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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MARTINEZ HOSTS A SNEAK PREVIEW OF  
KEN BURNS' PBS DOCUMENTARY "THE NATIONAL PARKS"**

**Martinez, CA**—John Muir, America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist, who lived in Martinez from 1890 until his death in 1914, will be celebrated with a special preview screening of Ken Burns' "The National Parks—America's Best Idea." The preview screening will be held on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Alhambra High School Performing Arts Center in Martinez.

The one-hour film features John Muir's enormous contribution to the establishment of the National Park Service and is set against the most breathtaking backdrops imaginable. The evening will include a presentation by John Muir's grandson Ross Hanna and an introduction by Martha J. Lee, General Superintendent of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. The event is free to the public; reservations are required and space is limited.

All attendees are invited to a catered reception in the theatre lobby immediately following the screening where the guest speakers, Muir descendants and those organizations presenting the preview will be available for questions. This event has been made possible by a generous contribution by Shell Oil Products, US Martinez Refinery.

Filmed by Burns over the course of more than six years at some of nature's most spectacular locales, the six-part documentary will premiere Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> on PBS. The Martinez Chamber of Commerce, the John Muir Association, Muir's descendants and the National Park Service partnered with KQED to become one of a handful of recipients in the Bay Area authorized to present this preview cut of the 12-hour PBS series.

Known as the "Father of the National Parks," and one of the greatest thinkers in America, Muir waged a lifelong fight for the establishment of national parks in the United States and championed the creation of a national preserve around Yosemite. In 1892 he and his supporters founded the Sierra Club, where Muir served as president until his death.

The decades following 1880 saw Muir living in Martinez, writing some of his most important works, and applying his love of plants and trees to the task of raising Bartlett pears and Tokay grapes in the family orchards surrounding his home. This unique preview screening of Ken Burns's momentous film highlights the importance of Muir's contribution to the nation, and his Martinez home at the John Muir National Historic Site as one of America's treasures.

To reserve your seats, or for more information, call the office of the John Muir Association at (925) 229-3857 or e-mail [info@johnmuirassociation.org](mailto:info@johnmuirassociation.org). The Alhambra High School Performing Arts Center is located in Martinez.

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