State of California—Business, Transportation and Housing Agency ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
P. O. Box 942898
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001
(916) 657-4098
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)

February 3, 2009

File No.: 050.A9293.09-0057.051

Ms. Marlene Finley
Regional Director
Recreation, Lands, Wilderness and Heritage Resources
USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Ms. Finley:

Thank you for initiating the January 9, 2009, meeting between your agency and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to discuss your roadway designation process.

It is understood that you have now determined that your Maintenance Level (ML) 3 roadways are considered "highways" for the purposes of the California Vehicle Code (VC) which would require that any off-highway vehicle access on these ML 3 roads would require a combined-use designation pursuant to Section 38026 VC. We appreciate you inquiring about our policy and guidelines relating to the approval of combined-use roadway designations and agree the information should be provided to your regional foresters to assist them during the process.

As mentioned at the meeting, when one of the foresters determine a 3-mile or less segment of highway in the forest would meet the criteria for a combined-use designation, a proposal should be prepared, and submitted to the local CHP Area office, which includes:

(1) Purpose. The purpose of the combined-use highway. For example: to link off-highway motor vehicle trail segments.

(2) Description. A description of the highway segment, including but not limited to:
- Width;
- Length (cannot exceed three miles);
- Location;
- Type of surface;
- Type of shoulder;
- Number of lanes;

- Speed limit.
- Diagrams and photographs would be beneficial.

(3) Highway Traffic Data. The average daily travel and collision rate (the number of collisions per million vehicle miles traveled).

(4) Land Use. Land use within 100 yards of the proposed combined use highway.

(5) Rules and Regulations. A copy of the rules and regulations required to be adopted for combined-use designation pursuant to Section 38026(a) VC.

(6) Justification. The benefits of the combined-use designation, such as public service(s) performed or problem(s) resolved.

(7) Costs. An estimate of the costs associated with developing, implementing, operating, and maintaining the proposed combined-use highway.

(8) Signing. A description of the California Department of Transportation approved signs to be posted and the location where they will be erected.

As a proposal goes through the CHP's review process, the following factors will be considered:

- Motorist and public safety;
- Traffic volume;
- Types of vehicles using the roadway;
- Property use of adjacent property owners;
- Physical characteristics of the roadway.

Thank you for your efforts to keep us informed of your roadway designation process. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 657-4098, or Captain Paul Congi of Research and Planning Section at (916) 657-7237.

Sincerely,

J. E. McLAUGHLIN, Chief
Planning and Analysis Division