



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:
Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan:
[Michelle Henry](#)
925.244.1600 office

California State Parks:
[Elise Eagle McFarland](#)
925.961.4063

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association:
[Mike Brandy](#)

Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan, California State Parks and Mount Diablo Interpretive Association Announce \$1,000,000 in State Funding for Mitchell Canyon Education Center

Clayton, Calif.— Wednesday, September 20, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) will visit the site of the future Mitchell Canyon Education Center to present a check for \$1 million from the State of California to the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association. This funding will enable the construction of a cutting-edge Education Center at the Mitchell Canyon entrance to Mount Diablo State Park.

“I’m thrilled to be presenting this funding which will mark a pivotal step toward enhancing educational opportunities, facilitating better access, and enriching the visitor experience at Mount Diablo,” said Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan. “As Chair of the Assembly’s Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, I understand how crucial open space and nature are for our

quality of life here in California, and I am proud of how this partnership will draw more visitors to Mount Diablo.”

This center will serve the approximately 35,000 annual visitors who enter the park through Mitchell Canyon. The proposed Education Center is set to feature a 1,500 square foot LEED certified building and an outdoor education pavilion. This innovative facility will unlock a range of educational possibilities, offering invaluable learning experiences for area schools and delivering in-depth information about the mountain to visitors.

“A central objective of the Education Center is to cater to underrepresented students in Contra Costa County, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to connect with the natural wonders of Mount Diablo,” said MDIA President Steve Smith, “This funding will allow us to continue on the path to meeting that objective and better serving this community.”

The center will house permanent and rotating exhibits, fostering an immersive and dynamic learning environment. Additionally, it will feature an audio-visual area, enhancing the educational experience for visitors of all ages.

"We are grateful to Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for her support in securing this \$1 million in state funding for the Education Center project," remarked Smith. "This landmark funding is a collaboration that will continue to propel the rich educational and natural resources that Mt. Diablo State Park has to offer."

California State Parks is excited about this funding which creates an opportunity to better provide for the health, inspiration and education of visitors to Mount Diablo by educating them about the extraordinary natural and cultural resources of the mountain and its opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

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The California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, and the programs supported by its Office of Historic Preservation and divisions of Boating and Waterways and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at parks.ca.gov.

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) was established in 1974 as a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that assists the California Department of Parks and Recreation in maintaining and interpreting Mount Diablo State Park for its 700,000 visitors each year. Through education, sponsored activities, and publications, MDIA fosters appreciation and the enlightened use of Mount Diablo State Park. MDIA is proud to provide the resources necessary to keep the Summit Museum and Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center open throughout the year. In addition, one of MDIA's key roles is providing funding to support the Volunteers in Parks Program, which trains and manages park docents, sponsors guided hikes, and helps maintain trails.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan was first elected to represent Assembly District 16 in the California State Assembly in 2018, which includes Alamo, Danville, Dublin, Lafayette, Livermore, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek. Rebecca is an accomplished attorney, environmental advocate, community volunteer, law professor, and mother. A Bay Area native, she is the granddaughter of refugees who came to the United States to escape the Holocaust. Their experiences inspired her to use her career and personal time to help others in her community, solve complex problems, protect civil rights, and fight to ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed.