



Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services  
(916) 327-7302

## Notice of Public Hearing Proposed Acquisition of Cowell Ranch

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed acquisition of approximately 3,660 acres of open space land in eastern Contra Costa County. The land is part of a large holding known as Cowell Ranch. **The hearing will be held at Liberty High School at 850 Second St. in Brentwood on Wednesday, June 19, 2002, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** There is off-street parking at the hearing location. The hearing room and parking lot are accessible to people with disabilities.

Cowell Ranch is owned by S. H. Cowell Foundation, a foundation for charitable giving with headquarters in San Francisco. DPR, State Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Caltrans will be the proposal's major funding partners. Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation organization, is securing the property. Once acquired by DPR, the property would become part of the State Park System.

**PURPOSE OF THE HEARING** is to record comments from local public officials and the general public about the proposal. DPR will then submit a summary of the comments to the State Legislature no later than 30 days prior to acquisition approval. The hearing is required by state law (Public Resources Code, Sec. 5006.1). Comments at the hearing will be directed toward acquisition issues.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** The land covered by this proposal is located west of Brentwood. It is mostly gently sloped, rolling grassland with some oak savannah. Marsh Creek drains most of the land. The ranch has habitat for several state or federally listed species of threatened and endangered animals. The DPR-owned John Marsh Home historic site is located within the ranch property.

**COMMENTS:** DPR staff will give a background presentation before opening the hearing for comments. DPR will also accept written comments for the record if received by June 24, 2002. Please submit written comments at the hearing or send them to Warren Westrup, Chief, Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services, California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814. E-mailed comments should be sent to Roger Willmarth at [rwillm@parks.ca.gov](mailto:rwillm@parks.ca.gov).

For information about the proposal, please call Roger Willmarth at (916) 445-9099, or check the DPR website at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) under News and Announcements/News Releases 2002.

Warren E. Westrup, Chief  
Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services