

A Call to Action: Save our California State Mining & Mineral Museum!

Our California State Mining & Mineral Museum is endangered! The CFMS has received the following letter from Darci Moore of the Museum, asking your assistance to save the Museum from the knife of budget slashes. We urge all OGMS members reading this article to spread the word far and wide—to your fellow members at your next society meeting, in your society newsletter, and on your society web site. And don't stop there: get the word out via letters-to-the editor in your local newspapers to urge everyone, not just us rockhounds, to make their voices heard in the manner Darci suggests below:

I wanted to let you know that the California State Mining and Mineral Museum which houses and displays the Official California Collection of gems and minerals is on the State Parks closure list. This is the third year we have been on the closure list but unfortunately it is looking very dire for us this year. In an effort to garner grassroots support to keep the museum open we have created a Facebook page. We would like to invite your members to comment or voice their concern over the closure of this museum. This collection was started in 1880 by the State legislature and has been on continuous display for 131 years. The collection contains approximately 14,000 specimens from all over the world and from California. It is anticipated that if we close, it will be by July 1st 2012. If that happens it is very likely that the collection will be put into storage. This is a premier collection on the west coast and spawned collections in many of the other western states. We would appreciate any help you and your members could provide. If you could pass the word in your newsletter as well it would be appreciated. There is a link on our Facebook page to the California State Parks Foundation which provides suggestions about how to help. The link to our Facebook page is:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-State-Mining-and-Mineral-Museum/192306770823629>

We need your help to spread the word! If you would like more information or have questions, please feel free to contact me: Darci Moore, Curator II, California State Mining and Mineral Museum, (209) 742-7625, dmoor @parks.ca.gov

- Jim Brace-Thompson & Darci Moore