



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Community Meeting Notice: Input needed on Proposed Changes to Sonoma Mission and local State Historic Park Sites**

California State Parks invites community members to attend a public workshop for the presentation and discussion of recommendations that will change the ways visitors use and experience Sonoma State Historic Park to be held on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am -12:30pm at Vintage House, 264 1st Street East, Sonoma. Participants will be able to comment on proposals that will affect some of Sonoma's iconic historic sites: Mission San Francisco Solano, Sonoma Barracks, Blue Wing Inn, Toscano Hotel and Kitchen, the Vallejo Home, and the Vallejo Casa Grande/20 East Spain area (located between the Cheese Factory and Toscano Hotel). Visit [www.parks.ca.gov/SonomaPlan](http://www.parks.ca.gov/SonomaPlan) to learn more about the development of the Sonoma State Historic Park Interpretation Management Plan (IMP).

To date the year-long IMP planning effort has included opportunities for visitor, community and stakeholder participation via in-park visitor surveys, one-on-one interviews, stakeholder planning charrettes, a public meeting, and a teacher focus group. Slated to be completed in December, the IMP will be the master planning document for the way history is told and experienced at the park and will include a 5-year "Action Plan," a flexible and realistic "road map" to achieve the plan's goals.

Recommendations have been developed by Frank Binney & Associates, a professional interpretive planning firm contracted by California State Parks to complete an IMP for Sonoma State Historic Park. Funding for this planning effort was secured from the 2010 California State Parks budget earmarked for critical project needs. Interpretive planning at Sonoma State Historic Park represents a high operational priority for State Parks due to the park's statewide

significance, heavy visitation by school groups, increasing visitor demand for park interpretive opportunities and the park's contributing role in local tourism.

California State Parks support equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Karen Barrett, Regional Interpretive Specialist/Diablo Vista District at (707) 769-5652 extension 217.

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