

News Release



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Second Public Workshop Set For Crystal Cove Historic District

CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK – The State Department of Parks and Recreation has set the date for the second public planning workshop which is working toward the completion of the Crystal Cove Historic District Preservation and Public Use Plan. This long-range plan will recommend how the unique historic district of 46 cottages will be restored, preserved and used by the public and the public is invited to attend and work with others to refine planning options.

The second workshop will be held November 1, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Lincoln Elementary School, 3101 Pacific View Drive, Corona del Mar, California. This is the same location as the first workshop.

State Parks planning officials say this will be a meeting where the public can roll-up-their-sleeves and get a hands-on grasp of all the issues. "We are asking," said State Parks Planner Bob Hare, "that the public come prepared to put on their planning hats and join us in an interactive process that refines the options they helped us select in the first workshop. We have been delighted with their creativity and enthusiasm and feel we're making good progress toward a preferred alternative the community will embrace."

The first workshop was held April 26, 2001. It focused on public input concerning the future of the Crystal Cove Historic District. More than two hundred people attended, with state parks receiving 283 comments and 19 adaptive use proposals for the cottages. In analyzing the public input, state parks found that no single proposal was ideal, but rather, a mix of public use programs emerged, as follows:

- 1) State Park Operations and Interpretation Programs
- 2) Overnight Cottage Rentals Program
- 3) Crystal Cove Culture, Arts, Research, and Environmental Program (CARE Program).
- 4) Beach Store/Snack Bar Operations

The purpose of the second workshop will be to evaluate the four programs, by seeking answers to the following questions: 1) what are the pros and cons of the four programs and what is the community support for them? 2) how many cottages should be dedicated to each of the four programs and how should the cottages be treated? 3) where should these programs be located within the historic district? and, 4) when should the programs be developed?

Following the second public workshop, the state parks planning staff will analyze the new input and any mail-in comments, and develop a “preferred alternative”. The preferred alternative will then be scheduled for public comment around January 2002. The public will subsequently have an opportunity to comment on a written plan through the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) public review process. Once CEQA review is completed, the plan and CEQA documents will be presented to the State Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration.

Those wanting more detailed information can find it by logging onto the California State Parks web page, at: www.parks.ca.gov. On the site, click on the lower right “Featured Links” button: Public Use vision for Crystal Cove Historic District.