



## California Coastal Commission

455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2421  
Voice (415) 904-5200  
Fax (415) 904-5400  
[www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)

# FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on

## Coastal Commission To Consider New Activities at Oceano Dunes

### What are the Oceano Dunes?

Oceano Dunes is a public 3,500-acre State Park on eight miles of beach and sand dunes near the communities of Grover Beach and Oceano in southern San Luis Obispo County. Many visit the Park because it is the only California State Park where the public can drive on the beach and the dunes.

### What is the California Coastal Commission?

The Coastal Commission is a state government agency that preserves and protects California's coast and ocean for the people. The Commission does this by looking at how development affects the environment and public coastal access. Agency staff makes recommendations to the Commissioners, who take a final vote.

### Why is the Commission Having a Meeting on Oceano Dunes?

State Parks has a permit from the Commission for activities at Oceano Dunes. The Commission regularly reviews this permit and found that driving at the Park has damaged the dunes, worsened air quality, and has made it difficult for the public to walk, swim and enjoy other activities at the beach. The Commission will have a meeting to consider how to address these issues while keeping the Park open to the public.

### When will the Commission make a decision about Oceano Dunes?

The Commission will release a public staff report in February and hold a virtual public hearing on March 18th about what should be allowed at Oceano Dunes. The Commission will hear from its staff, State Parks and other government representatives, and the public. The Commission is expected to vote on whether to phase out off-highway vehicles at the Park, while preserving car camping and car/ADA access, and opening up new activities on other parts of the beach.

### What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

Commission staff is recommending phasing out off-highway vehicles on the beach and dunes over the next five years and closing Pier Avenue to vehicle access. Staff also recommends expanding beach car camping and beach activities such as walking and swimming, along with hiking, biking, horseback riding, birdwatching.

### How does this affect me?

Oceano Dunes is a public park for all Californians to use and enjoy. Think about how you use the Park now and how would you like to use it in the future. This public hearing is an opportunity to make your voice heard on what you think beach access at Oceano Dunes should look like. All are welcome.

### How can I participate?

- The Commission's staff report and staff's recommendation will be available in February
- Submit comments by email to [OceanoDunesReview@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:OceanoDunesReview@coastal.ca.gov)
- Submit comments by mail to 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Speak to the Commissioners on March 18, 2021 using your telephone, cell phone, computer or tablet (instructions are available at [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)).
- For questions, contact Kevin Kahn, Central Coast District Supervisor at 831-427-4863 or [kevin.kahn@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:kevin.kahn@coastal.ca.gov)