

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Site Located for State Vehicular Recreation Area

BAKERSFIELD – The City of Bakersfield and the State of California, announced today their partnership to acquire land on behalf of California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, for the development of a State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

The property is less than 30 minutes drive north from downtown Bakersfield. The City of Bakersfield, on behalf of the State, has obtained an assignable option using grant funds from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund, to purchase the prospective site, which totals approximately 11,000 acres. No State or local general fund monies will be used.

Bakersfield City Councilman, Mike Maggard and City Manager, Alan Tandy have been key in providing support for this project. "This OHV Park project is an example of what we can accomplish when varied groups work together for a common goal," Maggard said.

Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks State remarked, "This project responds to the needs of the Bakersfield community for increased recreation opportunities and will provide a cornerstone for the Central Valley Strategy."

The OHV Park has been in the planning stages since 2001, and is part of an agreement to provide a location for OHV recreation displaced from Hang Glider Hill, where OHV recreation had existed since the 1920s.

Daphne Greene, Deputy Director of the State Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Division added "We appreciate the City of Bakersfield's commitment to improving recreational opportunities for OHV enthusiasts in the Central Valley. This new SVRA will provide OHV enthusiasts a place to enjoy their sport in a well-managed, family-friendly atmosphere with a variety of amenities."

Dick Taylor, president of the Kern Off Highway Vehicle Association said, "This fills a need for family oriented OHV recreation close to Bakersfield. It's a model for similar parks statewide. It honors a covenant the City made with our community."

The facility will be owned and managed by California State Parks as a State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

The proposed property will undergo a complete Environmental Analysis. There will be several public hearings to gather input from the community regarding the development of the park, which is expected to take approximately 12 to 18 months.