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FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS TO HOST OPEN HOUSE DAYS AT THE CASTRO ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK

The Public is Invited to Tour the New State Park Including the Recently Restored Garden and Cocina

June 1, 2015—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends), a local non-profit supporting 32 state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, along with California State Parks, today announced the Castro Adobe State Historic Park will be open to the public for three Fridays and Saturdays this summer.

The Open House Days will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 12 & 13, July 10 & 11, and Aug. 14 & 15. Admission is free with donations to support the park gratefully accepted. Parking is extremely limited, so carpooling is encouraged.

Located in Larkin Valley, near Watsonville, the two-story Castro Adobe, built between 1848-49, is one of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area. Open House visitors will be able to tour the property including the recently restored *cocina* (kitchen) and the Potter-Church Garden. The garden is a unique outdoor space originally created by then-adobe owners Elizabeth and David Potter from 1968 to 1972, in consultation with noted landscape architect Thomas Church.

State Park Interpretive Rangers and Friends' volunteers will be on hand to offer a "sneak peek" into the restoration process and to assist visitors who would like to enjoy handmade tortillas cooked on the recently reconstructed *brasero* (stove).

The Castro Adobe is located at 184 Old Adobe Road, north of Watsonville. Friends is leading a multi-year restoration effort to preserve and interpret the site and is partnering with California State Parks to open the adobe as a State Historic Park. It will be Santa Cruz County's second State Historic Park and the first non-beach state park in the Pajaro Valley. The Castro Adobe is an active construction site and is accessible currently by appointment only except during the Open House Days. 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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