

MENDOCINO MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

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Effective dates: Immediately

CA State Parks Gives Mendocino Music Festival Good News

The Fall 2006 Mendocino Music Festival newsletter, *Noteworthy*, reported to patrons that ". . . [l]ocal representatives of California State Parks have decided that the Mendocino Music Festival should move from the site that it has occupied, one month a year, for the last 20 years." State Parks had said the reason for this required move was to ". . . reduce impacts on its interpretive and cultural resource values." Based on meetings with State Parks officials, it appeared that the location of the decades old Music Festival was in jeopardy.

In response to these decisions, representatives from the offices of Assemblyperson Patty Berg, State Senator Wes Chesbro, and Representative Mike Thompson spoke to the Parks Department on the importance of the Music Festival, both as a cultural event and as a part of the North Coast community. As a result of their efforts, in February the Music Festival was informed through a letter of intent from Marilyn Murphy, California State Parks Mendocino District Superintendent, that "CA State Parks understands the importance of the Mendocino Music Festival to the community. It is a very special event that has been growing for the past 20 years." While the State Parks Department is still assessing an area just to the west of the current site, the Mendocino Music Festival's location next to the Ford House in Mendocino will be maintained until State Parks is able to determine whether the new site is feasible. The letter also stated "You

can plan on remaining in your current location for at least the next two seasons (Summer 2007 and 2008). . . . If the alternate site is not feasible the event may remain in its current location."

Thanks to the assistance of those elected representatives and the cooperation of California State Parks, the Music Festival's setting for "extraordinary music in a spectacular setting" has been secured for at least the next two years.