



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA HACN Regular Special

Meeting Date: January 13, 2026

Title: Resolution 2026-2 of the City Council of the City of Needles Approving the Off Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Designated Routes Signage Plan

Background: On August 26, 2022, Assembly Bill (AB) 2152 was approved, authorizing the City of Needles to establish a pilot project to designate combined-use highways within city limits. The intent of the legislation is to create connections between existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) off-highway vehicle trails, recreational use areas, and necessary service and lodging facilities, while preserving traffic safety, reducing private land trespass, and minimizing impacts on residents.

On March 12, 2024, the City Council formed an Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Ad-Hoc Committee to research implementation of the pilot project. The committee consists of Vice Mayor Campbell and Councilmembers Belt and Longbrake. The committee engaged key stakeholders, including law enforcement and BLM representatives, and provided direction to staff to advance a comprehensive and enforceable implementation strategy.

Following this effort, the City contracted with Minagar & Associates, Inc. to conduct technical studies evaluating roadway conditions, safety requirements, and route connectivity. On September 9, 2025, the City Council approved the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Plan and Routes – Pilot Project Technical Memorandum, which identified 9.20 miles of proposed OHMV routes throughout the city connecting local roadways with BLM trailheads, lodging facilities, and service areas.

Immediately following approval of the technical memorandum, Minagar & Associates, Inc. began working on the Designated Routes Signage Plan for the City of Needles Pilot Program. The signage plan includes CA MUTCD-compliant route signage and traffic control devices to clearly define authorized OHMV corridors and support consistent enforcement.

Additionally, two potential staging areas are identified at Park Drive & River Road and Clary Drive & Lillyhill Drive, providing centralized access points for residents and visitors.

Fiscal Impact: Implementation will require funding for signage, staging areas, and public outreach and is anticipated to be funded through the City’s General Fund. Staff will continue to pursue eligible grant opportunities, including the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund, to offset costs where available.

Environmental Impact: The pilot program is subject to ongoing monitoring and reporting requirements established under AB 2152 and Vehicle Code §38026.2, including coordination with the California Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, and Department of Parks and Recreation. Impacts to air quality, noise, and adjacent lands will be evaluated in the City’s 2027 legislative report

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2026-2 approving the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Designated Routes Signage Plan and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to make minor and non-substantive modifications to the plan as necessary for implementation, provided such modifications do not materially alter the intent or policy direction approved by the City Council.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 1/8/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____