

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 163**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Parra**

August 9, 2006

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163—Relative to Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 163, as introduced, Parra. Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.

This measure would commemorate the 100th anniversary of recreational motor vehicle use at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, would congratulate the Division of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation of the Department of Parks and Recreation for its management of the recreation area, and would declare October 20, 2006, to October 22, 2006, as Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Days.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area,  
2 located near Pismo Beach, California, is a 4,900-acre state park,  
3 and is a unique location where affordable beach camping,  
4 off-highway vehicle recreation, and environmental protection  
5 coexist; and  
6 WHEREAS, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area  
7 is a unique, 100 year old phenomenon in California and is a  
8 significant part of the state's history and culture; and  
9 WHEREAS, The popular off-road recreation area, once known  
10 as Pismo Dunes to generations of off-road vehicle aficionados,

1 and now known as Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
2 Area, has a long history of use for beach and dune vehicular  
3 recreation and transportation; and

4 WHEREAS, For as long as California has been a state, the  
5 area formerly known as Pismo Dunes has been used as an easy  
6 transportation route along the coast, including for proposed  
7 developments during the late 1800s and early 1900s; and

8 WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, as the automobile became  
9 popular, large automobile meets were organized, which drew  
10 thousands of people to watch races along the flat coastal  
11 speedway running from the City of Pismo Beach to Mussel Rock,  
12 or “Devil’s Slide” in the local parlance; and

13 WHEREAS, In the 1930s, the local community, after  
14 consulting with the famous land speed record holder and pioneer  
15 automobile racer, Barney Oldfield, adopted an objective to turn  
16 Pismo Beach into a formal “Daytona Beach of the West,” with  
17 the first land speed record attempts in 1931; and

18 WHEREAS, By the 1950s, stock car speed trials were  
19 approved by the County of San Luis Obispo and were held at  
20 Oceano Dunes beach; and

21 WHEREAS, In the 1950s, the first dune buggy was created at  
22 Oceano Dunes beach, which generated an increasingly popular  
23 off-highway vehicle trend that has evolved into a multi-billion  
24 dollar industry in California; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1972, a portion of the area now known as  
26 Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area was acquired by  
27 the state as a state park; and

28 WHEREAS, The Legislature in 1982 adopted the  
29 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 1982, which  
30 established lands for off-highway motor vehicle recreation  
31 opportunities and directed the Department of Parks and  
32 Recreation to create Pismo Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
33 Area, since renamed Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
34 Area; and

35 WHEREAS, In managing Oceano Dunes State Vehicular  
36 Recreation Area, the Division of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle  
37 Recreation of the Department of Parks and Recreation has  
38 endeavored to balance the needs of off-highway vehicle users  
39 and protection of the environment; and

1 WHEREAS, Extensive environmental stewardship measures  
2 have taken place at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
3 Area; and

4 WHEREAS, Conservation measures at Oceano Dunes State  
5 Vehicular Recreation Area are paid for by off-highway vehicle  
6 recreationists through service, special, and user fees, which are  
7 deposited in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund; and

8 WHEREAS, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area  
9 provides an inexpensive camping area along the beach that has  
10 attracted thousands of visitors primarily from the Los Angeles  
11 urban area and the Central Valley; and

12 WHEREAS, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area  
13 receives more than 2.1 million annual visitors from throughout  
14 the state, with over 50 percent from the Central Valley, and has  
15 higher annual visitation per acre than any other state park in the  
16 state; and

17 WHEREAS, Friends of Oceano Dunes, a nonprofit  
18 organization, was formed in 2001 by off-road recreationists and  
19 businesses to work with the Department of Parks and Recreation  
20 for the betterment of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
21 Area by enhancing and preserving the recreation area; and

22 WHEREAS, The Legislature acknowledges the exemplary  
23 efforts of the volunteer user group, Friends of Oceano Dunes,  
24 which has advocated for and contributed untold hours of  
25 community service to Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
26 Area; and

27 WHEREAS, The year 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of  
28 recreational motor vehicle use at Oceano Dunes, which will be  
29 celebrated from October 20, 2006, to October 22, 2006, at  
30 Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area; now, therefore,  
31 be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
33 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
34 hereby commemorates the 100th anniversary of recreational  
35 motor vehicle use at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
36 Area and congratulates the Division of Off-Highway Motor  
37 Vehicle Recreation of the Department of Parks and Recreation  
38 for its management of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation  
39 Area for the public good; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
2 hereby declares October 20, 2006, to October 22, 2006, as  
3 Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Days; and be it  
4 further

5     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
6 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.