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CASTRO ADOBE WELCOMES VISITORS FOR OPEN HOUSE

*EVENT IS A CELEBRATION OF THE NEW MICHAEL SCHWAB ILLUSTRATIONS,
'THE ADOBE SERIES'*

MAY 29, 2014—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks today announced the Castro Adobe, Santa Cruz County's next State Historic Park, will be open to the public on Saturday, June 7 for an open house event. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the restored *cocina* (kitchen), which is currently under restoration, and the recently-restored garden, which was originally designed by famed landscape architect Thomas Church.

The open house will also feature the personal unveiling of "The Adobe Series" art prints featuring the Castro Adobe and Santa Cruz Mission by artist Michael Schwab. Schwab created the iconic Santa Cruz State Parks images of Natural Bridges, Wilder Ranch, The Forest of Nisene Marks and Seacliff, which were first unveiled in 2005. Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks will host a Pop-Up ParkStore that will have for sale the fine art prints, as well as new Schwab-themed merchandise. Proceeds from sales benefit the Castro Adobe project and local state parks and beaches.

The Open House is 12-2pm, Saturday, June 7. Admission is free. The Castro Adobe is located at 184 Old Adobe Road, Watsonville. Parking is limited. Carpooling is encouraged.

About the Castro Adobe

Located in Larkin Valley, near Watsonville, the two-story Castro Adobe is one of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area and is one of four remaining adobe structures in Santa Cruz County. Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is working hard in partnership with California State Parks to open the Castro Adobe as a State Historic Park. Friends undertook restoration of the Castro Adobe in order to preserve and interpret for the public the only remaining building of the Rancho era in the Pajaro Valley. Castro Adobe State Historic Park will serve visitors interested in adobe architecture and preservation, as well as 4th graders studying the Mexican Rancho Period and 3rd graders studying local history. In the *cocina* (kitchen), the link between Latino traditions of today and our Californio heritage will be tangible as students experience tortillas, beans and *nopales* (cactus), which were produced in the Rancho period and are still enjoyed today. The Edna Kimbro Library and Archives – Center for Early California Studies will be opened to serve scholars and other visitors interested in the study of the cultural heritage of early California. The Castro Adobe was honored in May 2014 by the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission, which also named Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and California State Parks as award recipients for their work "preserving the history of the Mexican Rancho Period in Santa Cruz County." The Castro Adobe is an active construction site and is accessible currently by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 831-429-1840 or email parks@thatsmypark.org. To follow progress on the restoration effort, visit www.ThatsMyPark.org/projects/casto-adobe/.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial nonprofit sustaining the legacy of our state

parks and beaches. Through an innovative partnership with California State Parks, and by leveraging local community support, Friends has provided millions of dollars of funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. Founded in 1976, Friends is passionately dedicated to the preservation of our spectacular natural environment and rich cultural history. Friends supports dozens of state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties and 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. In May 2014, Friends was honored by California State Parks with a Dewitt Award for Partnership, which recognizes "commitment above and beyond the call of duty over a substantial period of time" and "recognizes those who have served as irreplaceable partners in the accomplishment of the State Parks Mission." Learn more at ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest.

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