



California Four Wheel Drive Association, Inc.

Over 55 years advocating for recreation

March 3, 2017

Re: **AB-1 and SB-1 Oppose**

The California Four Wheel Drive Association (CFWDA) and its members stand in opposition to Assembly Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1 as both bills redirect the gas tax funds away from the OHMVR Trust Fund Account into the General Fund.

CFWDA view of the proposed legislation (AB-1 and SB-1) can best be described as punitive and destructive to what has become a nationally acclaimed success story for delivering quality recreational opportunities while maintaining the strictest environmental standards while ensuring that quality OHV recreation opportunities exist in this state and are managed and controlled in a manner that emphasizes environmental sustainability and protection as well as public safety and local government engagement.

We are concerned with the language of AB-1 and SB-1.

- Both redirect the gas tax funds away from the OHMVR Program.
- Both bills contain a stated purpose to create a long-term funding source for the state, counties, and cities to address transportation and road maintenance needs.
- Both bills specify where the new additional taxes will go and amend Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Law (MVFTL) Sections 8352.4, 8352.5 and 8352.6 to reallocate the money currently being transferred from specified accounts (Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, Agriculture Fund, Off-Highway Vehicle Fund) to the General Fund to the Highway Users Tax Account for distribution pursuant to Section 2103.1 of the Streets and Highways Code beginning July 1, 2017.

CFWDA and members have been involved with legislation dealing with the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program since the passage of the original Chappie-Z'berg OHV Act of 1971. We have worked collaboratively with all stakeholders of OHV recreation beginning with the original bill and subsequent sunset renewal bills over the past 46 years.

The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program has been in existence since 1971 when legislators Eugene Chappie, an off-road enthusiast, and Edwin Z'Berg, a conservationist, collaborated to create a national model providing for a statewide system of managed OHV recreational opportunities and motorized access to non-motorized recreation by

means of a robust grant program, designated and managed OHV trails on public lands, and a series of State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs).

Managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation OHMVR Division and Commission, the current CA OHMVR program is often cited as the national Gold Standard in modern environmentally-sound motorized recreation.

At a public meeting in Sacramento on July 19, 2016, California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Mangat stated: "This OHV program is the national model. It's not just the great program in the State of California, it is the national model, and we recognize that."

The OHMVR Division has administered this program for the last 35 years using its team of highly-skilled environmental scientists, law enforcement officers, recreation planners, trail specialists, and grant administrators to partner with federal land agencies, county sheriffs, conservation groups, and OHV organizations in providing California residents and tourists from throughout the world with access to world-class motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands. The OHMVR Program is completely self-funded and does not rely on any General Fund support.

As the popularity (and growth) of off-road recreation continues, the OHMVR program becomes more important. The main focus of CFWDA is to protect, promote, and provide for four-wheel drive motorized recreation opportunities. Our members are directly affected by legislation and management decisions concerning public land use and the health of the State Parks program, especially the OHMVR Division. Diverting or diluting funding to the program is not in the best interests of the public nor the environment.

We hope you will be a strong voice for the OHMVR Program and the OHMVR Division of State Parks and OPPOSE AB-1 and SB-1.