

# PASO ROBLES POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 7, 2015

County of San Luis Obispo  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Attention: Off Highway Vehicle License Fund Grant Administrator  
1087 Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

## OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE LICENSE FUND GRANT APPLICATION PACKET

To the Grant Administrator,

The City of Paso Robles is approximately 19 square miles that is dissected by the Salinas River, its smaller tributaries, and several large green belts containing smaller creek beds and water run-off.

In 2012, an ordinance was submitted and passed by the City of Paso Robles amending Title 12 of the City Municipal Code based on citizen complaints. After its approval, chapter 12.92 of the Municipal Code (Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Property) was enacted to regulate the operation of off-highway motor vehicles (OHV's) on these and other public properties. The municipal code was enacted to discourage the illegal use of off-highway vehicles which cause noise, dust, erosion, sedimentation, and destruction of plants, landscaping, and wildlife habitat in the above listed areas inside the city limits of Paso Robles.

The municipal code provided the Paso Robles Police Department the power to enforce the protection of these natural habitat areas, but not the resources whereby the officers of the Department could easily gain access to these areas in order to provide said enforcement.

In 2014, the Paso Robles Police Department applied for and was awarded grant funding from the OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE LICENSE FUND grant program. Those grant funds were awarded for the purchase of a multi-seat off-highway vehicle (OHV) and accessories to make it useful for law-enforcement and public safety purposes.

The Paso Robles Police Department is submitting this request in order to acquire the equipment necessary to enhance these enforcement efforts and provide for the protection of these natural areas of the city which is also in conjunction with the Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan passed in 2004.

**“Impacts of Illegal Off-Road Vehicles and Trash:**

Other major sources of problems in the Salinas River include illegal off-road vehicles (OHVs) and trash, which include wrecked cars, appliances, tires, paper, oil and other debris. OHVs include motorcycles, quads, trucks, cars and SUVs. The OHVs tear up the river bed and destroy habitat, impacting the many rare and endangered species that make the River their home. The noise caused by OHVs may also disturb critical bird nesting areas along the river. The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) staff have witnessed destruction of beaver dams and pollution of the River by OHVs. The OHVs also cause erosion and other impacts in the fragile river system....The City of Paso Robles, in a cooperative effort with the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD and other organizations, has initiated various restoration projects to enhance the habitat along the River. Erosion control, riparian planting and weed removal have been a part of that effort. Star Thistle is a constant issue along the River (and throughout much of San Luis Obispo County). The City is also incorporating the River into their future plans for the enhancement of the City Downtown Area...” taken from conservationconsulting.net

<http://conservationconsulting.net/UpSideDownRiver.html>

Photographic documentation of OHV damage to the Salinas River area.



Below are the application questions and answers.

**1. Submittal Date:**

October 7, 2015

**2. Name, address, phone and email address of applicant**

Paso Robles Police Department  
Lieutenant Timothy Murphy  
900 Park Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
805-227-7444  
[tmurphy@prcity.com](mailto:tmurphy@prcity.com)

**3. Title of Project**

Public Lands Protection and Enforcement Project - Phase 2

**4. Amount of funding requested**

\$9,000.00

**5. Complete project description**

The project is intended to enhance the ongoing efforts of the Paso Robles Police Department to enforce laws related to the illegal use of OHV's at a level that the local waterways and their habitat deserve. The Department can utilize the 2014-2015 grant funded multi-seat OHV to access and navigate the broad stretches of land within city limits. The requested project funding in this application will go toward the one-time purchase of an enclosed trailer for the OHV. This trailer will provide for the security of the OHV and will also improve the Department's ability to efficiently transport the OHV to various access points in the affected riverbed and greenbelt areas. In so doing, the Department's ability to respond to emergency situations will be enhanced.

(Please refer to photo for reference)



### **6. Objective of project**

Provide local public safety first responders with a needed resource to enhance efforts to respond to emergencies, enforce laws, and help protect public lands including the Salinas River, its tributaries, and several large greenbelt areas within the city.

### **7. Project completion schedule**

Once funded, the Paso Robles Police Department will collect the necessary bids and attempt to purchase the necessary equipment locally. We will follow the City's purchase policy when purchasing the needed equipment. It will be our goal to have the equipment available for deployment by October of 2016. The Paso Robles Police Department will work with local Fish and Game Wardens to ensure that employees access the Salinas River in locations that are the least disruptive to the natural habitat.

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

The natural habitats of our city are important to the City of Paso Robles and the Paso Robles Police Department. Without some type of assistance, our ability to protect these habitats through specialized enforcement will continue to fall short of our goals. The potential damage caused by OHV's has been well documented. In 2014, the Paso Robles Department of Emergency Services responded to two different calls for service in the Salinas Riverbed. Both calls involved life threatening injuries sustained by persons operating OHV's in violation of the City's municipal code. In both situations treatment was delayed because of the first responder's inability to quickly reach the victims, and extraction of the victims was delayed until the helicopter operated by the California Highway Patrol was available to assist. In 2014-2015 the Department successfully applied for and was granted funding from the OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE LICENSE FUND program for the purchase of an OHV capable of supporting basic emergency supplies to assist in the rendering of life saving medical services. The funds requested in this application will allow for the purchase of an enclosed trailer for this OHV, which

will provide security for the vehicle and enhance response times to deploy the OHV throughout the affected areas.

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

The City of Paso Robles has an excellent track record of maintaining equipment. The Fleet Maintenance Division is funded by the city budget to provide timely and thorough oversight of all vehicles and equipment operated by the city. Once this project is funded, the trailer would be absorbed into the program already in place for years of beneficial use.

**10. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity and site maps( if applicable)**

The majority of the land described in this project is owned by the City of Paso Robles. There is some land of the Salinas River that is privately owned; however our access would be for police related activity and would have no legal ramifications.

**11. Land Owner Authorization to complete project (if applicable)**

Not applicable.

**12. The history of the condition and status of resources and expected benefits**

Historically the City of Paso Robles has had limited resources to gain access to much of the Salinas River. In 2002 the city was able to purchase 2 four-wheel ATV's which have allowed some forms of enforcement in the described areas. However the enforcement has been mostly limited to laws involving trash dumping and transient encampments. The ATV's have been well maintained, and are still in use; but they do not provide the ability to safely enforce the laws pertaining to illegal OHV use. The grant funded OHV will provide better service to our citizens who enjoy the benefits of hiking, riding bikes and horseback riding in the Salinas River and the designated greenbelt areas. The requested trailer will enhance the Department's response times by allowing personnel to deploy the OHV to remote locations in a more efficient manner.

**13. Copies of design plans, as well as any information you feel is necessary for the complete review of this project.**

The proposed plan is to purchase an enclosed trailer and the necessary safety equipment to store and transport the OHV. Please see attached photographs of a trailer that is similar to what is being proposed.

**14. Detailed description and estimated costs of expenditures related to the project. No more than 10 percent of the requested funding may be applied to administrative costs associated with the project.**

The administrative costs of the grant will be absorbed into the normal operating budget of the Paso Robles Police Department. The only proposed expenditure is for the purchase of the trailer and necessary accessories to safely transport the OHV.

**15. Amount of matching funds, materials and/or volunteer efforts that are designated toward this project (if applicable)**

No matching funds will be applied to this project, except for those of maintenance and administrative work on the grant.

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

The Paso Robles Police Department successfully completed this grant in 2014-2015 and 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 the 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 on 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 Paso Robles Police Department is in line with the requirement set forth.

Allowable Use Criteria

(a) Specify formal and informal cooperation with other appropriate law enforcement entities including any applicable federal entities.

The Department has contacted several other law enforcement agencies who currently deploy OHV's for enforcement of their local areas. It was via this research that the need for an enclosed trailer was identified. The Department gained valuable knowledge and recommendations from these agencies which helped direct our completion of this application.

The Department currently is the sole agency responsible for law enforcement in the described areas. However, this Department has long standing cooperative relationships with both the local California Highway Patrol office and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office. Our agencies routinely collaborate on law enforcement operations in our areas of responsibility, including the areas frequented by OHV use. As such, the collaborative efforts of our agencies would be enhanced by the acquisition of this equipment.

(b) Describe how law enforcement agency will enforce violation of off-highway motor vehicles laws and regulations.

In this document we have outlined how our grant funded OHV will allow for the Department to enforce violations of OHV laws. If this project is funded, we will be able to enhance those enforcement efforts for violations of OHV laws and regulations as well as improve emergency response times.

(c) Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concern.

In this document we have described the high priority need for law enforcement operations to provide public safety in non-accessible areas. We have also outlined our commitment to help protect the environment and natural habitats of the Salinas River and other greenbelt areas within city limits.

(d) Explain whether the applicant is recovering a portion of law enforcement cost directly associated with privately sponsored events where sponsors have obtained a local permit.

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) Establish a public education program that includes information regarding safety programs offered in the area and how to report off-highway vehicle operation violations.

It is our intent that after funding is acquired for this project, we will issue a press release outlining our specific goals for the project. We will include information regarding the laws pertaining to access and use of the Salinas River in the press release. Pamphlets containing similar information will be created for dissemination at locations frequented by OHV users such as; DMV, OHV sales locations, and city events. The Department currently maintains a public presence in the local schools through various presentations and training. If the funding is approved to purchase this trailer, it would enhance our ability to do OHV specific training with the students in our city by allowing for Department personnel to transport the OHV to various remote locations and school campuses. We believe that the children in our city can have a positive impact on the choices their parents make in regards to OHV use.



(f) Specify how personnel are trained and educated regarding safety, resource and cultural protection.

The Department will continue to provide our personnel with information regarding the preservation of the natural habitats of the Salinas River and the green belt areas to be patrolled.

#### Grant application Evaluation Criteria

(a) The extent to which the project enhances the enforcement of the law and regulations related to the operation and use of off-highway vehicles.

In this document we have described the high priority need for law enforcement operations to provide public safety and enforcement in non-accessible areas. We have also outlined our desire to help protect the environment and natural habitats of the Salinas River and other greenbelt areas within city limits.

(b) Extent that project incorporates matching funds, materials and/or volunteer efforts to accomplish the project.

In this document we have described that we are not receiving matching funds or materials to accomplish this project.

(c) Benefit of project to the number of people.

In this document we have described the benefit for the 29,000 residents of Paso Robles as well as the thousands of annual visitors who come to enjoy the natural beauty of our city.

(d) Past performance of applicants in completing and administering grant funded projects.

In this document we have described the success the Paso Robles Police Department has experienced with similar projects and grants including reporting and tracking of stated goals.