

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"The Mission Story, Past and Present"

14 New Life-Size Exhibits Help Visitors Step into the History of La Purísima Mission

Lompoc – Six years in the making, the new life-size figures and historical displays now being completed at La Purísima Mission are part of one of the most extensive exhibit projects ever undertaken by California State Parks. The 14 new exhibits are scheduled to open for the first time on Saturday, April 25th in the Visitor Center at La Purísima Mission State Historic Park near Lompoc.

"It is hard to describe how compelling these exhibits are in telling the stories of the history of this mission," said Rich Rozzelle, District Superintendent of the Channel Coast District. "As I walk through the exhibits, I feel as though I'm stepping into the history of this mission, from its earliest beginnings to the present day. The exhibits give one a sense of being there when that history was actually in progress."

An opening ceremony will be held from 1 to 2 PM, after which the exhibits will be open to the public. The ceremony will also commemorate the restoration of the mission by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Refreshments will be served following the opening and live music will add to the festive atmosphere of the event.

Most of the funding for the project was provided by Prelado de los Tesoros, the non-profit volunteer service group, organized in 1973, that partners with California State Parks to maintain, operate and interpret La Purísima Mission.

Additional information about the opening day activities on April 25th is available by calling (805) 733-3713. Additional information about the exhibits is available by emailing wchap@parks.ca.gov.

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