



# News Release

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## **PARKS TO HOLD FIRST OPEN HOUSE AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FACILITY**

WEST SACRAMENTO – California State Parks has scheduled its first open house at its newly refurbished Archaeological Collections Facility, which houses more than 1 million archaeological artifacts from California, some of them dating back 8,000 years.

The public is invited to attend the open house from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 17. The facility is at 2572 Port Street, off of Harbor Boulevard in West Sacramento.

Among the items housed at the facility are extensive collections from Old Sacramento, Fort Ross, Sonoma, Old Town San Diego, Monterey and many other parts of California from Eureka to the Mexican border.

“The collections from historical sites are the most extensive in California and probably the West,” said Glenn Farris, Senior State Archeologist for California State Parks.

Prehistoric collections include stone and bone tools from California Indian sites, ranging from an 8,000-year old site on the Sonoma Coast to ones from Indians living in the California missions and in proximity to the Russian settlement of Fort Ross.

Currently, efforts are under way to make digital images of several of these collections for the use of researchers throughout the Pacific Coast region. These would include tradeware ceramics that came into Mexican Monterey in the 1820s to 1840s, as well as makers' marks found on a variety of ceramics and bottles that were in use in various parts of California in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Although the state "Archaeology Lab" has been in its West Sacramento location for the past 25 years, only during the last two years has it received enough support to undertake needed improvements. These include installation of an up-to-date system to hold the collections, a network computer system to help catalogue the collections and improvement of the work area for the professional staff and fourteen student assistants from colleges and universities in Davis and Sacramento assigned there.

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