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Police Chief

City of Morro Bay

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Off Highway Vehicle License Fund Grant Application Packet

To: County Of San Luis Obispo General Service Agency-Parks

We, the Morro Bay Police Department, are submitting this proposal, seeking assistance to help access and protect the City and State beaches within our City. These beaches stretch along several miles, from the southern communities of Los Osos and Baywood Park, to the northern community of Cayucos. Much of the described beach areas are inaccessible to the Morro Bay Police Department because we have no off-highway response vehicles.

With this grant, we will be able to purchase an off-highway vehicle which will provide us access to these beaches and environmentally sensitive areas. Having access to these beaches, we will be able to help protect the endangered wildlife habitats and enforce off-highway vehicle laws, as well as local, state and federal laws and ordinances. Staying conscious of the natural habitats of the protected areas, we will be able to provide our citizens a more timely public safety response to issues along our beaches. We will do this by purchasing an off-highway response vehicle and provide training to our personnel in the safe operation of the vehicle.

Once funding is provided, we will make the purchase immediately and schedule the necessary training. It is our goal to have the vehicle purchased and outfitted for use by November of 2014. At that time, we will begin our enforcement of all local, state and federal laws within the Morro Bay jurisdictional area and other areas bordering the City of Morro Bay.

This program is a one-time cost and we are requesting \$20,000 for this project. We have been and will always be committed to providing the citizens of Morro Bay and surrounding communities with the best possible service. Funding this project will help the Morro Bay Police Department accomplish that goal and protect the beautiful City and State beaches within our jurisdiction.

We thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in the matter of public safety.

Sincerely submitted,

The Morro Bay Police Department

Morro Bay Police Department OHV Grant Application 2013

The Morro Bay Police Department partners with California State Parks, California Department of Fish and Game, Morro Bay Harbor Patrol and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department with patrolling numerous beaches in Morro Bay and other nearby coastal areas. The beaches of Morro Bay include Morro Beach (City Beach), Sand Spit, Coleman Beach, and No Name Beach. Morro Bay Police Department assists other agencies with Atascadero Beach, Morro Strand State Beach, and Cayucos State Beach.

Morro Bay is also home to over 100 species of migratory birds including a pair of nesting Peregrine Falcons and the Snowy Plover. In an attempt to preserve the natural habitat of these birds, as well as Harbor Seals, Sea Otters, and other wildlife, Morro Rock and several areas on the beaches are blocked off for long stretches. Morro Bay Police Department is tasked with enforcing the regulations associated with these preserved areas.

On multiple occasions the police department has been required to respond to areas regarding in-progress criminal activity, provide medical aid, and enforcement of local, state and federal laws. The department is not equipped with the type of vehicles needed in these situations. In many cases Officer's find they are unable to locate a problem, have a delayed response, or are unable to provide assistance because they are unable to traverse the sandy beach terrain. The purchase of an off highway vehicle would allow the department access to areas previously unable to go due to vehicle limitations, and would allow for a more expeditious response time to better serve the citizens and visitors of Morro Bay and our Law Enforcement partners.

Below are the application questions and answers.

1. Submittal Date:

November 15, 2013

2. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the applicant:

Morro Bay Police Department
Senior Officer Nicole Canby
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850 Morro Bay Blvd
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-6225

3. Title of Project:

Operation R.E.S.C.U.E. (Response to Environmentally Sensitive, Critical and Urgent Events)

4. Amount of funding requested:

\$20,000

5. Complete project description:

Morro Bay Police Department is seeking to purchase and equip an off highway vehicle for officers to use when responding to events on the beach and other areas not accessible by patrol vehicles. Morro Bay Police Department currently does not have the means necessary to access the many beaches falling within the City of Morro Bay. Many vacation rentals and citizens reside in close proximity to these beaches. Operation R.E.S.C.U.E. (Response to Environmentally Sensitive, Critical and Urgent Events), is proposed to assist in the purchase an off highway vehicle for the Morro Bay Police Department. The project will provide the department the opportunity to purchase and equip a vehicle with the necessary equipment to access these remote and environmentally sensitive areas. The project will allow for a one time purchase of a vehicle and equipment, which will benefit the department and community for several years.

6. Objective of project:

To obtain the funds necessary to purchase and outfit an off highway vehicle that will provide law enforcement personnel with a mode of transportation suitable for traversing beach, sand dune, and off-highway terrain. The vehicle will allow Officers to enforce laws, respond to in-progress criminal activity, assist citizens, and other departments in protecting the natural habitat of endangered species and other sensitive wildlife within these areas.

7. Project completion schedule

The project schedule is based on acquiring the funds necessary to purchase and outfit an off highway vehicle and properly train the members of the department to operate the vehicle. After the funds for the purchase of the vehicle are received, it is the goal of the department to have the vehicle outfitted and personnel trained ready for deployment by November of 2014.

8. Justification for project, including explanation of public benefit. (expected frequency of use, number or users, type of users, etc.) discussion of alternatives for accomplishing project objectives.

The Morro Bay Police Department would utilize an off highway vehicle when responding to criminal activity and calls for service in areas normal patrol vehicles are unable to go. An off highway vehicle would not only aid the department in providing better service to the residents, tourists, and wildlife of Morro Bay, but it would also allow the police department to assist other departments with accessing these types of areas. The vehicle could also be used to assist with many festivals and special events hosted by Morro Bay. Many of the events require street closures or access to be blocked. An off highway vehicle would allow

police personnel as well as other first responders, such as Morro Bay Fire Department, access to these areas when necessary. Only members of the department who are trained to operate the vehicle would be authorized to do so. Although the City of Morro Bay is home to approx. 10,400 permanent residents, the daily and weekend population doubles and triples during these special events and holiday weekends.

9. Long-range plans and maintenance of the project.

After the initial purchase and outfitting of the vehicle it will be incorporated into the Morro Bay Police fleet of vehicles. The routine maintenance costs associated with this vehicle will come from the department's annual vehicle budget. Morro Bay Police Department takes pride in the condition of its vehicle's and it is a priority of the department to ensure our vehicles are kept in pristine operating condition. Several volunteers within the department gladly assume the responsibility of caring for the vehicle's within the fleet.

10. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity, and site maps.

The land areas proposed for the use of this vehicle are City and State property and beaches.

11. Land owner authorization to complete project.

The land detailed in this project would be the City and State owned beaches within and bordering the City of Morro Bay. There are private land owners within the City of Morro Bay which border the beach and restricted access areas, however the access would be in regards to police related activity and there would be no legal ramifications.

12. The history of condition and/ or status of resource and expected benefits from project.

Currently, Morro Bay Police Department Personnel are unable to quickly respond onto the beach areas. The department lacks the vehicles necessary to traverse the terrain of the beach, dunes, and trails. Due to this deficiency, the citizens and visitors of Morro Bay who request aid or assistance are often faced with response delays. There are vast stretches of sand/dune areas blocked off to the public, vehicular, and animal traffic for preservation of the snowy plover. These areas with restricted access are sometimes trespassed on, thus endangering the frail environment of the snowy plover causing a detriment to its survival. Police personnel would be able to quickly respond to these areas and minimize or eliminate any future damage to these environmentally sensitive areas.

13. Copies of design plans or any information you feel is necessary for the complete review of your project.

The proposed plan is to purchase a "crew style" off-highway response vehicle, and the necessary safety equipment to deploy the vehicle. Several photographs of similar style vehicles are attached as reference.

14. Detailed descriptions and estimated costs of expenditures related to the project. No more than 10 percent of the requesting funding may be applied to administrative cost associated with this project.

The funds received for this project will go towards the purchase of the vehicle (est. \$15,000), outfitting vehicle (est. \$2,500) and training personnel (est. \$2,500) for this vehicle operation to suit the needs of the department. The Morro Bay Police Department will absorb the administrative costs of the grant.

15. Amount of matching funds, materials, and/or volunteer efforts designated towards this project.

There will be no matching funds for this project. The Morro Bay Police Department will provide maintenance on the vehicle and the administrative work associated with completion of the grant. The department will work with other departments, including California State Parks, Morro Bay Harbor Department, Morro Bay Fire Department and California Department of Fish and Game to obtain and provide training. The ongoing training for this vehicle will be covered under the department's annual training budget.

16. Experience of applicant completing similar projects to the grant being applied for.

The Morro Bay Police Department has completed several other Grant Projects including; Seatbelt Enforcement, a DUI Investigation trailer, a new Dispatch center and some Decoy operations. The Morro bay Police Department is familiar with the necessary requirements of reporting and tracking grant progress. This Department has never had a negative response from a grant funding agency and will work diligently to ensure this grant meets the outlined goals.

17. Response to how your project meets Allowable Use Criteria and the Grant Application Evaluation Criteria for the category you are applying for (Operation and maintenance, restoration, Law Enforcement, or Education and Safety) as outlined in the pages 2-5 of this document.

This project is directly in line with Public Resource Code 5090.50 (b)(3), Law enforcement. Outlined below are the bullet points of how the Morro Bay Police Department is in line with the requirement set forth.

- a) In this document we have outlined how we will cooperate with other law enforcement entities. ✓
- b) In this document we have outlined that we currently have no available resource to enforce violations of trespassing/off-highway vehicle laws in the environmentally sensitive areas of the City and State beaches. If this project is funded, we will be able to enforce such violations.
- c) In this document we have described the high priority need for law enforcement operations to provide public safety/enforcement in non-accessible areas. We have also outlined our desire to help protect the environment and natural habitats of the Morro Bay beaches.
- d) In this document we have described that we are not recovering a portion of law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored events where sponsors have obtained a local permit.
- e) It is our intent that after funding is acquired for this project, we will issue a press release outlining our specific goals of the project. We will include information regarding the laws pertaining to access and use of the Morro Bay beach restricted access areas in the press release.
- f) In this document we have outlined how we will train our personnel in the safety requirements associated with the use of the off-highway vehicle. As described, we will also provide our personnel with information regarding the preservation of the environmentally sensitive natural habitats of the Morro Bay Beach areas.

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