

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 2, 2002

Public Hearing on Proposed Additions to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park on August 15

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a public hearing on proposed additions to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 15 in the Baptist Church in the park. The hearing room is accessible to all persons. The park is located off State Route 43, approximately seven miles west of the town of Earlimart via County Road J22. Signs at the park entrance will direct traffic to the church.

The proposal would acquire up to 712 acres of vacant land from willing sellers as an addition to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park in Tulare County. The proposed properties are bounded by the park and private lands to the south, the A.T. & S.F. Railroad tracks and State Highway 43 to the east, County Road J22 to the north, and private lands to the west. Funds for the acquisition are currently available.

The purpose of the hearing is to record comments from local public officials and the general public on the proposed additions to the park. A background presentation by State Park staff will precede the formal hearing. Staff will also answer the public's questions before opening the podium for comments. A summary of the comments will be submitted to the Legislature.

A map of the proposed acquisitions is posted at the park visitor center and has been provided for posting to the Tulare County main library at 200 West Oak Avenue in Visalia and to the Earlimart Branch at 780 East Washington Street in Earlimart. The map is also available on the State Park website at www.parks.ca.gov under *News and Announcements/News Releases 2002*.

Written comments will be accepted for the record if received no later than August 23, 2002. Written comments should be addressed to Warren Westrup, Chief, Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814, faxed to (916) 327-7307 or e-mailed to smill@parks.ca.gov

Any inquiries regarding the notice or requests for special assistance should be directed to Skip Mills at (916) 445-9088 or smill@parks.ca.gov.

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