



Presenting a  
**Comments Project Workshop**

**Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area  
General Plan & Draft  
Environmental Impact Report**

# CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act - What Is It?

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- Written comments are the most critical way agencies hear the **public's voice** – we have to let agencies know we care about what happens on **our** public land.
- Substantive comments will give you a seat at the table to help determine the future of Carnegie SVRA.
- In 1970 the California State Legislature enacted CEQA for state and local agencies to let the public to make substantive comments to influence planning efforts.

So what are "comments" and how do you write them?

# Goals of this Workshop

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1. **Understand** the CEQA process and how this applies to the Carnegie SVRA expansion.
2. **Review** the Carnegie SVRA General Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This Draft EIR describes the project and contains studies, reports, and mitigation measures, etc.
3. **Write** substantive comments for the expansion of Carnegie SVRA. The public has until June 29th to submit comments.

We have to 'balance the scale' by writing positive comments.

Quantity and quality of comments matter!

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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Introduction: *Introduce Yourself and Your Position*

- State your professional/personal background.
  - All experience is relevant!
- State your off-road recreation.
  - Years of experience?
  - Expertise with different types of OHV?
  - Involvement with OHV clubs and orgs?
- Education: either formal or informal, i.e. Tread Lightly.
- Training: have you taught others, taken safety classes...

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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Introduction: *Introduce Yourself and Your Position*

- Experience
  - What has been your experience at Carnegie?
- Community standing
  - Community efforts, club membership...
- History of volunteer efforts
  - Include trail cleanups, signage...

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- Give **arguments and reasons** as to why something in the document is good, suits your needs, etc.
  - What part of the plan is best for the OHV Community?
  - What part of the proposal is best for your club?
  - What part of the proposal is best for your family?

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- Be **fact based** when referencing elements of the expansion plan. Work in teams, word search, talk to others.
  - *I have read the Environmental Report and it has answered all of my questions and concerns.*
  - *I am completely support the EIR conclusions.*
  - *I am satisfied with the results they gathered in the DEIR.*

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- Address a **significant issue** in the proposed project: sites & access for every type of activity.
  - Fulfillment of the mission for State Parks and SVRA's.
- Significant issues in regards to impacts have been *completely disclosed and sufficiently mitigated*:
  - Local communities
  - Traffic, noise, dust, etc.



# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- Tell them why the plan meets your needs by referencing information in the document.
- The EIR makes a strong argument that the project:
  - Will supply opportunities for many different types of off-road recreation
  - Will preserve natural resources
  - Will preserve archeological sites
  - Comply with the OHMVR Division's strict soil standards.

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- People can support a CEQA proposal by pointing out:
  - The plan complies with state laws.
  - The plan complies with disclosure.
  - Fulfills a need for the greater community.
  - The potential impacts are easily mitigated.
  - The benefits to different segments of the population.
- The Draft EIR provides sufficient alternatives for analysis.

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- The Draft EIR complies completely with state law in regards to CEQA.
- The technical information in the Draft EIR supports the documents findings.
- The Draft EIR includes discussions of environmental raised during the scoping phase.
  - The Draft EIR provides a clear line of reasoning to reach the conclusions.

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- The goal is to have State Parks understand the substantive reasons behind your point of view.
- Choose to focus on areas that impact your personal and/or professional interests.
  - Wildlife
  - Economic impacts
  - Law enforcement

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## Content of Comment: *State Your Case*

- What conclusions have you reached?
- Why have you reached these conclusions?
- What part of the document helped you reach your conclusions?
- How has the document influenced your conclusions?
- What action would you like State Parks to take in response?

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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All of the areas below are areas of SIGNIFACANT IMPACT; our opponents are likely to focus on these. These areas can be researched in the document, and comments devised to support the state's conclusions.

- **Aesthetics**
- **Agricultural Resources**
- **Air Quality**
- **Biological Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Geology/Soils**
- **Hazards & Hazardous Materials**
- **Hydrology/Water Quality**
- **Land Use Planning**
- **Mineral Resources**
- **Noise**
- **Population/Housing**
- **Public Services**
- **Recreation**
- **Transportation/ Traffic**
- **Utilities**

# Making a Difference with the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR

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## *Outline*

<b>Introduction</b> <b>Comments</b> <b>Conclusion</b>	<b>Present Theme</b> <b>Expertise/Experience/Passion</b> <b>Sum up your argument</b>

## *Throughout Your Comment Letter:*

Use Proper English – no slang!

Use Proper Grammar

Use Proper Punctuation

Be Clear and Concise

Pictures - worth 1000 words

Be Polite & Respectful

# CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act - Making a difference

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- ✓ *Organize your letter (introduction, comments, conclusion.*
- ✓ *Write your name, address, email, title of project.*
- ✓ *Decide on the main comments & theme.*
- ✓ *Rely on your expertise, experience, and passion.*
- ✓ *Read only those sections related to your comments.*
- ✓ *Write your letter and be aware of who will read it.*
- ✓ *Present your comments in a neutral tone.*
- ✓ *Stick to the points and don't go off topic!*