



News Flash

Preliminary Approval Given to AMIA Proposal to Operate Anderson Marsh State Historic Park

Dear Park Supporter,

AMIA's proposal to take over the operation of the Park has now received preliminary approval from the Parks Department headquarters in Sacramento. AMIA is very excited about this development, which puts us a big step forward on the path to keeping the Park open after July 1. The next steps are to negotiate the actual contract terms and to get the final approval for the agreement from the State.

Under the operating agreement, AMIA will operate the Park for the next three years. The hope is that by then, the State will be able to figure out a way to properly fund the State Parks so that these stop-gap nonprofit operating agreements will no longer be needed.

Under the proposed agreement, AMIA will continue to perform the tasks that it currently does, including opening the Park gates during daylight hours on Saturday and Sunday, interpretive Nature Walks and Ranch House Tours led by AMIA volunteer docents, hosting senior and student field trips to the Park and conducting other interpretive events led by AMIA volunteers.

In addition, AMIA will take over responsibility for maintaining the trail system for use by the public, for contracting for refuse, toilet and utility services and for performing groundskeeping, housekeeping and maintenance as required. Plans also include offering kayak tours of Anderson Marsh.

The Parks Department will continue to maintain authority and responsibility for the stewardship and management of Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources, including the Native American artifacts found at the Park. State Parks shall also continue to be responsible for law enforcement at the Park, with periodic patrols and response to calls for assistance as required.

AMIA is in the middle of its fundraising drive to raise the money necessary to operate the Parks for the next three years. Many generous individuals and groups of donated to the cause, some of them also pledging to make the same donation for the second and third year of operations.

We urge those of you who have not yet joined AMIA to do so at whatever level of support you can afford. Every donation helps. You can get information about joining on our web site: www.andersonmarsh.org.

Also, we are going to need volunteers to help with the work of running the Park, including trail clearing, maintenance and many other activities. We also need help with staffing tables and booths at various County events so that we can get the word out. **Please respond if you are willing to volunteer some time to help us out.**

Thanks again for all of your support!