

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Big Sur Grants Statement

The Coastal Commission is happy to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Sean Parker, in collaboration with Commission staff, have awarded eight grants that will enhance public access, recreation, and conservation of natural resources in the Big Sur area. The eight projects are consistent with the terms of the Commission's 2013 Enforcement Orders, CCC-13-CD-06 and CCC-13-RO-06.

Statement by Mr. and Mrs. Sean Parker

“Alexandra and I are proud to support organizations that promote education, access to and the conservation of the Big Sur coast. In working closely with the California Coastal Commission to select the recipients, we believe that these grants build on our long-standing commitment to Big Sur and will help ensure that present and future generations continue to benefit from this American treasure.”

Statement by Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester

“These eight worthy projects will advance conservation, education and public access to Big Sur, including programs to support underserved communities. This was a creative, collaborative way to resolve a Coastal Act violation, and we are pleased that the Parkers are committed to supporting the good work of these important organizations.”

The eight projects selected are:

- **Big Sur Charter School - \$75,000:** This grant will fund coastal education, recreation, and access programs, as well as a Big Sur Charter School camping and field trip program.
- **California State University - \$200,000:** This grant will fund a Monterey Coast Initiative “Bringing Marginalized Children, Youth, and Families to Monterey Coasts”, which aims to connect youth from three local communities to the Monterey Coast through environmental education and field trips. The funds will be used for personnel costs, classroom supplies, bus transportation, and staff transportation.
- **Coastal Conservancy- \$75,000:** This grant will fund the construction of trail improvements that will provide the public with enhanced access to the bluffs and beaches at Garrapata State Park. Funds will be used to construct coastal access improvements (i.e. trails, overlooks with benches, beach access stairs) at one or more of the 14 coastal access points within the park.
- **Coastwalk California - \$75,000:** This grant will fund the creation of a collaborative mapping platform that will assist the public in the Big Sur area and other regions throughout the state with identifying potential alignments of the Coastal Trail.

- **Rancho Cielo - \$184,000:** This grant will fund ten years of quarterly camping trips to Big Sur for at-risk youth.
- **Save the Redwoods League- \$345,000:** This grant will help fund the rehabilitation of the Pfeiffer Falls Trail, which was damaged by a fire in 2008. The rehabilitation will include the construction of a new bridge, which will restore access to Pfeiffer Falls, and realigning the trail to an area that is more environmentally sustainable. Restoration will also include an improved viewing area and signage that will foster and encourage a better understanding of the value of primeval redwood forests as natural objects of extraordinary interest to present and future generations.
- **Ventana Wilderness Alliance \$185,000:** This grant will fund trail restoration and maintenance for the Silver Peak Network in the Big Sur backcountry, which provides access to public trails and camps on the Big Sur coast.
- **Ventana Wildlife Society - \$250,000:** This grant will fund the hiring of an additional, full-time educator and the purchase of a van to facilitate outdoor youth programming activities that bring at-risk youth to the Big Sur Coast for education and coastal access.

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