

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **STATE BEACH LIFEGUARDS TO BE ELIMINATED IF PROP 30 FAILS**

Non-profit Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks Hosts Rally  
@ Twin Lakes State Beach

**TWIN LAKES STATE BEACH, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY–October 30, 2012**–Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends), a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining the legacy of our local state parks and beaches, today hosted a rally in support of Proposition 30, the Schools & Local Public Safety Act that ensures funding for state lifeguards. If Prop 30 fails, the state would no longer staff state beaches with lifeguards.

“Last year alone, nearly 150 people were rescued by Santa Cruz County’s state beach lifeguards,” said Bonny Hawley, executive director of Friends. “If Prop 30 fails, Santa Cruz County will feel a major impact. We have more state parks and beaches than any other county in California. So we are raising awareness about the lifeguards provision in Prop 30 by holding today’s community rally. Lifeguards are absolutely vital, for both locals and for visitors who come here from throughout California.”

Dozens of rally attendees were joined by Santa Cruz County Supervisors Mark Stone and Neal Coonerty; Santa Cruz Mayor Don Lane and Council Member Katherine Beiers; Santa Cruz City Schools Board President Ken Wagman and Trustees Deb Tracy-Proulx and Claudia Vestal; Santa Cruz Port Commissioners Toby Goddard and Steve Reed; and Santa Cruz Education Foundation leader Suz Howells.

### **Key Lifeguard Information**

According to the California State Parks, in FY11-12 in Santa Cruz County, there were 146 people rescued; 88,099 preventative actions taken; 800 local K-12 students educated in classrooms; and 410 junior guards trained on beaches. Visitation to Santa Cruz County state beaches was estimated to be 3,089,256.

Santa Cruz County lifeguards not only protect swimmers, surfers and kayakers but they are also first responders to all types of medical emergencies; perform rescues in rivers, streams and lakes throughout Santa Cruz County; and teach our local youth how to be water safe, while enjoying and protecting our ocean and beaches.

Santa Cruz County State Beaches that are affected include: Manresa, Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Palm, Seabright, Seacliff, Sunset, Twin Lakes and more.

### **About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks**

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial non-profit partnering with California State Parks to support the preservation, knowledge and awareness of natural and cultural resources. Friends leverages state fees with strong local support to

significantly extend the reach of state parks to provide excellent education and interpretation, visitor services, public safety and support, and fund essential capital improvements, maintenance and environmental, cultural and historic stewardship. For more about Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks:

[www.ThatsMyPark.org](http://www.ThatsMyPark.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSantaCruzStateParks>

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