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MEMO

DATE: January 27, 2012
TO: NRAC Members
FROM: Planning Dept. Staff
RE: 2012 California State Parks OHV Grant Application – Potential Issues

One of the items on the Agenda for the February 6, 2012, NRAC meeting is a discussion of whether NRAC should, through the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, pursue an OHV Grant to help fund trail/route mapping for the Adventure Trails Pilot Program.

Staff wanted to make Committee members aware of several pieces of information that may impact their decision of whether to pursue such grant funding:

- Low 2011 Grant Score: The Planning Department's 2011 OHV grant application was unsuccessful in generating any funding. A key reason for this seemed to be that the "Planning" type of OHV grant proposals compete against three other types of grant proposals ("Ground Operations," "Development," and "Acquisitions"). Planning type grants, by virtue of being based in future/planned activities that have not yet taken place, seem less favorably geared toward scoring high on the General Criteria portion of grant application questions — which is where the majority of application points are generated. The General Criteria grant application questions (#1 – 14) can be viewed on the NRAC website.
- Less Grant Funding in 2012: Administrators of the grant program report that the following conditions will be in play for the 2012 OHV grant cycle:

- There will be 5 million less funds available in 2012 than in 2011 for projects classed within the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) category of grants, which is the category in which all “planning” applications are grouped. The O&M category operates with a 2012 budget of 10.5 million.
- Limited Funding Potential for Planning Grants: Of the four types different types of grant applications competing for O&M category funds, 70% of O&M funds are ear-marked for “Operations & Maintenance” applications, with the remaining 30% of O&M funds split equally among the remaining three application types – of which Planning is one (i.e., all Planning grant applications, as a group/type, have a chance at just 10% of the O&M budget)
- Committee members can view last year’s 2011 OHV grant application, as well as questions for the 2012 OHV grant application, on the NRAC website (see “Project/Materials” for the February 6th meeting @ www.inyoplanning.org/natres.htm).