

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 147

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

[Filed with Secretary of State September 12, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 163, 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.

WHEREAS, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, located near Pismo Beach, California, is a 4,900-acre state park, and is a unique location where affordable beach camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, and environmental protection coexist; and

WHEREAS, Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area is a unique, 100-year old phenomenon in California and is a significant part of the state's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, The popular off-road recreation area, previously known as Pismo Dunes to generations of off-road vehicle aficionados, and now known as Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, has a long history of use for beach and dune vehicular recreation and transportation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby commemorates the 100th anniversary of recreational motor vehicle use at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area and congratulates the

Division of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation of the Department of Parks and Recreation for its management of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area for the public good; and be it further

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

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

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