



February 1, 2017

Ryen Goering, Superintendent
Contra Solano Sector
California State Parks
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517

Re: Benicia Capitol State Historic Park

Dear Superintendent Goering:

On behalf of the Solano State Parks Committee (Committee) I'd like to thank you for your sustained and effective engagement with the City of Benicia, Benicia State Parks Association, and the other government, non-profit, and legislative staff that have regularly met with State Parks staff in the Committee since 2012. Together, we have ensured sustained operations at Benicia Capitol State Historical Park (BCSHP) and Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA). We have appreciated your effective leadership, and State Parks' growing capacity to work with local partners to sustain and improve park operations. The recent paving of the main road at the BSRA is much appreciated. We also appreciate the new staff at the two parks. Ranger Kary Tyler-Davis has been a welcome addition, and we understand that the Park Maintenance Worker 1 position will be filled soon.

However, there are two projects that have been of great interest to Benicians and other park partners that have not been moved forward in a timely way. First, BSPA and many Benicians had been anticipating the completion of the long-overdue exterior painting of the Fischer-Hanlon House at BCSHP in fall 2016. Unfortunately, this project is now two years tardy with another promise that it will be started this spring. Second, we are pleased that State Parks has begun developing a Historic Structure Report for the BCSHP, and appreciated the opportunity for Committee members and other local stakeholders to attend the kick-off meeting with staff from Garavaglia in August, 2016. The HSR will be a vital tool to guide reinvestments and fundraising at the park. However, this project is now more than two months behind schedule. While we understand that State Parks has an extensive maintenance backlog and ongoing staffing

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challenges, we would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that these two projects move forward as promised in a timely way. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Patterson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Patterson
Mayor, City of Benicia

ecc:

Lisa Mangat, California State Parks Director, lisa.mangat@parks.ca.gov

Senator Bill Dodd, bill.dodd@senate.ca.gov

Assembly Member Tim Grayson, assemblymember.grayson@assembly.ca.gov

Monica Brown, Solano County Supervisor, mebrown@solanocounty.com

Carol Berman, Benicia State Parks Association, carol@nicholsberman.com