



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*ANDERSON MARSH
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(AMIA)*

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AMIA Members Attend 10th Annual Park Advocacy Day

Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) Board members Gae Henry & Henry Bornstein were among 160 State Park supporters from around California who spent a day in Sacramento, meeting with legislators during the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) 10th Annual Park Advocacy Day.

“In the morning, park supporters filled the hearing room of the Assembly State Parks, Water & Wildlife Committee, with the large crowd overflowing into the hallways,” reported Gae Henry. “The Committee was considering AB1589 (Huffman), and we’re very pleased that this bill is being co-sponsored by our Assemblyman Wes Chesboro.”

AB 1589 is described as an omnibus parks revenue bill, and provides incentives for seeking innovative ways to fund parks. After testimony, the vote to approve was bipartisan & unanimous. The bill now goes on to the Assembly Budget committee.

In the afternoon, park advocates met with individual legislators, visiting 120 offices. “We of course are primarily interested in working to insure that Anderson Marsh State Historic Park remains open and available to the public and the County’s school children. We met with Assemblymembers Jared Huffman and Wes Chesboro and an aide of State Senator Noreen Evans, thanking them for their continuing support of local state parks and for helping to enact AB 42 into law,” Gae Henry said. AB 42 is the law which provides a mechanism for non-profits like AMIA to prevent a Park from closing by negotiating a Park operating contract.

“Our last visit was with an aide of Assemblymember Mike Morrell, whose district includes Riverside County in Southern California,” said Henry Bornstein. “He has no state parks within his district, but he is a member of the Assembly Budget Committee. We explained how closing state parks is bad for business and urged his support of state park funding.”

Henry and Bornstein also attended a day-long seminar held by the CSPF concerning legal issues raised when groups such as AMIA enter into park operating agreements with the State. AMIA is in the process of negotiating an operating agreement that will allow Anderson Marsh State Historic Park to remain open on a temporary basis until state funding can be restored. AMIA recently announced that its proposal to enter into an operating agreement had been preliminarily approved by the Department of Parks and Recreation and they were now negotiating contract terms and seeking final approval of the deal.



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“To raise the money it will take to operate the Park, AMIA needs everyone who supports keeping the Park open to help by joining AMIA at an individual, family, business or supporter level.” said Gae Henry. “Each of us must do what we can to protect this jewel of Lake County and keep it open to the public.”

For information about Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, AMIA and how you can help, go to www.andersonmarsh.org or contact AMIA at either info@andersonmarsh.org or 707-995-2658

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