



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Contact:** Jason Hoppin  
County of Santa Cruz  
841-454-3401

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**SANTA CRUZ, Calif.** – Park managers in Santa Cruz County are encouraging residents to exercise in their neighborhoods and at local parks, and to postpone road trips to remote parks and beaches.

Under both the State and local shelter-in-place orders, staying close to home is critical to the safety of individuals, families, communities and all who take care of parks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the orders, only essential travel is permitted, and there is no essential reason to cross county lines for recreation or exercise.

As the weather warms up, more people are venturing outdoors and to beaches to exercise or simply seek respite from the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, during these trying times, many of our parks and beaches have experienced visitation surges that make it impossible for the public to implement required physical distancing of six feet.

Maintaining physical distancing is necessary to protect the health and safety of all residents, including elderly and medically vulnerable individuals. While parks and beaches might offer a temporary respite, it is more important than ever to continue working together as a community to flatten the curve and ensure open spaces remain available during these very stressful times.

Lots at beaches and beach access points in Santa Cruz County are temporarily closed to vehicular access. While they remain accessible on foot, congregating in groups is not allowed and subjects individuals to enforcement actions, including fines of up to \$1,000. Additionally, if too many people visit a park, beach or trail and compromise physical distancing requirements, visitors will be asked to leave the premises.

Local park managers, including California State Parks, the County of Santa Cruz and the cities of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Capitola and Scotts Valley thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.