



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Renewal of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

'Jolly Boy' Saloon to Undergo Major Renovation

1820's Casa de Aguilar-Serrano Site is Part of San Diego's Rich History

The 'Jolly Boy' saloon and restaurant, located on the site of the historic Casa de Aguilar-Serrano building in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, is about to receive a major renovation. The Jolly Boy will be temporarily closing as of June 18 for the four month renovation of the popular attraction.

"We are pleased that Delaware North is moving construction and renovations forward and are excited by the promise of fine dining in a remodeled atmosphere," said Ronilee Clark, the State Parks' superintendent of the San Diego Coast District which oversees the historic park. "This renovation work is an important part of an overall renewal in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park that will bring back the vibrant entertainment sights and sounds that have flowed through this area for more than 150 years. We're anxious for our visitors to witness the progress and enjoy this historic site."

Kevin Kelly, President of Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts, said, "We're pleased that we can put the pre-construction period behind us and renovate these historic facilities to a position of lasting influence for visitors to Old Town San Diego. This phase one effort rehabilitating the Jolly Boy is the first of many improvements with future work on Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casa de Reyes commercial corner, all part our Plaza del Pasado-the Plaza of the Past heritage restaurants, to follow."

The Casa de Aguillar-Serrano Adobe was built on the corner of Wallace and Calhoun streets between 1827 and 1830, possibly by Santiago Arguello. Jose del Rosario Aguilar, a corporal in the mission guard, acquired the building around 1838. In 1851, the property was transferred to Jose Antonio Serrano, who opened the 'Jolly Boy' saloon in the adobe in November, 1854, more than 150 years ago. The historic 'Jolly Boy' saloon was demolished around 1884 when Congress Hall, another saloon, was moved to this location. Congress Hall was demolished in 1939 and the attractive Spanish Colonial stucco building now standing on this historic site was built in 1942 as a restaurant to provide meals to guests staying at the nearby historic Pio Pico

Motor Hotel. When Delaware North secured the concession contract for the facility in 2005, they revived the historic 'Jolly Boy' saloon and restaurant name for the popular dining location.

Renovations to the 'Jolly Boy' will include the reconstruction of the wood shade structures for patio diners, reorganization and expansion of the interior space to include a new bar area, renovation of the dining room and the historic kiva fireplace, a new roof with sky lighting over the atrium, which will provide an expanded dining area that may double as private banquet seating, and, expansion and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) improvements to the restroom facilities.

The other heritage restaurants of Plaza del Pasado, the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casa de Reyes, will remain open during the reconstruction to accommodate guests who have favored the Jolly Boy for its unique menu offerings. Menu items from Jolly Boy will be included on the menus at the other two restaurants during the period of renovation.

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