



California Four Wheel Drive Association, Inc.

Over 55 years advocating for recreation

March 3, 2017

Re: AB-1077 (O'Donnell) Support

The California Four Wheel Drive Association (CFWDA) and its members support Assembly Bill 1077 by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell. We urge the Governor's Office, legislature, and partners to join with us in SUPPORT of AB 1077 which reauthorizes the unique and heralded California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program.

CFWDA members have been involved with legislation dealing with the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program since the passage of the original Chappie-Z'berg OHV Act of 1971. We have worked collaboratively with all stakeholders of OHV recreation beginning with the original bill and subsequent sunset renewal bills over the past 46 years.

In 1971, legislators Eugene Chappie, an off-road enthusiast, and Edwin Z'Berg, a conservationist, collaborated to create a national model providing for a statewide system of managed OHV recreational opportunities and motorized access to non-motorized recreation by means of a robust grant program and a series of State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). It is very important to more than 6 million residents with an estimated \$20 billion added to the state economy each year.

The OHMVR Program assures that quality recreational opportunities remain available for future generations by providing for maintenance, education, conservation, and enforcement that balance OHMVR recreation impact with programs that monitor, conserve and protect cultural and natural resources.

In 1982, the OHMVR Program was restructured and the OHMVR Division, OHMVR Commission and a program sunset were created. The program has only grown stronger over the past 35 years and it now includes nine SVRAs and an annual \$30M grants and cooperative assistance program that facilitates off-highway motor vehicle recreation on federal lands as well as on county and city land throughout California.

AB 1077 best honors the intent of the Chappie-Z'Berg Act and the subsequent diverse stakeholder process in 2007 that led to historic bi-partisan legislation (SB 742-Steinberg) that reauthorized the current California OHMVR Program.

Managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division and Commission, the current OHMVR program is often cited as the national Gold Standard in modern environmentally-sound motorized recreation.

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At a public meeting in Sacramento on July 19, 2016, California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Mangat stated: "This OHV program is the national model. It's not just the great program in the State of California, it is the national model, and we recognize that."

The OHMVR Division has administered this program for the last 35 years using its team of highly-skilled environmental scientists, law enforcement officers, recreation planners, trail specialists, and grant administrators to partner with federal land agencies, county sheriffs, conservation groups, and OHV organizations in providing California residents and tourists from throughout the world with access to world-class motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands. The OHMVR Program is completely self-funded and does not rely on any General Fund support.

We urge the Governor's Office, legislature, and partners to join with us in SUPPORT of AB 1077 which reauthorizes the unique and heralded state OHV program. The only program change being proposed is the removal of the sunset clause which would make the program permanent, similar to the specially funded Division of Boating and Waterways and all other divisions within the Department of Parks and Recreation.