



News Release

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A “Shared Vision” for a Special Place...

Crystal Cove Historic District Plan Ready for Public Review

CRYSTAL COVE – California State Parks today released the long-awaited plan for the Crystal Cove State Park Historic District. The plan is the culmination of a public input partnership between community members and California State Parks. It provides for preservation, restoration and protection of cultural and natural resources while enhancing public access opportunities for enjoying the unique character of this historic place.

Recommendations for restoration and use include adapting existing cottages for overnight accommodations, a visitor’s center, an underwater park, education center, a multi-purpose room, an exhibit space, and a house museum. The overnight use would include low-cost dormitory style rentals in up to four cottages and individual cottage rentals in as many as 31 cottages. The plan also calls for an outdoor village center area for programs and activities and limited concession services in keeping with the historic character of the Historic District. In addition, the plan calls for park operations, maintenance, lifeguard and research use in up to five cottages. (See details under Public Use Programs and Guidelines, page 2)

The long-awaited plan is called the preliminary Preservation and Public Use Plan (PPUP) for the Crystal Cove State Park Historic District. Its companion document is the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Both are now finished and ready for the next stage of the public review process. The plan and the draft Environmental Impact Report will be made available for public review at a number of locations (see listing at end of release) and on the State Parks website: www.parks.ca.gov.

“More than a year ago,” said Acting Director of State Parks Ruth Coleman, “the community surrounding Crystal Cove asked us to reverse the course we were on and take a new direction. Rusty Areias, the Park Director then, did just that and it resulted in a community input process that brought a wealth of ideas and creativity to the table. We believe this plan now

represents the best of what the community asked us to do and we are excited about hearing back from them and getting started.”

“The input we received,” said State Parks Orange Coast District Superintendent Mike Tope, “ helped us produce a plan that we believe strikes a good balance in meeting the goals of preserving the resources of Crystal Cove and opening the historic district to full public use and enjoyment. We were striving for a shared vision with community members, and we believe we have achieved that.”

The primary goal of the Preservation and Public Use Plan is to provide a comprehensive and flexible plan that will serve as the guide for the preservation of Crystal Cove’s resources and the completion of converting Crystal Cove to appropriate full public use. To that end, this vision statement is presented within the plan:

Vision Statement for the Historic District

State Parks envisions working with interested people and groups to renovate and preserve for posterity the Historic District’s unique cultural, natural, and recreational resources and to make these values available for the enjoyment and education of all.

The plan states that that vision will be achieved by the following general goals:

- Protecting natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- Expanding recreational access and opportunities.
- Providing public opportunity to enjoy overnight stays in the Historic District.
- Involving the public in building a new Crystal Cove Community.
- Providing opportunities for interaction and learning.

Concerning public access to the Historic District, the public use portion of the plan is comprised of four separate, yet interrelated, subprograms. Those programs and their required facilities include:

Public Use Programs and Guidelines

- Park Operations Program – This program provides for the security, safety, resource protection and sanitation needs that enable visitors to enjoy the Crystal Cove experience. It would include an entrance kiosk, restrooms, park operations and maintenance office, CCHD research facility, garage storage, lifeguard substation and park staff security housing (up to 5 cottages).
- Park Interpretation and Education Program – This program’s educational efforts will be coordinated by the State Park interpretive staff, with programs created and conducted by State Park Interpreters, volunteer docents and facilitators. Facilities and uses would include: Visitor Orientation Center, Archive Center and Docent and Park Interpreter Annex, Outdoor multi-use commons, multi-purpose meeting and classroom facilities, park and

community rotating exhibit facility, Crystal Cove House Museum, and an underwater park education center.

- Overnight Accommodations Program – This program would provide the general public with affordable, short-term overnight accommodations in the Historic District's cottages. Through this program, people from most income levels will have a unique opportunity to spend a few nights in this historic beach community. The overnight accommodations would be as follows: Individual-style accommodations (up to 31 cottages), dormitory-style accommodations and commons (up to 4 cottages), overnight rental office, resident manager's quarters and registration parking; and, overnight rental housekeeping, maintenance and storage accommodations.
- Visitor Services Concession Program -- This program supplements the park staff's efforts to enhance the visitor's experience within the Historic District. This program may include: Management of overnight accommodations, food service, beach supplies and rentals, visitor transportation (such as shuttle services), and other visitor services. Such facilities could include an affordable café and a beach store. All such services would be required to retain the historic character of the Historic District.

This plan comes about as a result of a lengthy and comprehensive public input process that began with the first public meeting in April of 2001. Since then, the State Parks Crystal Cove Planning staff has conducted a series of public hearings, workshops and site tours. Hundreds of individuals and more than a dozen community groups and organizations spent time providing input, poring over maps and drawings, and taking tours, in the quest to find a shared vision for the future use and development of the historic district.

The next step in this process again goes back to the public for review and comment. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), there will now be a public review process that begins October 15, 2002 and runs to December 2, 2002.

Comments should be submitted in writing to:

California State Parks, Southern Division
8885 Rio Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
Attention: Tina Robinson Telephone: (619) 220-5300.

Once the public has completed their review of the preliminary PPUP and DEIR, the Department will prepare responses to the comments and send it to the State Parks and Recreation Commission for their review and approval. The Commission hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 2003. If project preparation and approvals occur in a timely fashion, restoration could begin in the summer of 2003.

Implementation of the plan will be dependent on funding. At present, \$12 million from Proposition 40 and the Coastal Commission has been identified for the first phase

implementation. This first phase would include a focus on establishing public access, a core visitor-serving village center area for programs and activities, establishing the initial overnight use, some operations facilities; and, the basic backbone infrastructure for sewer, water and visitor services. In addition, some rehabilitation should occur in the entrance and village center areas to establish access circulation and visitor services. Subsequent implementation will focus on completion of overnight use adaptations, the Los Trancos office area, and site rehabilitation throughout the rest of the Historic District.

Printed Copies of the PPUP and the draft EIR are available at the following sites:

- **Orange Coast District Office of California State Parks**, 3030 Avenida del Presidente, San Clemente, CA, 92672 (telephone: 949-492-0802)
- **Crystal Cove State Park**, 8471 Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, CA, 92651 (telephone: 949-494-3539)
- **Southern Service Center of California State Parks**, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego, CA, 92108 (telephone: 619-220-5300)
- **Northern Service Center**, One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA (telephone: 916-445-7985)
- **Laguna Beach Public Library**, 363 Glenneyre Street, Laguna Beach, CA,
- **Newport Beach Public Library**, 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach, CA
- **Government Information Department, Main Library, UC Irvine**