



News Release

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Allensworth State Historic Park Deal with Dairy Farmer Approved by State Public Works Board

The State Public Works Board today voted to approve a land use agreement with a Tulare County dairy farmer to protect Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. The agreement, between Sam Etchegaray and the Schwarzenegger Administration, was unanimously approved on a 3 to 0 vote at a meeting of the Board at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

The vote by the Board makes final the agreement announced last month by Governor Schwarzenegger which prevents the landowner from operating a livestock facility next to the park.

“This solution,” said State Parks’ Director Ruth Coleman, “honors the heritage of the African American Community and it recognizes the local land use rights of the county and the dairy farmer. In fairly meeting the interests of all, we truly have a win-win solution.”

The agreement reached with Etchegaray and now finalized by the Public Works Board, allows California State Parks to purchase a Land Use Restriction Easement, in perpetuity, for \$3.5 million. The agreement is worded to specifically prevent any type of animal operation on the two parcels of land where Earlimart Ranch Dairies proposed to construct a dairy. Both sites are within one mile of the park.

“I am ecstatic,” said Acquanetta Warren, a member of the State Park and Recreation Commission and the African American Community. “But this is just a beginning. I am calling on all Californians and particularly the African American Community to celebrate this decision by getting involved and working toward next year’s centennial celebration. This park truly represents the diversity we have come to love in this great State.”

Colonel Allen Allensworth founded Allensworth, the only California town to be founded, financed and governed by African-Americans, in 1908, with four other black men dedicated to the principle of improving the economic and social status of blacks. The town is located in Tulare County, approximately 75 miles south of Fresno and 38 miles north of Bakersfield, off Highway 99.

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