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Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe delivers second deposit to J&J

By Sora O'Doherty



Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe with the presented big check Photo Cathy Dausman

remained in private hands until it was purchased by J&J Ranch. The Adobe was made a historical landmark in 1954 by the state of California.

Under the agreement with J&J, FJMA must pay a total of \$450,000 plus demonstrate an additional \$50,000 in reserves to purchase the 1841 structure and surrounding 2 acres. The deadline to complete the purchase is September 2021. For the next two years, FJMA will pay \$50,000 each year, leaving a \$315,000 balance. Long says that the group is pretty confident that they will be able to complete the purchase. They are currently in a position to pay all the scheduled deposits, and anticipate even greater contributions now that the project is truly underway.

All purchase money from FJMA will be used to partially fund the restoration of the Moraga Adobe; the balance of the restoration costs will be paid by J&J Ranch. As part of the agreement, the building will be restored to its 1848 configuration of five rooms, with adobe walls up to three feet thick. Later woodframe additions will be removed, and the original 1840s walls will be stabilized. A separate structure with restroom facilities will also be built.

FJMA plans to create a museum and learning center focused on the Rancho days of early California, including furnishings and demonstrations of daily life. Historic displays will tell the sometimes poignant stories of families like the Moragas, in addition to hosting rotating exhibits.

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