

MEDIA ADVISORY



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New Visitors Entrance and Amenities to Open at Castle Rock State Park

Los Gatos, CA (July 25, 2019) — Castle Rock State Park, one of the outdoor jewels of the Bay Area, has a new \$8.7 million, 33-acre entrance, named after former state controller Robert C. Kirkwood, that will open to the public on August 1 with media tours featuring Executive Director Sara Barth of Sempervirens Fund — the land trust that built the new entrance.

WHO:

Sara Barth, Executive Director, Sempervirens Fund

Chris Spohrer, Santa Cruz District Superintendent, California State Parks

Peg Danielson, Operations Director, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

WHEN AND WHERE:

Thursday, August 1, 2019

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Castle Rock State Park
Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance
15000 Skyline Boulevard
Los Gatos, CA 95033

WHY:

The Robert C. Kirkwood entrance to Castle Rock State Park adds extensive accessible and environmentally friendly amenities to one of the most popular outdoor spaces in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula, including bathrooms, a 90-space parking lot, free Wi-Fi, a downloadable trail map app, picnic areas, trail connections to hikes within Castle Rock State Park, as well as the Skyline-to-the-Sea-Trail, an amphitheater for educational programs and

events, and picnic areas. In addition, the new entrance includes a large ecological restoration project that is underway, replacing a former Christmas tree farm with black oaks and other species naturally found in this region. It is the culmination of an eight-year Sempervirens Fund project that involved contributions from the Kirkwood family, as well as thousands of additional donors and volunteers. It is the result of a unique public-private partnership that involves Sempervirens Fund, California State Parks, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and other partners and provides a model for future park projects.

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About Sempervirens Fund

Land trust Sempervirens Fund buys, protects, restores, and cares for redwood forests and open spaces in the Santa Cruz Mountains and works to make them accessible for the public to responsibly enjoy. Since its founding in 1900, it has permanently protected more than 53 square miles of local redwood forests and watersheds for people, wildlife, and future generations. Sempervirens Fund helped create Big Basin Redwoods, Butano, and Castle Rock State Parks, and established the 31-mile Skyline-to-the-Sea-Trail. The land trust currently owns and cares for more than 11,000 acres — an area three times the size of Golden Gate Park. Learn more at www.sempervirens.org.

About California State Parks

California Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) 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, cultural and historical resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation for current and future generations to enjoy. With increased urbanization, the establishment of park units and recreation areas accessible to the major population centers of the state has become particularly important. Specific activities include: stewardship of natural resources, historic, cultural and archeological sites, and artifacts and structures; provision of interpretive services for park visitors; construction and maintenance of campsites, trails, visitor centers, museums, and infrastructure such as roads and water systems; and creation of recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, jogging, camping, picnicking, and off-highway vehicle recreation. The system consists of 280 parks, beaches, trails, wildlife areas, open spaces, off-highway vehicle areas, and historic sites. Parks is responsible for approximately 1.6 million acres of land, including over 343 miles of coastline, 991 miles of lake, reservoir and river footage, 15,000 campsites and alternative camping facilities, and 5,300 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Established in 1976, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) is a vital partner with California State Parks, creatively working to ensure our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all. Friends' innovative and collaborative community partnership provides support and investment for education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation and cultural events. Friends also operates six ParkStores, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. ParkStore locations include Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff, Wilder Ranch and Online. Learn more at www.ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.