

News Release



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Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District Steps Forward

Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park to Remain Open

California State Parks announced today that the Operating Agreement for the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District to operate Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park has been given final approval by both State Parks and the Department of General Services. Under the agreement, District is partnering with the non-profit Napa Valley State Parks Association to maintain and even expand operations at the two parks.

“We are very pleased with this partnership,” said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks. “We are confident that the park district will do all possible to care for these extraordinary places.”

“These two parks have unique and wonderful natural and historic resources,” said Tony Norris, President of the Regional Park and Open Space District’s Board of Directors. “They have always been places of immense importance to this area and we intend keep them open for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.”

California State Parks and the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (NCRPOSD) have signed an Operating Agreement for a five year term to develop, operate, control, and maintain the two parks, preventing closure of these parks. The agreement calls for the park district to carry out operations that include the campground, picnic areas, trails, visitor center with related concessions, the National Register listed historic water-driven mill, and facilities and historic buildings at the respective parks. The district has agreed to continue the existing uses of the park for the enjoyment of the general public, consistent with the State Park General Plans for the parks.

After being approved by Director Coleman and contingent upon the review by DGS, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District was given an early entry permit which allowed the district to begin temporary operation of the two parks as of April 1.

“The campers are coming back, and everyone’s thrilled,” remarked John Woodbury, General Manager of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. Now that the DGS review is complete, the District has the right to operate the parks until March 31, 2018.

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