



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks Host Seacliff State Beach Resilience Community Workshop**

*APTOS, Calif.*— California State Parks and [Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks](#) invite the public to a community workshop on Thursday, Sept. 26, to share information about the future of [Seacliff](#) and [New Brighton](#) state beaches, which were badly damaged by historic storms in early 2023.

This event will offer a progress update on the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Alternatives Study and an opportunity to provide input about the future of Seacliff and New Brighton state beaches.

**WHAT:** Seacliff State Beach Resilience Community Workshop

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 26, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** [Seacliff Inn](#)  
7500 Old Dominion Court, Aptos, CA 95003

Following the substantial storm and swell event, State Parks initiated a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Alternatives Study, which is analyzing the state beaches in the context of climate change and sea level rise. As State Parks develops plans for future services and amenities for visitors, providing climate-resilient facilities will be a critical consideration.

“Seacliff State Beach is beloved but it’s also at risk,” said Santa Cruz District Superintendent Chris Spohrer. “State Parks is working with the community, scientists, environmental stewards and local partners to improve the resilience of our coastline as sea levels continue to rise and storm intensity increases.”

The Seacliff Resilience Community Workshop will provide the public with an update from the study, while explaining coastal processes, sea level rise, vulnerability, strategies for adaptation

and funding sources. Participants will be encouraged to share feedback on possible adaptations.

“These beaches have a complex history of extreme weather, with recreational uses that have adapted over time,” said Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks Executive Director Bonny Hawley. “This workshop is an opportunity to give input about the important choices we have to create a more sustainable, accessible public space that will endure for generations to come.”

The recovery process is occurring in partnership with Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. Friends supports Seacliff and New Brighton state beaches, as well as more than 30 other state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz and coastal San Mateo counties. Through their unique position as operating partners with State Parks, the nonprofit has established the [Seacliff State Beach Resilience & Recovery Fund](#). The fund has provided short-term support, followed by investments in long-term work to ensure public access and environmental resilience at Seacliff State Beach.

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*The California Department of Parks and Recreation, popularly known as State Parks, and the programs supported by its Office of Historic Preservation and divisions of Boating and Waterways and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at [parks.ca.gov](https://parks.ca.gov).*

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#### **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 currently operates a robust online ParkStore offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. Friends also operates ParkStores at Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff and Wilder Ranch. Learn more at [www.ThatsMyPark.org](https://www.ThatsMyPark.org) or via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#).*