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CONTACT:

Jennifer Murray, 831-515-2802

jennifer@millermxfield.com

FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT FROM THE MONTEREY PENINSULA FOUNDATION FOR ONGOING RESTORATION OF CASTRO ADOBE

Grant Will Prepare New State Historic Park For Public Access

JULY 16, 2015—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends), a local nonprofit serving 32 state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, announced it has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, host of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, to fund the ongoing restoration of the Castro Adobe State Historic Park.

Located in Larkin Valley, near Watsonville, the two-story Castro Adobe is one of four adobe buildings remaining in Santa Cruz County and one of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area. Friends is leading a multi-year restoration effort to preserve and interpret the Castro, and is partnering with State Parks to open the adobe as a State Historic Park. A phased opening started this year with school group tours and public open house events, which continue on August 14th and 15th. The Castro Adobe will be Santa Cruz County's newest State Historic Park.

"We are so thankful for the generous support of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation," said Bonny Hawley, executive director of Friends. "This gift will allow us to make significant progress on the restoration of the Castro Adobe."

The Monterey Peninsula Foundation grant will help fund Phase Two restoration work to:

- Strengthen the second floor of the Adobe
- Install a lift to make the Adobe wheelchair accessible
- Move the interior stairs to create a larger space for the interpretation of the fandango room
- Install new exterior stairs
- Finalize seismic stabilization of the building

The Castro Adobe is an active construction site and is currently accessible during open house days or by appointment only. To follow progress on the restoration effort, visit www.ThatsMyPark.org/projects/castro-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 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 ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

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