

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

For Immediate Release

Oct. 7, 2019

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Public Invited to Meeting on Future of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area

Public meeting set for Thursday, October 24, 2019

GUERNEVILLE, Calif.— California State Parks and the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) invite the public to learn about the future of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve (SNR) and Austin Creek State Recreation Area (SRA) at a public meeting on **Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** This annual meeting will highlight the co-management agreement for the two park units and review the annual report of the accomplishments and challenges of park operations over the past year.

WHAT: Public Meeting on Armstrong Redwoods SNR and Austin Creek SRA

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019 (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

WHERE: Armstrong Redwoods SNR
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Office and Volunteer Center
*17000 Armstrong Woods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446*

WHO: Representatives from California State Parks and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

WHY: Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods operates both Armstrong Redwoods SNR and Austin Creek SRA. In addition to an annual report, Stewards will be providing a general organization report.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS: The closure of Austin Creek SRA in 2011 was avoided via an operating agreement authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 42, in which non-profit organizations stepped in to keep the treasured State Park lands and facilities in Sonoma, Mendocino and Marin County open to visitors. The annual public meeting is a required component of the operating agreement, as specified in the authorizing legislation. Annual reports since 2013 are on Stewards' website at <https://www.stewardscr.org/austin-creek-annual-reports.html>.

ABOUT ARMSTRONG REDWOODS SNR

*Located three miles north of Guerneville on Armstrong Woods Road, [Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve](#) consists of 805 acres of ancient *Sequoia sempervirens*, commonly known as coast redwoods. These trees stand together as a testament to the wonders of the natural world. The grove offers solace from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Temperatures are moderate, with fog year-round. The reserve includes a visitor center, self-guided nature trails, and a variety of picnic facilities.*

ABOUT AUSTIN CREEK SRA

[Austin Creek State Recreation Area](#), which shares a boundary with Armstrong Redwoods SNR, has nearly 6,000 acres with trees that provide a bright and sunny experience in the spring and fall. Summer temperatures here can reach 100 degrees. In addition to hiking and bicycling activities, visitors can find the historic buildings of Pond Farm Pottery at Austin Creek SRA. This was the home, workshop and school of the internationally renowned ceramic artist, Marguerite Wildenhain, who settled here after World War II. Formerly a student at Germany's famous Bauhaus school of design, Wildenhain enjoyed and was inspired by the peace and natural beauty of this area.

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California State Parks 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 www.parks.ca.gov.

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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) is a non-profit organization that partners with the Russian River Sector of California State Parks to promote, restore and protect the natural and cultural resources in our parks. The sector includes Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve (outside Guerneville), Austin Creek State Recreation Area (a park Stewards is now operating), Sonoma Coast State Park (from Bodega Bay to Jenner). Learn more at <https://www.stewardscr.org/>.