

# Off Highway Vehicle License Fund Grant Application Packet

1. Submittal Date: 10/23/2015
2. Name, address, phone and email address of applicant:  
City of Pismo Beach Fire Department Lifeguard Division  
760 Mattie Road Pismo Beach CA, 93449  
805-773-7031  
[Paul.Lee@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Paul.Lee@fire.ca.gov)
3. Title of project:  
Clear Communications with State Park Rangers using Handheld Waterproof, Noise-cancelling Radios
4. Amount of funding requested:  
\$9,900
5. Complete project description:  
The CAL FIRE/Pismo Beach Fire Department operates the Pismo Beach Lifeguard Division. Lifeguards are hired on a seasonal basis and will work from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The Lifeguards protect a 1.5-mile stretch of beach with five Lifeguard towers and a patrol vehicle. A Lead Lifeguard who reports directly to an on-duty Fire Captain or the Battalion Chief supervises Lifeguards. Seasonal staffing consists of 20-25 Lifeguards. The Lifeguard Program is responsible for providing an elevated intensity of life and beach safety to the residents and visitors of Pismo Beach, the Lifeguards protect over 400,000 visitors to each year.

Pismo Beach Junior Lifeguard program provides the youth of our community with life skills in fundamental ocean swimming techniques and acquaint them with the hazards of ocean swimming in a courteous, respectful, and positive teaching environment. Participants learn the basic components of water safety, lifeguarding, surf rescue, ocean swimming, surf riding, care and handling of ocean rescue equipment, illegal/legal use of OHV's on the beach, CPR, first aid, marine life studies. Pismo Beach Junior Lifeguards also have an opportunity to compete in Junior Lifeguard competitions, learn to kayak, take a field trip to the Mustang Water Slides and participate in an overnight campout. Experienced Pismo Beach Lifeguards provide instruction.

Lifeguards come in contact with vehicles that come out of the OHV area or confuse the OHV area with the Pismo Beach non OHV area and enter into the City where OHV's are not allowed. OHV's are not allowed on the Pismo Beach because of the amount of foot traffic, other life safety concerns, impact to the environment and private property. The Lifeguards must educate the driver and follow up with the State Park Rangers to ensure the OHV makes a safe return to the City street or the approved OHV area.

Pismo Beach Lifeguards also provide a Junior Lifeguard program part of which helps educate the community youth about OVH safety, use for emergencies and legal areas of operation.

Pismo Beach Lifeguards and the Fire Department provide and receive auto aid and mutual aid from the State Park Rangers year round for Beach, Surf, Open Ocean Rescue and OHV accidents. To meet the needs of auto aid, mutual aid and overall safety on the beach from OHV's, clear communication is critical.

Currently Lifeguards are using radios that do not have noise-cancelling technology and are not waterproof. This noise-cancelling technology significantly reduces background noise caused by helicopters, OHV's, boats, wind, and large crowds. Additionally, the current radios used by Lifeguards cannot be used in the water which reduces accountability of rescue swimmers in the water and on boats. This loss of communication from rescue swimmer to rescue operations can result in longer rescue times and decrease the effectiveness of resources when time is critical.

6. Objective of project:

To replace two existing radios that have provided auto aid to the Pismo State Beach OHV area for water rescues of OHV recreational users and communicate to the Rangers when OHV vehicles leave the use area and enter the City limits.

7. Project completion schedule:

Replace two of the existing Lifeguard radios as soon as possible with waterproof, noise-cancelling radios that would have a lifespan of 5 years.

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

The replacement of the radios will enhance Lifeguard's safety and ability to continue to provide auto aid to the OHV State Park. It will also allow Lifeguards to educate OHV's entering the City of Pismo Beach and alert Rangers of the illegal use of OHV's. In addition to education, Lifeguards are expected to communicate in harsh environmental conditions that is often loud and requires submersion into the ocean.

The use of the radios would be 7 days a week during the summer season when the Lifeguards are on duty. The radios will also be used by firefighting staff when Lifeguards are off duty 24/7.

Failure to enhance the existing Lifeguard communication equipment could result in negative impacts in the auto aid area; these impacts could include loss of accountability of responders in the water, reduced communication due to loud background noise, pedestrian incursions with OHV's in the City area, and reduced communication for Lifeguards on foot intercepting OHV's in the City area.

9. Long-range plans and maintenance of the project (if applicable):

Replacement radio lifespan is 5 years with routine maintenance.

10. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity and site maps (if applicable)  
The Beach is owned by State Parks and leased by the City of Pismo Beach. The beach is located north of the City and State Park boundary to the rocky cliff 1.5 miles north. The radios will be used during auto aid, mutual aid and on other State Park property when requested to respond via the response agreements.
11. Land Owner Authorization to complete project (if applicable):  
City of Pismo Beach Fire Department Lifeguard Division
12. The history of condition and status of resource and expected benefits:  
The Fire Department Lifeguard Division has historically replaced all Lifeguard radios for the Lifeguard Program which benefits State Park Rangers in regards to providing auto aid and education of OHV users operating outside the OHV Park on the City leased beach. The past replacements of the Lifeguard radios have met the needs of auto aid, mutual aid and overall safety on the beach from OHV's. The current radios used to respond are not waterproof and have significant background noise issues in the environment they are expected to work in. Failure to replace the radios could hamper our ability to account for rescuers in the water, and clearly communicate with the Rangers in noisy environments. The benefit of replacing the existing Lifeguard radios is the ability to enhance the service provided to State Parks as part of auto aid/mutual aid agreements in place.
13. Copies of design plans, as well as any information you feel is necessary for the complete review of this project:  
Two (2) Motorola APX 7000 XE.
14. Detailed descriptions and estimated costs of expenditures related to the project. No more than 10 percent of the requested funding may be applied to administrative cost associated with the project:  
\$9,900 for the cost to replace two Lifeguard radios.
15. Amount of match funds, materials and/or volunteer efforts that are designated toward this project (if applicable):  
The City has successfully acquired and tested two Motorola APX 7000's which are currently assigned to Boat 64. Additionally the City of Pismo Beach Lifeguard Division provides a staffed Lifeguard vehicle to the OHV area upon request 24/7/365.
16. Experience of applicant completing similar projects to the grant being applied for:  
Successful in the 2013 OHV grant for two (2) multi-band radios.  
Successful in the 2014 OHV grant (in process) for replacement of Emergency Response Vehicle.
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.  
We feel we fall under both Education & Safety and Law Enforcement categories.

Pismo Beach Lifeguards will enforce laws and educate OHV operators that drive their OHV in an area not designated for OHV use. The Lifeguards also educate the youth of the community via the Junior Lifeguard program regarding the appropriate use of OHV's and where the local OHV use areas are. Lifeguards and the Fire Department provide and receive auto aid and mutual aid from the State Park Rangers year round for Beach, Surf, Open Ocean Rescue and OHV accidents. Clear communication with the State Park Rangers in the OHV area is critical.