



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Petition to Protect Empire Mine Historic State Park

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The potential closure of the Empire Mine Historic State Park could deal a punishing blow to Nevada County's already compromised economic condition. This venue is a dynamic economic engine providing a major attraction for tourists. With 100,000 visitors a year, and many of them to attend weddings, this State park is a source of economic inflow that would not otherwise occur. The ERC has estimated the economic impact at between 4 and 6 million dollars.

At the very grass roots level a petition has been generated asking county citizens to voice their opposition to this closure. As part of our role to "protect the present and future vitality of Nevada County" the ERC will act as the collection point for petitions in this effort. Signed petitions may be dropped at the ERC office at any time. There will be a collection box available during the week end hours.

It is anticipated that 1000 signatures can be assembled over a 4 day period and then presented to Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Sam Anestad and Assemblyman Dan Logue. We must have all petitions in by 5:00 PM on Monday June 15, 2009.

Petitions are available on the ERC web site, www.ncerc.org/issuesoverview.