

News Release



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California State Parks

Finalists Selected for Site Of New California Indian Heritage Center

SACRAMENTO -- Three locations in the Sacramento area have been selected as a potential site for a new California Indian Heritage Center, California State Park officials announced today.

The three site finalists are the Lake Natoma bluff at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area; Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge located south of Sacramento; and an area along the American River near downtown Sacramento that was proposed by the Gold Rush Park Foundation.

The finalists were selected from a list of 10 proposals submitted from around the state and considered by the California Indian Cultural Center and Museum Task Force.

Task Force Chair Cindy La Marr said the sites would next be further analyzed for their feasibility over the next two months. Public comment is scheduled to be heard by the Task Force at its next meeting April 1-2. The Task Force anticipates selecting one site at that time for recommendation to State Parks.

La Marr said the Center, under the guidance of California Indian people, would fill a long-standing need to educate the public about California Indian history, cultures and traditions, both for Native and non-Native citizens.

Preliminary plans for the Center include exhibit galleries and a theater, traditional structures, native plant gardens, and ceremonial areas. The estimated 60,000-square-foot building would also include curation facilities, a research Center, and meeting rooms. The grounds would include areas for special events and traditional gatherings. The Center would serve as the hub of cultural activities throughout the state by networking existing and emerging local, State, and tribal museums through electronic media, training programs, and shared exhibitions.

Building the museum would take place in phases, but is expected to eventually attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year

The Task Force was established by SB 2063 to advise State Parks on the establishment of the new cultural Center. The Center will be governed in partnership with a nonprofit organization and the California Indian community to ensure that it reflects the values of California's Indian people.

An initial \$5 million in voter-approved parks bond monies allocated for the project would provide funding for the preliminary phase, which would include a master plan and some site development. Subsequent phases would be funded from a combination of state, private, and tribal money.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting www.ciccm.org

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