

# Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance Grand Opening Castle Rock State Park

## Speakers

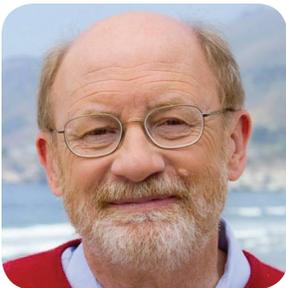


### **Sara Barth, Executive Director, Sempervirens Fund**

Sara Barth joined Sempervirens Fund in 2016 after 12 years working in leadership positions at The Wilderness Society (TWS), most recently as Senior Regional Director for the Pacific and Southeast regions. Sara oversaw TWS efforts to protect wildlands around the country, including successfully preserving over 1 million acres of federal land in California, and she completed a major climate adaptation project for the organization. Prior to TWS, Sara served as an environmental advisor to U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer in Washington, D.C. Her other professional experience includes working for the National Wildlife Federation and the World Wildlife Fund on U.S. land and wildlife policy. Sara holds a B.A. in Biopsychology from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

### **Bonny Hawley, Executive Director, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks**

For nearly 11 years, Bonny Hawley has served as Executive Director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, where she leads a dedicated team which, in partnership with California State Parks, operates 35 state parks and beaches throughout the Santa Cruz District. Friends and State Parks work creatively together every day to ensure that our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all.



### **John Laird, Former California Secretary for Natural Resources**

John Laird served as California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown from January 5, 2011 until January 7, 2019. Laird also served as a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008 to 2009 and taught state environmental policy at University of California Santa Cruz. In 2002, he was elected Assembly member for the 27th District, which included portions of Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, and reelected in 2004 and 2006. While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law.

Prior to serving in the State Assembly, Laird was an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2002. He also served as executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project from 1991 to 1994.

In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988.

The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California - Santa Cruz in 1972. He has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research, and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

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### **Lisa Mangat, Director, California State Parks**

Lisa Mangat was named Director for the California Department of Parks and Recreation on April 30, 2015 after serving as Acting Director since July 3, 2014. Lisa previously served as the Special Assistant to the Director of State Parks since October 2013. Lisa's broad state government experience will be a benefit as the Department moves forward and continues to work with various partners. Prior to coming to Parks, Lisa was a Program Budget Manager at the Department of Finance. She also has served as a Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office and a Principal Consultant for the California Legislature.



### **Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Supervisor, Fifth District**

Bruce McPherson was reelected to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in November 2016. He represents the Fifth District, which includes the San Lorenzo Valley, most of Scotts Valley, and a small part of Santa Cruz.

Bruce has a long and distinguished record of serving Santa Cruz County. A fourth-generation Santa Cruz County native, Bruce's career began as a reporter at his family newspaper, the Sentinel, later rising to Editor.

He served two terms in the California State Assembly (1993-96) and two terms in the California State Senate (1996-2004). Following the resignation of California's Secretary of State in early 2005, Bruce was confirmed unanimously in both the Assembly and Senate to be Secretary of State. He was recognized as Legislator of the Year by numerous organizations and foundations.

Supervisor McPherson's office spearheaded a five-year effort to explore a regional Community Choice Energy agency, which led to the establishment of Monterey Bay Community Power. The joint-powers agency, which includes 19 jurisdictions from the tri-county region, began serving more than 200,000 customer accounts in July 2018. Supervisor McPherson chairs MBCP's Policy Board.

Throughout the years, Bruce has worked closely with Second Harvest Food Bank, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, the Cabrillo College 50th Anniversary Scholarship Committee, United Way, the Tannery Arts Center, Ecology Action, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Exploration Center, American Red Cross, and many other non-profit agencies.

He has been honored for his dedication and commitment to improving education, supporting public safety, fighting for environmental protection, and assisting small businesses.

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### **Assemblymember Mark Stone, District 29**

Mark Stone represents the people of California's 29th Assembly District, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey Counties. Now in his fourth term as a state legislator, he has earned his reputation as a leader helping California's most vulnerable residents.

For the last several years, Mark has served as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which reviews legislation on issues including family law, product and tort liability and immunity, immigration, commercial contracts, court and jury procedures, and civil practice. He has written several laws to protect the civil rights of members of the LGBT+ community, sexually exploited youth, and immigrants.

As a long-time member of the Assembly Human Services Committee, Mark has successfully fought to transform group homes for foster youth into places where youth can access intensive therapy and services, create a California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) for working families, assist low-income pregnant women better prepare for the arrival of their babies, and protect critical benefits for poor families.

As an environmental champion, Mark has fought to curb illegal coastal development, reduce plastic pollution, and clean up drinking water supplies. In his capacity as Chair of the Select Committee on Coastal Protection and Access to Natural Resources, he has held hearings investigating oil spill prevention efforts, plastic garbage effects on the coastal environment, offshore fracking, beach erosion, and coastal access for all Californians.

Mark has written numerous laws to help people released from prison reintegrate into society as part of his commitment to criminal justice reform. He has worked to help juveniles in the justice system get the mental health services they need, and to ensure that they can succeed in their communities when they are released.

Before his service in the Assembly, Mark represented the Central Coast in various capacities. He was elected twice to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, where he worked on health care, education, youth issues and the environment. While there, he held leadership roles on the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, and the First 5 Commission. Additionally, Mark led an overhaul of the Santa Cruz County child welfare system. He was an outspoken supporter of the Queer Youth Task Force and fought to halt discrimination of LGBT youth. As an environmental defender at the local level, he spearheaded the successful effort to ban single-use plastic bags. In addition to his duties as a County Supervisor, Mark served the entire Central Coast as Vice Chair of the California Coastal Commission. Prior to his work at the County, Mark was a trustee of the Scotts Valley Unified School District, eventually being elected President. Before entering public service, Mark worked as an attorney in the tech industry and as a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School. Mark lives in Scotts Valley with his wife Kathy. They have two adult children. Stone is an avid open water swimmer.