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489-3707

Mrs. Kathleen Goddard Jones
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September 26, 1984

Mr. Phil Mees, Staff
California Coastal Commission
735 State St. - Balboa Bldg.
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

Dear Phil Mees:

As I understand it, you are the one on the Santa Barbara staff to whom is delegated any matter relating to the Nipomo Dunes and the State's Pismo Dunes SVRA. I can't remember whether you and I and Steve Stanley talked together at the July 3, 1984 hearing on ACCESS to Pismo Dunes SVRA, before the S.L.O. County Board of Supervisors. At any rate, I believe my friend, Bill Denneen, who was kindly pushing my wheelchair, did go over and give you each a copy of my testimony, which I'd prepared for that hearing. I hope you still have that filed, so you can refer to it for my stand on urging closure of the Pismo Dunes SVRA and the establishment, if possible, of a Nipomo Dunes National Seashore. All this is just background.

I have just learned by the grapevine that the Dept. of Parks and Recreation has now decided not to ask the SLO County Board of Supervisors to designate their preference for an access, but plans to lay the whole matter in the lap of the Coastal Commission for a decision as to an ACCESS site - and that they are asking for such ACCESS to be located in the Oso Flaco general area. Of course, this would violate the Coastal Act. My informant states: "This is the time for the Coastal Commission to stand firm on upholding the Coastal Act and staunchly deny any ACCESS for ORV's into the dunes via the Oso Flaco Valley." I know all the environmental organizations will rally to support of the Coastal Act -- and I feel certain all the farming interests of Oso Flaco Valley will again loudly say "keep ORV's out of Oso Flaco Valley - we've had enough trouble with them vandalizing our equipment and interfering with our work, plus the fact that we have extremely rich agricultural land, none of which should be used for accomodation of this destructive recreation."

A related topic is the present evidence of the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation plans to expand their fencing of the Pismo Dunes SVRA. The stakes to indicate location of such expansion are already in place. This expansion of fencing would cause a loss of and become a threat to some of the very hard-won protection which has been established in the Oso Flaco area of the dunes. The "new" fence would cause sand blow from the high open dunes, from which past ORV recreation has worn off the enclaves of vegetation that were there (because I have been with Dr. George H aller of UCSB with botany students observing hybridizing abronias (magenta and yellow sand verbenas) in those very dunes; all those now open blowing dunes were not historically open and unvegetated! Aerial photos do not show the millions of small plants now revegetating by themselves since ORV's have been prohibited from that area. To open up this new area again to ORV recreation threatens also the wind/sand scouring that would destroy the revegetation planned to be put in during this coming rainy season; and the same wind/sand scouring would begin the long destruction of the only "forest" in the entire 18 miles of the Nipomo Dunes complex: that is the "forest" of willow-wax myrtle which comprises Maidenform Flats. An excellent half-page photograph of a completely wind/sand scoured willow grove is on page 12B of Jan. 13, 1984 5-Cities Times-Press-Recorder, which I'm sure you have. (If you don't have a copy, please ask me and I'll send you one.) I am extremely disturbed about this proposed fencing and would appreciate a phone call from you.

Very sincerely,

Kathleen