

News Release



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California State Parks to Operate Historic Lodging Facilities at Columbia State Historic Park

California State Parks will take over operations of the City and Fallon Hotels at Columbia State Historic Park, as well as three cottages, effective immediately. The two historic hotels and cottages had previously been operated by a concessionaire that recently gave State Parks a notice to vacate.

“We understand how important these lodging facilities are not just to visitors, but to local businesses and the community, so State Parks will operate the hotels and cottages with minimal disruption in operations or services to visitors,” said Superintendent Greg Martin.

California State Parks is implementing a transition plan to maintain and operate the hotels and cottages while seeking interested concession operators for the City Hotel Restaurant and What Cheer Saloon.

The historic City Hotel is located on Main Street and has ten (10) guest rooms and the historic Fallon Hotel, located on Washington Street, has fourteen (14) guest rooms. Cottages are available for groups and families and offer 1, 2, or 3 bedrooms. The three cottages and the two hotels offer overnight guests comfortable accommodations all within immediate access to the State Park, special events, interpretive and educational activities, shops, and restaurants.

“We believe this transition will offer State Parks the opportunity to gain greater insight into the demands and complexities of these lodging operations - knowledge that will assist with the negotiations with future operators,” added Martin.

State Parks has made improvements to the lodging facilities, including new plumbing at the City Hotel complex and new energy efficient climate control for each room at the City Hotel.

More information on the hotels, including accommodations and pricing, can be found by visiting www.parks.ca.gov/columbia and ReserveAmerica.com. Both hotels and cottages will reopen for reservations and walk-ins on April 1, 2014. Visitors can also call Peggy Harwell at

209-536-2917 to learn more about staying at the hotels. Visitors who wish to make overnight accommodations can do so through ReserveAmerica.com or by calling 1-800-444-PARK.

Columbia State Historic Park is located in the County of Tuolumne and is touted as the best preserved Gold Rush town in California, containing the largest single collection of existing gold-rush era structures. Columbia's business district has been preserved with shops, restaurants and two hotels where visitors have the chance to time-travel to the 1850s. Visitors can experience a bygone era watching proprietors in period clothing conduct business in the style of yesterday. There are opportunities to stay overnight in downtown Columbia, ride a 100-year old stagecoach, pan for gold, and explore the real working businesses of Columbia.

California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

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