

## **San Joaquin County Historical Museum**

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### **News Release**

## **San Joaquin County Historical Museum Gets \$500,000 Grant**

The nonprofit San Joaquin County Historical Society learned Wednesday it had been awarded \$499,650 to pay for new and upgraded exhibits at the San Joaquin County Historical Museum in Micke Grove Regional Park. The Historical Society operates the Museum under an agreement with the County of San Joaquin.

“We’re very excited about what this funding will enable us to do to improve the Museum,” said Stuart. He received a letter Wednesday afternoon from the California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services, which administers the \$93 million Nature Education Facilities Program.

The money comes from Prop. 84, a 2006 bond measure that provided \$5 billion for water quality projects, including public access to natural resources. The Historical Museum project was one of 44 projects selected for funding from more than 300 applicants, said David Stuart, Director of the Historical Society and Museum. The state grant office said that the funding was highly competitive. It received \$1 billion in requests for nature education facilities, which far exceeded the \$93 million available statewide.

The nearly half-million dollar grant will be used for several related projects at the Historical Museum. It will expand and upgrade the existing exhibition gallery on the Native peoples of San Joaquin County and their use of the natural resources here. “We want to better tell the story of the Yokuts and Miwok peoples, their ancestors who called this county home for millennia, and the living Native cultures that continue today,” said Stuart.

The living native plant exhibition at the Museum, called the Sunshine Trail, will also be improved with about a dozen new stations with audio messages about the habitats represented along the Trail. The new stations will each have up to eight messages—some will describe the plants and animals of the habitats, others will address the Native uses of the habitats, historic uses, or will provide

conservation messages about the values of trees in urban settings, etc. Spanish language messages will be included, too.

“These new audio messages will continue the legacy of the Sunshine Trail, developed more than 25 years ago with the help of designer Mike Schneider and the Lodi Seroptimists, to be accessible to those with visual impairments or other challenges,” Stuart explained. “And the grant will allow us to add benches and other infrastructure, graphic panels, and even a replica Yokuts house made of tules.”

A new exhibit to be added with the grant funds will be an “interpretive walkway” on the San Joaquin Delta that will use an existing horseshoe-shaped pond at the Museum. The pond was built by the Historical Society twenty years ago when it relocated the 1847 Capt. Charles Weber cottage—the oldest building in the county—to the Museum. The pond simulates the Delta channels that formed Weber Point in what is now downtown Stockton, site of Weber’s first home.

Additional native Delta plants will be added to the pond and a walkway along the pond’s levees will include stops with graphic panels and audio messages on the natural resources and history of the San Joaquin Delta. “So much of our county’s unique history has been influenced by the Delta—we thought we should provide much more information on it,” said Stuart.

Stuart is not yet sure when the Historical Society will receive the funding, but he hopes to complete these additions to the Historical Museum by the end of 2012 or early 2013.

The Historical Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday and provides education programs for school groups—such as “Valley Days” and “Pioneer School Day” (in the 1866 Calaveras School)—and other programs. The Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. For more information see [www.SanJoaquinHistory.org](http://www.SanJoaquinHistory.org).

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