

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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October 18, 2010

Historic-Style Specialty Retail Concession At Columbia State Historic Park *RFP Release and Pre-Proposal Meeting Announcement*

COLUMBIA – On October 19, California State Parks will begin accepting proposals for a five--year contract, with the option to extend an additional five years, to develop, equip, operate, and maintain a historic-style specialty retail concession in Columbia State Historic Park.

Highlights of the proposed contract include the re-creation of the historic ambiance of the gold mining town of Columbia with furnishings and services that reinforce the nature of the historic business. The concession will offer quality retail merchandise at reasonable prices to park visitors. They would also complete facility improvements to enhance visitor accessibility. The deadline for submitting proposals is January 19, 2011 at 2 p.m.

There will be an optional pre-proposal meeting on Wednesday, November 3 at 6 p.m. at Eagle Cottage, 11195 Washington Street, Columbia. The meeting will include a review of the RFP process and materials, as well as a tour of the facilities. Potential proposers may contact Peggy Harwell, Concessions Specialist at (209) 536-2917 regarding meeting attendance.

The existing concession contract for the Pioneer Emporium gift shop is due to expire January 31, 2011. The current concession operator reported over \$82,000 in gross sales during fiscal year 2009/2010. Recent visitor attendance reports indicate Columbia SHP attracts an average of 497,000 visitors each year. The new RFP is being pursued in compliance with state law that requires a competitive bid process open to all parties for concession operations.

Interested parties are encouraged to download a complimentary copy of the RFP at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/concessions>. Hard copies of the RFP may be purchased for \$25 by contacting Peggy Harwell at (209) 536-2917 or pharwell@parks.ca.gov.

For further information, contact Peggy Harwell, Central Valley District Concessions Specialist at (209) 536-2917 or Teresa Montijo, Concessions Program Manager at (916) 653-7733.

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*California State Parks welcomes all visitors.
For those with special needs, please contact us in advance to arrange accommodations.*