



November 14, 2017

Mr. Chris Horgan  
Stewards of the Sequoia  
P.O. Box 1246  
Wofford Heights California 93285

Dear Mr. Horgan:

Your letter concerning the temporary closure of Nightmare Gulch dated August 2, 2017 was sent to my office for a response. Let me be the first to apologize for the tardiness of this response.

As I believe you are aware, the Department has recently completed several open public meetings with concerned stakeholders regarding motorized vehicular recreation within State Parks, as well as, within Department managed State Vehicular Recreation Areas. The Department recognizes the importance of the wide array of recreational activities which bring families to parks, and more importantly families together.

The concerns of the Stewards of the Sequoia and other stakeholders regarding the closure of a portion of Red Rock Canyon State Park were responded to with the attendance of key leaders within the Department at the Ridgecrest Roundtable meeting held on July 27, 2017. Department leaders included Deputy Director of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Mat Fuzie, Special Assistant to the Director Karl Knapp, District Superintendent of the Tehachapi District Russ Dingman, and Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan Project Manager Jeff Brown.

Within this meeting forum we were able to discuss the temporary closure of Nightmare Gulch, as well as, an update on the park's General Plan revision process. The meeting provided information concerning the updating of specific data sets within the closed area including natural, cultural, and hydrological surveys which necessitate the closure until such studies have been concluded.

These updates and studies will provide the necessary information to determine the most appropriate use and timely re-opening of the area, as well as, what types of environmental reviews will be necessary to allow motorized recreation in the future.

I appreciate your support and willingness to volunteer with activities which may assist with the re-opening of the area, however, the studies must be completed and are necessary in detailing how this property is effectively and responsibly opened once again for public access.

Chris Horgan  
November 14, 2017  
Page 2

You have my commitment the Department will continue to meet with stakeholders, which include Stewards of the Sequoia, Friends of Jawbone, and the Ridgecrest Roundtable on the subject and will provide study findings and reports as we are able.

I wish to once again thank you for your ongoing support and use of your California State Parks and remain confident the work once complete will provide a suitable and sustainable path forward for Nightmare Gulch, as well as, the totality of Red Rock Canyon State Park. I look forward to keeping you posted at the Ridgecrest Roundtable meetings and seeing you at other Off-Highway Motor Vehicle sponsored events.

Sincerely,



Brian Ketterer  
Southern Field Division Chief  
Executive Chief of Law Enforcement