



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 7, 2016
Release: Immediately
Contact: Jason Hoppin
Communications Manager
831-454-3401

PRELIMINARY DEAL TO STAFF SAN VICENTE REDWOODS REACHED

The County of Santa Cruz, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Sempervirens Fund and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County are pleased to announce a preliminary agreement on a three-year pilot program to facilitate public safety and access to the 8,500-acre San Vicente Redwoods property.

The proposal would provide for three personnel through the County's Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services to protect natural resources, enhance the visitor experience and mitigate neighborhood impacts. POST, Sempervirens and the Land Trust would assume the costs of the program.

"This proposal offers a tremendous opportunity for the County to provide public services on a very large open space property on the North Coast at no County expense," Supervisor Ryan Coonerty said.

"This is a great partnership between government and conservation groups to protect nature and provide public access," said Stephan Slade, executive director of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Owned by POST and Sempervirens, the San Vicente Redwoods property is the largest privately-owned parcel in Santa Cruz County and one of the largest in California. A community-based public access plan that include opportunities for recreation, research and education is being developed by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, with initial public access expected in 2018.

"We're excited to provide for visitor services and safety while protecting Santa Cruz County's amazing natural resources," Santa Cruz County Park Director Jeff Gaffney said.



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Under the proposal, which will return to the Board of Supervisors in February for further consideration, three full-time staff in the Parks Department will be assigned to San Vicente Redwoods, with possible additional part-time staff. The program is expected to operate as a three-year pilot program.

“Sempervirens Fund is proud and excited to work on this innovative partnership with Santa Cruz County to support sustainable, well-managed recreational access and promote good stewardship of some of the most amazing natural lands in the county,” said Sara Barth, executive director of Sempervirens Fund. “This pilot project is an important first step in solving the challenges associated with inadequate resources for managing our public lands.”