

News Release



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COLONEL ALLENSWORTH STATE HISTORICAL PARK AND LOCAL RESIDENTS OF ALLENSWORTH COME TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT

Residents of Allensworth gather at the park with officials to volunteer in recreating historic gardens and promote community farming on the day of the Rededication Event.

Allensworth, CA – Saturday, October 8, 2011, the residents of the small community of Allensworth joined with State Park officials, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment and South Central Farmers Coop to begin on a fruitful journey on restoring a Historic Garden/Community Farming project at the park. The State Park has offered to make accessible some plots of land for community residents to be able to garden under the Volunteer in Parks program (VIP). This will benefit the Park and the community. The Park receives interested persons to cultivate and maintain a living display of our agricultural heritage, while the volunteers receive the end product.

“Showing the public how people lived in the past is a big part of what we do” said Steven Ptomey State Park Interpreter and manager at Colonel Allensworth SHP. “Producing and consuming your own food, and all the work that entails, is difficult to explain to today’s kids, now we will be able to show them” he also stated.

This project will draw on all of local community entities, like Allensworth Progressive Association, Allensworth Community Council, The Allensworth Corporation and all the residents on working together in seeking mutual benefit for Economic Development.

“The Community believes that this endeavor complements the economic development effort that has been underway in Allensworth since 2008, and continues our overall quest to make Allensworth the hub for organic vegetables in Tulare County” said Denise Kadara an active resident in the community.

The project is in part and flows from the "Green Paper project" a community vision for Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Development produced by Center on Race,

Poverty and the Environment. This is one of several pilot projects taking place in other communities like in Allensworth growing organic vegetables.

“The fact that the Allensworth State Park is opening this opportunity to the community and all the stakeholders in a partnership, is a true beginning in the making, especially in these hard economic times” Said Juan Flores a community organizer with CRPE.

The town of Allensworth was founded in 1908 by Col. Allen Allensworth and several other men, and represents the only all black township in California that was founded, financed, built, populated and governed by African Americans. It is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

In addition, Allensworth is one of the 50 State Historic Parks within the State park system. More than 22 different structures have been reconstructed or restored, to include the historic Baptist church, the Hackett house, Hackett barn, Ashby house and barn, Johnson Bakery/residence, the Carter Livery Stable and the historic hotel. Today, a walk through this town and through the historic homes, businesses, the church and the school, is an experience in turning back the clock, because one sees much of this restored community as it appeared in the early 1900s.

More information is available at www.parks.ca.gov as well as Facebook and our YouTube Channel. Learn more by contacting those above.

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