

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

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ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team has been active since the year 2000. Initially we concentrated on issues within the City of Palmdale. The program has grown and now includes the City of Lancaster and numerous unincorporated areas within the Antelope Valley. It covers an area of 1300 square miles and serves approximately 340,000 citizens. Our OHV program has existed with a balance of enforcement and education. Our team is regularly involved in outreach programs. We participate in Public Safety Expos, Fire Service Day, and National Night Out events. At these events, we interact with community members and educate them on the legalities of OHV activity, safety gear, and proper equipment maintenance. We also hand out brochures outlining OHV opportunities in our area and beyond. The area we serve is very unique. We offer inviting deserts and mountains. There are 2 Interstates close by that intersect with major highways that access the Antelope Valley area. This draws people to the Antelope Valley as a final destination point for many OHV activities from many other counties in Southern California. There are many local residents who also utilize these areas. Most of the issues faced by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in the Antelope Valley are not related to OHV users who legally utilize OHV areas. The OHV team is comprised of 13 personnel from Palmdale Station, Lancaster Station and Community Partnerships Bureau.

The problems arise when OHV enthusiasts take their adventures beyond designated areas and trespass onto private property, public roads or areas closed to such activity. Many of these incursions are made by cutting fences, gates or destroying barriers and signs. They also create trails around the barriers which erodes the hillsides and destroys vegetation. They also create safety hazards for equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers and other recreation activities that occur in those areas. During the year 2016, Palmdale Station and Lancaster Station received, responded to and handled 497 OHV related calls for service. The team also regularly receives OHV complaints from the local 5th District County Supervisor's office that are re-directed to the Community Partnerships Bureau. The amount of illegal riding contacts in 2016 resulted in 84 citations, 286 warnings, 1 felony arrest, 7 misdemeanor arrests, 14 towed vehicles during the course of 67 deployments.

The team was also tasked with resolving a complaint in a rural area regarding a persistent, reckless and illegal, organized off-road motorcycle event with over 50 riders, all riding at the same time on multiple pieces of private property and equestrian trails, which included a protected conservation area. It resulted in a misdemeanor criminal filing on a local resident that organized the event over several consecutive years.

We also conduct patrols on the Fourth of July to quell illegal firework activity. The team regularly patrols the areas which are open for OHV enthusiasts in the Angeles National Forest, conduct equipment checks, and provide information to trail users. Over the past several years we have concentrated our efforts on battling the quality of life concerns the residents of the Antelope Valley have expressed and the destruction of property occurring as a result of the illegal trespassing. As a result, the team has been more visible in the rural areas, causing more residents to be proactive in their respective communities and call us regarding OHV violations and problems as they occur. As stated before, our program is a balance of education and enforcement. We consider a majority of our OHV issues as nuisances (quality of life) and a safety problem, rather than crime. Our team is knowledgeable in the applicable laws. We are equipped with the knowledge in the areas of OHV laws, riding areas, equipment requirements and resource availability. We frequently direct off roaders to open recreation areas, providing them maps as well. We want our program to encourage legal off road riding. Illegal riding activities cause threats to the very survival of many of our flora and fauna. The area of Littlerock Dam has been a protected wildlife area, closed to motor vehicle traffic for many years now. This area is constantly being used by those who remove gates, cut fences and blaze new trails to enter the closed areas. While there was progress with the numbers of protected wildlife increasing, the usage of those areas are now posing a threat to the species that were making a comeback. As seen in newscasts every year, these areas, particularly the mountains, are plagued by fire, both natural and by those set by humans. Our team activities consist of deploying anywhere from two to eight team members to our problem areas, on varying days and times. Our goal is to decrease the amount of illegal activity, which we believe will make it easier for us to help identify and develop new viable sites for possible future OHV usage.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriff Stations have the largest patrol areas of any other stations within Los Angeles

County. We have jurisdiction over roughly 1,300 square miles, and serve over a quarter of a million community members. Our patrol areas cover the contract cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, and all the unincorporated county areas in the Antelope Valley. The largest areas of our responsibility are in rural towns surrounding both cities. These areas include Acton, Agua Dulce, Leona Valley, Lake Hughes, Green Valley, Lake Elizabeth, Littlerock, Pearblossom, Llano, Wrightwood, Lake Los Angeles, Hi Vista, Fairmont and Antelope Acres. Those townships make up over 1,100 square miles of rural desert and mountainous areas. Many of these areas are not patrolled on a routine basis by normal patrol cars due to their remoteness. The only way to access these areas is by dual sport motorcycles. On a typical deployment day, our deputies ride between 75 and 110 miles. The patrol area is approximately 50 miles across and 40 miles top to bottom. On many days we respond to calls for service at opposite ends of our patrol areas. On days when we can afford to deploy two teams, we can share the duties and become much more effective in locating violators and addressing the issues related to the problem. The patrols regularly encounter illegal trash dumping, illegal shooting of firearms, abandonment of stolen vehicles and stranded or injured off-roaders.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

Our OHV team typically deploys on weekends, after school dismissal hours in the middle of the week and major holidays, when the OHV activity seems to be the highest. Our shifts are very flexible and can consist of 4, 8, or 10 hour shifts. We also try to schedule our deployments on alternate dates and times. We want to avoid having any type of predictable or pre-scheduled type of enforcement. We will also deploy as needed during the week. Several of our team members are available for emergent or non-emergent deployments within 30 minutes from notification or sooner. At times, our team will be deployed for search and rescue missions in the rural area where a rapid response is needed. Much of our problems arise everyday of the week during summer and spring school vacations. With the area being so rural, many riders originate directly from their residences and begin riding on the public roads and private property around their neighborhood. These vehicles are unregistered, uninsured and many riders are unlicensed. These people and their riding times are much harder to impact by normal patrol vehicles as they are not able to follow the violators that are riding OHV specific motorcycles or all terrain vehicles. Our teams are able to deploy in the areas at the specific times in an attempt to make contact with the violators and educate them to the riding rules.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

Our deployment consists of a minimum of two personnel riding dual sport motorcycles. A standard deployment consists of a sergeant and one or two deputies. However, we can deploy up to three sergeants and nine deputies when needed. Our team has a full sized, four wheel drive truck for additional enforcement. This vehicle is a marked black and white Sheriff's Department emergency vehicle and is decaled with large California State Parks OHV stickers. This vehicle will be manned as staffing permits and allows for a trained deputy and three civilian volunteers. Civilian volunteers are utilized in the Lake Los Angeles area to patrol the vast desert areas that attract illegal off road activities. With continuous significant budgetary cutbacks already in place for this grant period, we will have to significantly decrease both the frequency and number of personnel in the patrols if the State Parks funds are decreased or unavailable.

District and County Information

A. California State Senate Districts

Select one or more of the California State Senate Districts where the proposed project activities will occur. Copy and Paste the URL (http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/districts/districts.html) in your browser to determine the State Senate district(s).

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B. California State Assembly Districts

Select one or more of the California State Assembly Districts where the proposed project activities will occur. Copy and Paste the URL (http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/districts/districts.html) in your browser to determine the State Assembly district(s).

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C. California Congressional Districts

Select one or more of the California Congressional Districts where the proposed project activities will occur. Copy and Paste the URL (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/CA>) in your browser to determine the Congressional district(s).

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D. County

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