



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Goals Defined for County's Martial Cottle Park Plan

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— The County of Santa Clara has reached an important planning milestone for the new joint County-State park, known as Martial Cottle Park. With goals and objectives established for the park's future development, the park is one step closer to its anticipated opening in 2012.

The 287.54-acre Martial Cottle Park is a new urban County and State park facility in South San Jose, which is bounded by Snell Avenue, Branham Lane, Chynoweth Avenue and State Highway 85. In 2004, Mr. Walter Cottle Lester generously donated 151.02 acres to the County and sold 136.52 acres of the site to the State of California. Since then, the County's Parks Department has been working closely with Mr. Lester and his representatives, community partners and stakeholders, and the State to complete a master plan and environmental review in compliance with County and State regulations.

Since April 2007, the Parks Department has facilitated a public participatory planning process that involves agency coordination and community outreach through project committees and with members of the public. Furthermore, the public has been engaged throughout the planning process at the regular Task Force and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, community workshop, the County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Board's Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) Committee meetings and via the Department's project web site. To date, the Parks Department has facilitated five Project Team meetings, three Task Force meetings, two TAC meetings, and a community workshop that was well attended with approximately 155 participants.

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Based on the public and agency input received, eight goals and objectives were established:

- Recreation: the Park will provide a range of passive recreation opportunities that complement Mr. Lester's vision and is consistent with the property's deed restrictions;
- Agriculture: the Park will provide a working farm that supports sustainable and multi-faceted agriculture including educational and community-serving components and commercial concessions consistent with Mr. Lester's vision;
- Education and interpretation: the Park will provide educational opportunities for the public that address the agricultural and historical themes;
- Natural resources: preservation and enhancement will be consistent with Park's focus on agriculture, public education and passive recreation;
- Visual and scenic resources: the Park will preserve high quality visual vistas;
- Land use: The Park's uses will be located with consideration to the site's natural resources and to avoid conflict with neighboring uses;
- Circulation and access: the Park will provide safe and convenient access for a wide range of users;
- Management, funding and implementation: adequate funding will be pursued for the Park's operation, maintenance and quality visitor services; partnership opportunities and cost-recovery measures will be adopted; a strategic approach will be applied to a phased implementation for the park development.

"We are very pleased that the Martial Cottle Park master plan goals and objectives are based on extensive public outreach," said Supervisor Don Gage, County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors District 1, "The process has been one of collaboration between the County, the State of California and the community."

This month, the Martial Cottle Park project will enter a new planning phase which will include discussions and refinements of the design alternatives for the park's long-term development. It is anticipated that a preferred master plan alternative will be chosen after lengthy input process with the public and interested organizations. The final Master Plan and environmental documentation is expected to be completed in Fall 2009. Once the County and State approve the plan, the County Parks Department will develop the first phase of park improvements, which are targeted for public opening in the year 2012.

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