## **Save Fort Tejon Letters**

Thank you for your interest in saving Fort Tejon!

Please Address, Print, Sign and Mail the following letters to your State Senator(s) and Representative(s). The link below will help you find your State Representatives quickly and easily. You may find that your area is represented by multiple Senators and Legislators please feel free to send letters to all those listed.

Look up your State Representatives here <a href="http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html">http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html</a>

Additionally, please feel free to edit this letter to include your personal thoughts regarding the closure of Fort Tejon. EVERY letter makes a difference and shows your representatives how much you care!!!

Sincerely,

The FTHA Board

P.S. Don't forget to become a member of the Fort Tejon Historical Association. We want to keep you informed about our progress towards Saving Fort Tejon! Please visit www.forttejon .org for more information on becoming a member.

The Honorable [Senator's Full Name] California State Capitol Sacramento, CA 94248

Dear Senator [Full Name],

As a supporter of the Fort Tejon Historical Association, a California non-profit and California State Park cooperating association, and as resident of the State of California I strongly oppose Governor Jerry Brown's plan to close Fort Tejon State Historic Park. The plan might save a few million dollars, an insignificant amount in context of a 10.2 billion dollar Executive budget. The small savings estimated does not take into account the much more significant amount of money it would take to reopen and repair the park from such a closure at a future date.

The governor's plan to close Fort Tejon makes even less sense when one considers the economic activity that this state park along with others state parks generates. California's beautiful parks and historic sites attract visitors from out of state who spend millions of dollars generating local and state sales tax revenue.

Fort Tejon represents an important part in telling the story of California's history. A military fort, a stage stop on the California mail route, and home to many Americans, Mexican Americans, and early settlers alike. It is the last existent example of the role of the military in shaping California's cultural, social, and economic landscape. Fort Tejon and the military during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was a powerful influence in the creation of a modern American State. Fort Tejon is the only remaining link to that significant legacy. Fort Tejon is also the home to some extraordinary examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century adobe architecture that would not withstand two years of neglect.

Today Fort Tejon State Historic Park hosts over 100,000 visitors every year. Over 35,000 visitors enjoy the historic exhibits and living history demonstrations of California's frontier past. Over 6,000 school children participate in overnight living history programs that enhance their understanding and education of the Golden State's and American's history. It is important not to destroy the historic environment that has become a vital part of the lives of countless Californians. It is important to save our history, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations and for visitors to California.

We recognize that we are confronted by challenging fiscal realities, but even in these financially difficult times, we can not risk losing one of our state's magnificent treasures. I urge you to reconsider the decision to close Fort Tejon State Historic Park and avert the elimination of jobs, recreational activities, educational opportunities, and community programs. To do so would be a grievous mistake that could permanently damage this important asset to our state.

I urge you to strongly oppose the abandonment and closing of Fort Tejon State Historic Park. California's enduring and irreplaceable legacy should never be a political pawn in the budget struggle going on in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Address] [City, State ZIP] The Honorable [Assembly Member's Full Name] California State Capitol - Room [Assembly Member's Room #] Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Representative [Full Name],

As a supporter of the Fort Tejon Historical Association, a California non-profit and California State Park cooperating association, and as resident of the State of California I strongly oppose Governor Jerry Brown's plan to close Fort Tejon State Historic Park. The plan might save a few million dollars, an insignificant amount in context of a 10.2 billion dollar Executive budget. The small savings estimated does not take into account the much more significant amount of money it would take to reopen and repair the park from such a closure at a future date.

The governor's plan to close Fort Tejon makes even less sense when one considers the economic activity that this state park along with others state parks generates. California's beautiful parks and historic sites attract visitors from out of state who spend millions of dollars generating local and state sales tax revenue.

Fort Tejon represents an important part in telling the story of California's history. A military fort, a stage stop on the California mail route, and home to many Americans, Mexican Americans, and early settlers alike. It is the last existent example of the role of the military in shaping California's cultural, social, and economic landscape. Fort Tejon and the military during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was a powerful influence in the creation of a modern American State. Fort Tejon is the only remaining link to that significant legacy. Fort Tejon is also the home to some extraordinary examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century adobe architecture that would not withstand two years of neglect.

Today Fort Tejon State Historic Park hosts over 100,000 visitors every year. Over 35,000 visitors enjoy the historic exhibits and living history demonstrations of California's frontier past. Over 6,000 school children participate in overnight living history programs that enhance their understanding and education of the Golden State's and American's history. It is important not to destroy the historic environment that has become a vital part of the lives of countless Californians. It is important to save our history, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations and for visitors to California.

We recognize that we are confronted by challenging fiscal realities, but even in these financially difficult times, we can not risk losing one of our state's magnificent treasures. I urge you to reconsider the decision to close Fort Tejon State Historic Park and avert the elimination of jobs, recreational activities, educational opportunities, and community programs. To do so would be a grievous mistake that could permanently damage this important asset to our state.

I urge you to strongly oppose the abandonment and closing of Fort Tejon State Historic Park. California's enduring and irreplaceable legacy should never be a political pawn in the budget struggle going on in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Address] [City, State ZIP]