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April 13, 1994

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**Law and Legislation Committee
Sacramento, California**

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: Presentation of master plans for Governor's Mansion Block and
Stanford Home by Jacqueline Ball, State Parks Superintendent**

The attached materials have been submitted in connection with Item 2.2 on the agenda for the April 19, 1994 Law and Legislation Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM L. OWEN
Interim City Attorney

By: 
DIANE B. BALTER
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Att.

PROJECT: Development of the Governor's Mansion block for public access and preservation of the Mansion.

GOAL: Support for acquisition of the property adjacent to and behind the Governor's Mansion.

BACKGROUND: Located in downtown Sacramento, the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park is a reminder of the continuity of California's government. Situated on less than an acre of land, the Governor's Mansion is interpreted for historical significance as the official residence of 13 governors from 1903 to 1967. Visited by thousands of school children annually, it is a key historic site in the City of Sacramento.

The General Plan for the Governor's Mansion recommends acquisition of adjacent property. The American Legion Sacramento Post #61 is a willing seller. An additional study recommends acquisition of the property behind the Mansion, to ensure protection of the historic vista behind the Mansion.

CURRENT USES:

Tours and Historic Re-enactments - Public guided tours are offered daily year through the year at the Mansion. Historic re-enactments are offered on a periodic basis.

Special Events - The Mansion grounds and main floor hallway are available for special event rental after tour hours.

FUTURE USES: The additional property will serve the Mansion in a variety of ways:

Visitor Center- The Visitor Center will provide several services: a contact station, a group orientation area, an exhibit area, a library, an audio visual center, sales counter spaces, a maintenance materials space and space for trash removal.

Governor's Park - Local constituents have suggested development of the "Governor's Mansion block" to include a structure to house gubernatorial archives and to house public special events. Developed park lands would be used to greet and orient visiting tour groups.

While addition of a Visitor's Center is key to completion of the Mansion's General Plan, future uses for the back side of the block have not been solidified. *The critical issue at this time is protection of the historic vista through acquisition of the entire block.*

Carriage House - The Carriage House will be restored to its original use, and early Sacramento transportation will be interpreted. It currently serves as the Visitor Center and Audio Visual Center for tour guests.

Basement - The basement of the Mansion is currently used for staff offices and curatorial storage. These functions will move to the Visitor Center and the basement will be added to the public tour.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS: Acquisition of the entire block will serve a number of purposes:

***Preservation of local Heritage Site.** Acquisition of the adjacent land parcels will prevent high rise building from negatively impact the historic view shed of the Governor's Mansion, a popular destination in Sacramento.

***Educational opportunity.** The Visitor Center will house facilities which will increase the educational opportunities associated with the Governor's Mansion. Acquisition of the entire block will open up the opportunity for development of an Environmental Living Program at the Mansion.

***Tourism dollars.** The 1991-92 Survey of Sacramento Visitor's sponsored by the Sacramento Convention and Visitors bureau identifies the total average daily expenditure per visitor at \$81.39. Approximately 40,000 visitors tour the Governor's Mansion annually. Acquisition of the adjacent land and development of a Visitor's Center will result in an increase in the number of visitors who can be served at the Mansion, resulting in additional revenue within the Sacramento community annually.

Local Contact: Gold Rush District Historic Sites
802 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Park Superintendent: Jacqueline Ball
916 - 324-7405

**PROJECT: Restoration of the Leland Stanford Mansion
State Historic Park**

GOAL: Support for the capital campaign for restoration of the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park.

BACKGROUND: The Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park is important as a national historic landmark, a state historic landmark, and a state historic park. It is significant as the home of people important in the history of California and the nation, a building of an architectural type, style, and age that has no comparison in California, and a building with remarkable integrity of historic fabric covering three building periods.

The California Department of Parks & Recreation has entered into a public-private partnership with the Stanford Mansion Foundation to undertake a capital campaign to restore the Mansion. The Foundation has committed to raising the 10 million dollars needed for building and artifact restoration. The California Department of Parks and Recreation will fund staffing and operating costs once the restoration is complete.

FUTURE USES: The General Plan for the Mansion dedicates the Stanford Mansion to multiple uses:

Tours- Public guided tours through the Mansion will be offered daily. Accurate museum quality restoration of rooms will reflect the original 1872 uses of the Mansion.

Governor's Use - The main floor cross wing will be available to the sitting Governor of California for official affairs of state. The dining room will host **diplomatic receptions and dinners**; the library sitting room will be wired for graceful **media access for official state events**; the historic Governor's office will be available to the governor for official meetings including **bill signing** and private conferences with visiting heads of state.

Official Gubernatorial functions which now take place in San Francisco will now have an appropriate historical home in the Capital City.

Special Events - The historic ballroom will be available for after hours special events rentals, supported by a modern catering kitchen.

Audio Visual Theater - An audio visual theater will be built to feature an introductory program for tours. It will be available for after hour community rental use.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Stanford Mansion will provide numerous benefits to the City of Sacramento:

***Educational opportunity.** Open 7 days a week, the Mansion will offer tours to thousands of California school children each year. California social studies curriculum focuses on California history in the fourth grade, and Sacramento's historic sites received continuous bus visitation throughout the year. We receive more tour requests throughout the combined sites than there is space to honor. Restoration of this Mansion will not only add to the historic story of Sacramento, but it will alleviate some of the demand for educational field trip opportunities. In addition, the ongoing presence of the Governor of California will afford thousands of visitors each year with a glimpse of history in the making.

***Center of diplomacy** and special affairs of state in the Capital City. Foreign heads of state, senior diplomats and members of international trade delegations will be hosted at the Stanford Mansion by California's Governor, enhancing commercial and cultural ties for both the State of California and the City of Sacramento.

***Tourism dollars.** Located two blocks from the State Capitol, and 9 blocks from Old Sacramento, the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park will join other significant State historic sites in Sacramento as an important addition to Sacramento's visitor opportunities. The recent Sacramento Convention and Visitor Bureau survey identified the California State Railroad Museum, the State Capitol Museum and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park as the three most visited tourist destinations in Sacramento. All three are units of the California State Park System. The Stanford Mansion, both as a historic site of national and state significance, and as a center of California Government diplomacy, will join these sites as a significant tourist destination.

***Preservation of local Heritage Site.** The Stanford Mansion is the oldest publicly owned structure in the City of Sacramento, and has been recognized for both its national and statewide significance through its designation as State and National Historic Landmarks. It is a significant part of the historical heritage of the City of Sacramento.

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