

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Input Needed for Cowell Ranch/John Marsh SHP Planning Effort

California State Parks and the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department invite the public to provide input on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Cowell Ranch/John Marsh State Historic Park (SHP) on Thursday, November 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the City of Brentwood Senior Activity Center, 193 Griffith Lane, Brentwood.

The purpose of the General Plan is to provide a long term vision for the park, outline park management objectives, and guide future development activities. The General Plan will also provide for the rehabilitation of the John Marsh House. The park was classified as a State Historic Park by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in April 2007. It is currently not open to the public.

Through the efforts of concerned citizens as well as The Trust for Public Land and other public entities, Cowell Ranch/John Marsh SHP is one of California's newest state parks. The park encompasses more than 3,600 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and important cultural features, including the historic John Marsh House. It provides an additional link in more than 81,000 acres of contiguous open space within the region. This park is important for its potential visitor recreation opportunities, open space values, ecological diversity, wildlife habitat, native plant communities, and rich array of prehistoric and landscape-based cultural resources.

As part of the General Plan approval process, the California State Park and Recreation Commission will also select a name for the park. The General Plan includes a current evaluation of existing conditions, resource and management opportunities and constraints, a plan for the park's resources and facilities in the form of goals and guidelines, and designation and description of management zones and environmental analysis of the proposed Preferred Alternative.

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR are being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning October 25 and ending December 9, 2010. Copies are available at the Brentwood Public Library and the Diablo Vista District, or online at www.parks.ca.gov/Cowell-MarshGP. Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments must be postmarked or submitted by e-mail no later than December 9, 2010 to Steve Bachman, Acting District Superintendent, Diablo Vista District, 845 Casa Grande Road, Petaluma, CA 94954; or sbachman@parks.ca.gov.

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