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CONTACT (not for publication):
Jennifer Murray, 831-515-2802
jennifer@millermxfield.com



'Friends Fire Fund' created to support State Parks in aftermath of CZU Lightning Complex Fire

Donations will help affected staff and assist in long-term recovery efforts

SEPT. 2, 2020—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced it has established the "Friends Fire Fund" in response to the CZU Lightning Complex Fire and through its unique position as co-management partners with State Parks.

The fund will initially provide direct, short-term assistance to State Parks and Friends staff most affected by the fire, followed by investments to be made in long-term recovery work for parks that have been damaged. This includes Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the Rancho del Oso Unit and Butano State Park.

"The wildfire has caused heartbreaking devastation and disruption for our community, affecting our beloved state parks, as well as those who work in them," said Bonny Hawley, executive director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. "Together, we will get through this crisis."

Join the effort to support both people and parks during the recovery process. Donations can be made on the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks website: <https://bit.ly/friendsfirefund>

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.

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