy Director: Mike Pool
BLM Washington Office
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-3801
Fax: 202-208-5242

Dear: Mr. Pool

I am requesting that you intervene in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Hollister Field office, in California.

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Thank You



Michael Damaso, President
Merced Dirt Riders Inc
1119 East Linwood Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380

Feb 26 10 01:09p

MIKE & JANETTE DAMASO

209-634-4810

p.1

Director: Bob Abbey
BLM Washington Office
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-3801
Fax: 202-208-5242

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Michael Damaso

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Merced Dirt Riders Inc
1119 East Linwood Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380

Director: Bob Abbey
BLM Washington Office
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-3801
Fax: 202-208-5242

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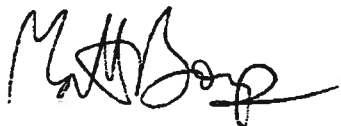
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1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240
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Barbara Ray

2/25/10

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BLM Washington Office
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-3801
Fax: 202-208-5242

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Feb 27 10 12:43p

MIKE & JANETTE DAMASO

209-634-4810

p.1

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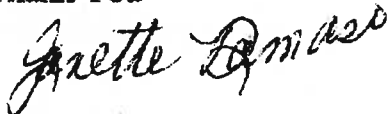
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Janette Damaso
1119 East Linwood Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380

Feb 27 10 12:45p

MIKE & JANETTE DAMASO

209-634-4810

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March 2, 2010

Jim Abbott, Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825

Rick Cooper, Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023

Re: Clear Creek Management Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Director Abbott and Mr. Cooper,

On behalf of the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission (Commission), I respectfully request an extension of the public comment period for the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As you know, the current 90-day public comment period for the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS began on December 4, 2009 and runs through March 5, 2010. After discussing the issue at the Commission meeting on February 25, 2010, the Commission unanimously agreed to request an additional 90 days for the public to provide the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with thorough and meaningful comments on the document. Mr. Cooper indicated comments from the Commission and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division would be considered even after the public comment period closes, but the Commission believes this courtesy should be extended to all interested parties.

The sheer bulk and complexity of the 691 page Draft RMP/EIS necessitates additional time to adequately review and prepare a thorough response to the BLM. Furthermore, the numerous technical aspects of the issues presented in the Draft RMP/EIS frequently rely on additional documents that must be reviewed to reach an informed conclusion.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
10 MAR -4 PM 2:59

Mr. Jim Abbott
Mr. Rick Cooper
Page Two of Three
March 2, 2010

Moreover, the public is being asked to review this document at the same time many other documents relating to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation are being published for review throughout the state. These individuals are faced with balancing their time and efforts to review the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS, voluminous documents associated with travel management and route designation on national forests throughout California, as well as the proposed California Desert Protection Act of 2010, introduced by Senator Feinstein on December 21, 2009.

Review of the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS was also complicated by the release date of the document, which meant the public comment period overlapped the holiday season. This release effectively shortened the timetable for review and comment.

The Commission understands and recognizes the BLM is facing many challenges and is under significant pressure to meet project deadlines throughout the state. However, the CCMA is currently closed and therefore poses no health risk to the public at this time. In view of this, it is the belief of the Commission that an action as significant and far-reaching as permanently closing the CCMA to OHV use requires thoughtful consideration by all interested parties. Therefore, given the amount of time required by the BLM to prepare the in-depth Draft RMP/EIS, it is only fair the public be given further consideration, and for that reason, sufficient time to review these large and complex documents.

Finally, I think it is important to bear in mind comments to the BLM are predominantly from individuals unable to dedicate entire days at a time to review and analyze the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS. These are people with jobs and family obligations, in addition to their passionate interest in the CCMA. It is our hope they have every reasonable opportunity to voice their concerns.

The decisions generated by this Draft RMP/EIS will have far-reaching impacts and are important to the entire California OHV community. To this end, the constituents of the Commission and the BLM should be afforded the necessary time to provide thoughtful comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Willard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Gary Willard, Chairman
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission

Mr. Jim Abbott
Mr. Rick Cooper
Page Three of Three
March 2, 2010

cc: Mark McMillin, Vice Chair, OHMVR Commission
Brad Franklin, Member, OHMVR Commission
Eric Lueder, Member, OHMVR Commission
Kane Silverberg, Member, OHMVR Commission
Paul Slavik, Member, OHMVR Commission
Stan Van Velsor, Member, OHMVR Commission
Daphne Greene, Deputy Director OHMVR Division
Kathy Hardy, District Manager, Central California BLM CA State Office
Mike Ahrens, Associate Field Manager, BLM Needles Field Office,