

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ENJOY TACOS ON THE *TERRAZA* AS POPUP PICNIC THURSDAYS RETURN TO SANTA CRUZ MISSION STATE HISTORIC PARK THIS SUMMER**

*The Downtown Santa Cruz Lunchtime Picnics Will Be Offered Thursday,  
June 13 through Aug. 15*

**MAY 29, 2019—SANTA CRUZ, CA**—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced its PopUp Picnics in the Park will return to Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park in downtown Santa Cruz for the fourth summer in a row.

The picnics will take place every Thursday from June 13 through Aug. 15 from 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m., except for July 4. Picnickers can purchase lunch or bring their own. Take in the view of downtown from the Mission's plaza or enjoy lunch under the shade of avocado and redwood trees.

Taquitos Gabriel, a favorite from past summers and a popular Mole & Mariachi Festival competitor and food vendor, will serve food at each of the picnics. The menu includes tacos, plates, burritos, quesadillas and drinks with occasional specials, such as mole.

Items for purchase will range from \$2 to \$10. Taquitos Gabriel will donate a portion of their proceeds back to Friends on behalf of the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park to fund education and restoration projects at the park.

### **About Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park**

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, "Your State Park Downtown," is home to the oldest building in Santa Cruz County. Built between 1822 and 1824 by local Ohlonean and Yokuts Indians, the park's signature adobe is the only remaining structure from Mission Santa Cruz, founded in 1791. One of just four adobe buildings left in Santa Cruz County — and sometimes confused with the nearby replica mission chapel — it is the only building of its kind preserved as a museum in the State of California. The adobe served as housing for Neophyte families who lived and worked at the Mission, which operated until 1834 when it was secularized. After decades of private ownership, the adobe was sold to the State of California, extensively restored and finally opened in 1991 to the public as the Santa Cruz Mission SHP. The park celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2016.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks saved Santa Cruz Mission SHP from closure in 2012. Friends funds interpretation services and a portion of park operations, and also runs the Mission

ParkStore. In addition, Friends has implemented key improvements at the park, including plaster repair and whitewash on the exterior and interior of the Mission, reconstruction of an adobe brick floor, French drain repair, and installation of new toilets and a bike rack. Friends also established several special events at the park, including the annual Mole & Mariachi Festival each September, live music and food events. The park is supported by the Mission Committee, members of which include representatives of Friends, State Parks and dedicated community volunteers. For more information about Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, visit [www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission](http://www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission) or [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=548](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=548).

### **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](http://www.ThatsMyPark.org) or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

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