

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

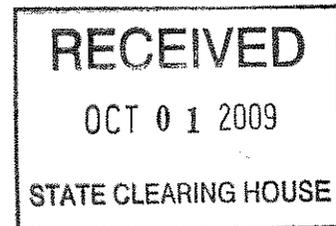
To: State Clearinghouse
Responsible Agencies
Trustee Agencies
County Clerks
Interested individuals and organizations
Federal Agencies

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Purchase of the 584-acre La Grande Tract by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) from the County of San Luis Obispo

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, 1725 23rd Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95816, will be the Lead Agency for the La Grande Tract Purchase EIR. The purpose of this NOP is to invite comment on the scope and content of the environmental review that is germane to the proposed Project.

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15082 (b), you have 30 days from the date of receipt of this NOP to respond. **Responses must be received by October 30, 2009.** Please send your responses to Ronnie Glick, Project Manager, at the address shown below or to kfeld@parks.ca.gov. Agency responses should include the name of a contact person at the agency.

Attn: Ronnie Glick
Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Ste. 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7176 fax



An EIR scoping meeting will be held by the OHMVR Division on Thursday, October 22, 2009, from 6-8 p.m. at the following location:

Ramona Garden Park Center
993 Ramona Ave.
Grover Beach, CA 93433

Project Title: La Grande Tract Purchase EIR

Project Applicant: CDPR

Project Location: Within Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA), San Luis Obispo County, California.

Project Description:

CDPR, OHMVR Division, is preparing an EIR for purchase of the 584-acre La Grande Tract, largely located within ODSVRA, from the County of San Luis Obispo. CDPR is the lead agency for preparation of the above referenced project. The project area is located in San Luis Obispo County as identified in Figure 1.

Project Area

The general project area is the 3,478-acre ODSVRA. The specific project area is the 584 acres of land, comprising 4,399 parcels, CDPR currently leases from the County (see Fig. 1 for the general location of the acquisition area) known as the La Grande tract. These County-owned lots are interspersed with many small parcels owned by the state or private landowners. Most of the project area is open to recreation, including motorized vehicles. Some of the purchase site is closed to the public year-round with fencing to protect vegetation.

Proposed Project

Currently the parcels are leased from the County by CDPR and operated as a part of ODSVRA for off-highway motor vehicle recreation and other beach- and dune-related recreational use. A long-term lease expired in June 2008, and the current lease between the County and CDPR is month-to-month. The EIR will evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from purchasing the leased parcels.

The proposed project assumes that no change in the current use of the lands would occur without subsequent CEQA documentation. CDPR has no plans to change the use or management of these parcels upon acquisition. Thus, areas currently open to recreation would remain open. All pre-existing camping and vehicle limits would remain unchanged. Any special events that might occur upon the leased parcels would likewise occur once the lands are under CDPR ownership, subject to CDPR permit requirements. Most of the property is contained within an area where beach camping and motorized recreation can occur throughout the year. During the snowy plover nesting season a small portion of the southern end of the property is included in a seasonal exclosure that provides protected breeding habitat for western snowy plovers and California least terns, both listed species under the federal Endangered Species Act. CDPR would continue to monitor and manage sensitive resources within the project area.

Environmental Review:

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the OHMVR Division has determined that an EIR for the proposed project should be prepared. Although no change in use or management of the parcels is proposed, the EIR will discuss the potential for adverse impacts to air quality, biology, cultural resources, geology, hydrology, land use, noise, recreation, and traffic. Further refinement of the scope of the technical issues to be addressed will occur during the CEQA process, including input received in response to this NOP.

The EIR will examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project. The alternatives will be defined based on the EIR analysis, CDPR data, and responses to this scoping effort. A No Project alternative will be included in the analysis of the alternatives considered. A detailed

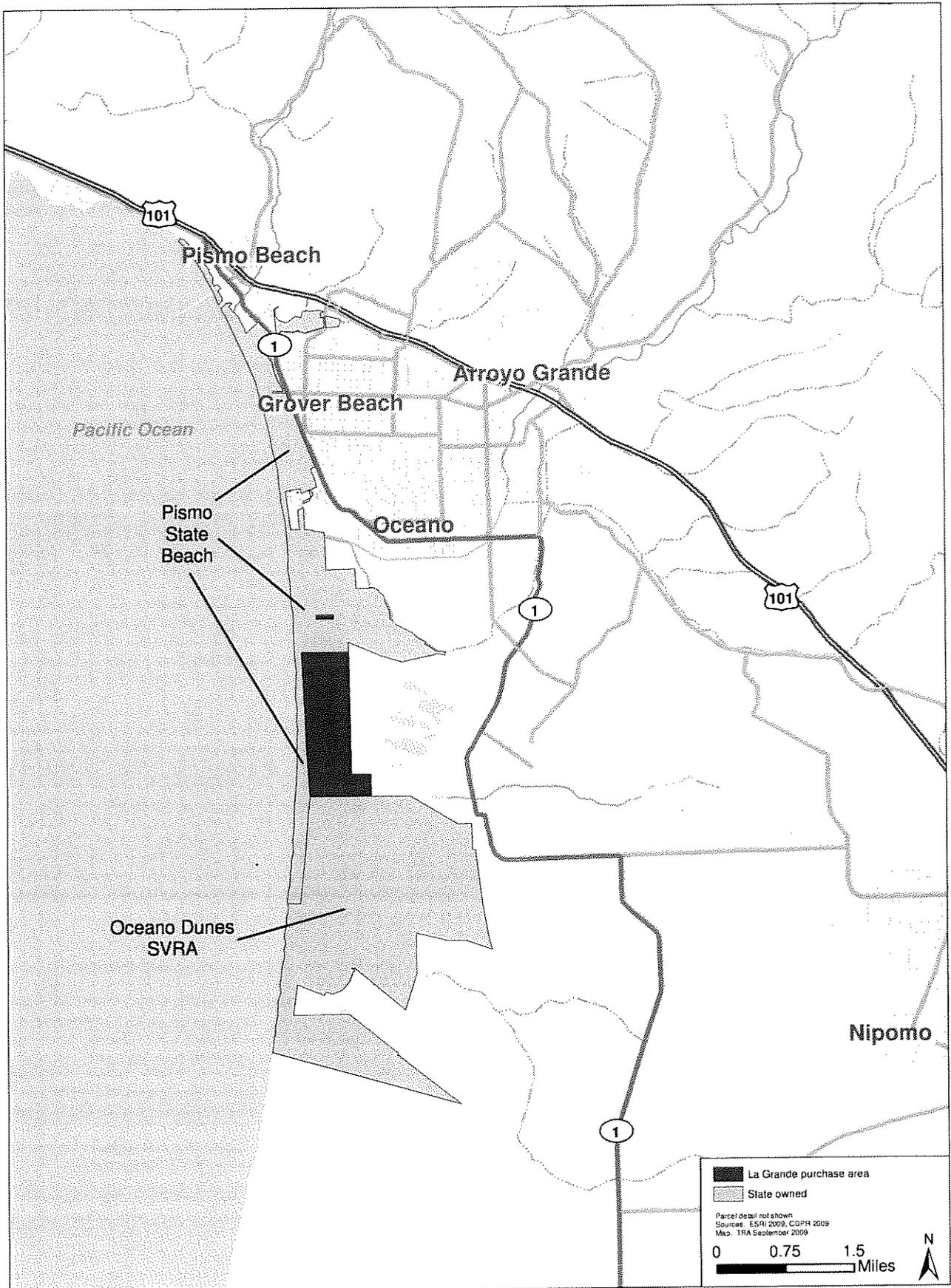


Figure 1 –Project Area Map