

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jack London State Historic Park to Remain Open

First Non-profit Agreement under AB 42 Now Final

California State Parks announced today that it has given final approval for the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association (VMNHA) to operate Jack London State Historic Park. The final agreement has been signed by the Association and State Parks and given final approval by the State Department of General Services, the agency which must review and approve such state contracts. Assembly Bill 42 by Assembly Member Jared Huffman authorized State Parks to enter into agreements directly with non-profits.

“We have reached a milestone in our effort to save this park,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. “We are pleased the Association has stepped forward and we are confident they will do all possible to care for this remarkable historic home during their tenure.”

“We are excited and ready to get to work,” said Greg Hayes, long-time park ranger at Jack London and currently President of the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association. “We are eager to provide a community based, inviting, well maintained park where history, recreation, community events, education and natural resource stewardship continue, here in the Valley of the Moon.”

The Valley of the Moon Natural History Association is a 501 (c) 3 organization that was established in 1977. Their purpose has been to support the educational, volunteer and interpretive studies at three Valley of the Moon (Sonoma Valley) state parks, including: Jack London State Historic Park, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park and Annadel State Park. From 1986 to the present, over 750 VMNHA-trained docents have delivered more than 5,000 guided tours and contributed more than 75,000 hours of volunteer time to California State Parks.

The agreement and proposed operating plan covers a 5 year period with a one year extension. It calls for the park to be open and operating a minimum of 36 hours per week with the Association responsible for daily maintenance, visitor services, volunteer staffing, protection of natural and historic resources and interpretation. The association will begin operating the park May 1st and their goal is to make the transition as seamless as possible to the point where park visitors will be aware of little change in basic operations.

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