



News Release

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West Sacramento Site Selected for California Indian Heritage Center

SACRAMENTO – The California Indian Heritage Center Task Force announced today it has selected a West Sacramento site, along the Sacramento River, for the new California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC). This decision preserves the dream of building this important center in a river area, this site being near the junction of the Sacramento and American Rivers, a place of significant importance in Native American heritage in the Sacramento area.

The Task force selected the “East Riverfront” property along the Sacramento River for the core facilities of the new Center. This property is located directly across from where the American River joins the Sacramento River. Also reaffirmed by the Task Force was the desire to use the Northgate property in the American River Parkway, within the City and County of Sacramento, for certain outdoor interpretive components of the project.

“After considerable and careful consideration, the CIHC Task Force, with the input of California Indian people, felt that the West Sacramento site was best suited for the core facilities of the Center. Just as the rivers meet here in the Sacramento area, our vision is for all entities involved with this project to come together to make the California Indian Heritage Center a reality for all Californians,” said Larry Myers, Task Force chairman.

With a site selected, the project can now move into the architectural planning and programming phase which is expected to begin during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The project is envisioned to be a partnership between the CIHC Task Force, California Indians, California State Parks, the City of West Sacramento, the City and County of Sacramento, and a new nonprofit foundation established to support the project.

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“California State Parks is pleased to be a partner in this endeavor, and is honored to help make this Center a reality for California Indian people,” said Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks.

The West Sacramento site is planned to include a library, archives, tribal treasures exhibit space, resident artist space, offices, classrooms, a café, museum store, amphitheatre and event space, indigenous gardens and parking. The Northgate area is envisioned to be an outdoor interpretive center, with trails, native gardens, and demonstration areas. A key to achieving the vision of the CIHC is graceful integration of these functions and facilities into the natural landscape.

“The City of West Sacramento looks forward to helping the California Indian Heritage Center Task Force and other stakeholders achieve this long-sought vision of bringing California Indian people and their heritage back to the rivers,” said West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon.”

It is envisioned that the City of West Sacramento will donate 43 acres of City-owned property for this purpose, pending a formal agreement between the City of West Sacramento, the CIHC Task Force and California State Parks to be adopted by August 30, 2007. The next step in the process is consideration of the proposal by the West Sacramento Parks and Community Services Commission in a special session Friday June 8, at 1 p.m. at the West Sacramento Civic Center.

It was at their February 2007 meeting that the California Indian Heritage Center Task Force voted to not use the Richards Boulevard site in Sacramento because of land acquisition challenges, and to seek an alternative location, while still maintaining an interest in the Northgate area for outdoor interpretive programs.

What followed was a renewed effort to seek an alternative location for the Center. The offer by West Sacramento to donate their land for the site provided a solution that met the goal of a river area site, and all partners in the project, the City of Sacramento, California State Parks, the Indian Heritage Task Force and the City of West Sacramento, agreed to move forward with the new site and vision.

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