

SENATE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

July 20, 2017

Lisa Mangat
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Dear Lisa,

We write to encourage your Department to work with appropriate stakeholders to explore the option of selling the land set aside for the Tesla expansion of the Carnegie Off-Highway Vehicle recreation area.

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission (OHMVR) has engaged in a lengthy process to expand the Carnegie recreation area with the purchase of the adjacent Alameda Tesla properties. This has been a protracted and expensive process, with more than \$9 million in acquisition costs-- plus the expense of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). With four lawsuits challenging the EIR, additional legal costs will likely add hundreds of thousands of dollars to this bill.

We also know that these costs are just the start as we await the development of a specific project plan and the legal defense expenses and delays associated with any future approvals.

We know the commissioners had the best intentions when they began this process more than 20 years ago. There was some awareness of the historical use of these lands for mining and some knowledge of the sensitive environmental areas. You were also experiencing some growth in the off-highway vehicle usage.

But there may be good reasons to consider recapturing these project costs through the sale of the property, if a consensus can be reached to do so. The EIR reveals the challenge of creating a project plan that works around the many site constraints. And there are off-highway use reforms under way that exhibit a greater appreciation for land and wildlife preservation. Getting your money back at the earliest possible date would enable the Commission to find suitable and affordable land for these recreational pursuits.

One entity that may have funds to purchase and preserve east Alameda County lands such as Tesla is the Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement Open Space Fund. There may be other sources interested in purchasing the property.

We encourage your Department and the OHMVR to explore this option with input from local stakeholders for the long-term benefits of the off-highway users and environment.

Thank you for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Wagon SD 7

Bree Dodd SD 03

Mary Linner SD 9

Jung Sun SD 13

Cathleen Dalgiani SD 5

Catalo B. Th AD 16

St. S. Sanyal AD 14

Robert A. Weckowski SD 10

Karen Chen AD 25

Jim Beall

MM H AD 19

Scott Wiera SD 11

Clayton AD 24

Kevin Muller AD 22

Rob Bonta AD 18

Alan Lina AD 10

Legislators signing July 20, 2017 letter to California State Parks encouraging sale of Tesla park land through Alameda County Altamont Landfill Committee Open Space mitigation fund.

Senator Steve Glazer, SD 7

Senator Bill Dodd, SD 03

Senator Nancy Skinner, SD 9

Senator Jerry Hill, SD 13

Senator Cathleen Galgiani, SD 5

Assembly Member Catherine B. Baker, AD 16

Assembly Member Timothy S. Grayson, AD 14

Senator Robert A. Wieckowski, SD 10

Assembly Member Kasen Chu, AD 25

Senator Jim Beall, SD 15

Assembly Member Phillip Y. Ting, AD 19

Senator Scott Wiener, SD 11

Assembly Member Marc Berman, AD 24

Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, AD 22

Assembly Member Ron Bonta, AD 18

Assembly Member Marc Levine, AD 10