

News Release



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Groundswell of Donor Support Provides Means to Keep Palomar Mountain and Petaluma Adobe State Parks Open

Two more California State Parks, once designated for closure, will remain open because of newly approved donor agreements. These donor agreements will keep the doors open at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park and Palomar Mountain State Park. The donations along with in-kind volunteer services and user fees will allow the parks to stay open at levels of operation that vary from park to park

Rallied by the Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park --- the local non-profit dedicated to supporting the park financially --- more than 300 individuals, corporations and foundations contributed the money needed to keep the park open for another year, the first in a three-year commitment. The California State Parks Foundation provided a grant to the local non-profit that helped push the effort over the needed threshold for its mission-critical park funding. The Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park's fund drive continues to ensure the park's on-going operation beyond the first year.

"This is outstanding news for people all over southern California, and it couldn't have happened without a dedicated citizen cavalry of individuals and organizations mobilizing and coming to the rescue. We've raised money for just the first year of a three year commitment, but I know people will continue stepping forward to help out," said Rick Barclay, Chairman of the Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park. "The park has thousands of fans, and I believe that people understand that saving Palomar isn't just a one-time event, but rather an on-going process."

"We are tremendously grateful to the donors and volunteers who have made this happen. The generosity of our major donors as well as the tremendous groundswell of support from individuals, local businesses, and families show how important the park is to the community," said acting Colorado Desert District Superintendent Gail Sevrens. "The leadership

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shown by Friends of Palomar demonstrates how dedicated supporters can make a difference at their parks.”

Palomar Mountain State Park is located in north San Diego County and offers one of the few Sierra Nevada–like atmospheres in the South State.

Steeped in history, Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park was once headquarters of the largest rancho in California. Today it is a prime example of California during the Mexican period. The Sonoma Petaluma State Historic Park Association (SPSHPA) raised more than \$70,000 through a variety of means sparked by a \$35,000 matching offer from an anonymous donor.

"We are fortunate to have our long-time partner the Sonoma Petaluma Association provide a means by which we can keep Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park open," said Diablo Vista District Superintendent Danita Rodriguez. "This park represents an important piece of our California history where thousands of school-age children have the opportunity to have a day or overnight living history experience."

Philip Sales, Chair of the "Save the Petaluma Adobe" committee, stated "The SPSHPA will be working closely with State Parks during the year reprieve to explore possibilities of efficiencies by using more volunteers and generating additional revenue from special events. These events include an open air Shakespeare production "Two Gentlemen of Sonoma" scheduled for weekends August at the Adobe. It is in all our interests to explore all possibilities to preserve the Petaluma Adobe as a legacy to future generation

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