

# News Release



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CONTACT: Roy Stearns  
(916) 654-7538

Ronilee Clark  
(619) 688-3356

## **New Concession Agreement for Old Town San Diego State Historic Park under Review by State Agencies**

The Plaza del Pasado business and restaurant section of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park may soon transition to new management. The present concession operator Delaware North is seeking to assign its concession contract with California State Parks to Chuck Ross, a local San Diego resident and restaurateur. Final approval of this assignment is now pending, as required under state contract policy, before the Department of General Services and the Attorney General.

If approved, Ross could assume operation of a small portion of the state historic park and the greater Old Town community called Plaza del Pasado in March 2009. Ross's company, Old Town Family Hospitality Corporation, would fulfill the remaining six-plus years of Delaware North contractual obligations.

Delaware North has contributed \$6 million toward restoration at Plaza del Pasado and would be required to fulfill the remaining \$6 million outlined in the original contract. In addition, the state will receive \$2 million, plus Consumer Price Increase (CPI) adjustments in annual rent, as per the contract through the full contract term. This means there would be no loss to the state, which would receive the full value of the original contract.

To facilitate the transition, Delaware North would likely close two restaurants and four retail spaces at Plaza del Pasado for roughly two weeks. More than 25 other restaurants, museums and retail stores in the Park and more than 500 other businesses in the greater Old Town San Diego area surrounding the park will remain open during this period.

Chuck Ross, a San Diego resident for 28 years, is perhaps best known as the owner and managing partner of the South Bay Fish & Grill and San Diego Catering Concepts. Ross acquired the Chula Vista restaurant property in 2005 and turned it into one of the leading South Bay destinations for private events, dining and corporate functions. Previously, Ross spent many years with General Mills Restaurant Group and Hard Rock Café International and has also been a Joint Venture Partner and multi-unit operator with Baja Fresh Mexican Grills.

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