



**MARCH, 2015**

**THE WAVE**

# At Crystal Cove



Crystal Cove Alliance is the nonprofit cooperating association dedicated to education, restoration and conservation within Crystal Cove State Park.



## Spotlight

### THE PARKS FORWARD INITIATIVE

#### CRYSTAL COVE STANDS READY FOR UPCOMING CHANGES TO CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Crystal Cove Alliance asks all of our members, stakeholders, and supporters to join us in welcoming an exciting and new transformative action plan for all of California's State Parks. On February 2015, the final report for the Parks Forward Initiative was released detailing the State Park enhancements recommended by the Parks.

Highlights from this report include:

- Transforming the California Department of Parks and Recreation
- A rededication to working with park partners and organizations
- Providing park access to all Californians

Over the past 18 months, the Parks Forward Commission pulled together stakeholders to determine how to best address the future and long-term sustainability of the California State Park system. This new vision for State Parks encompass a 10-year long strategic plan that is designed to create a new model of efficiency, whilst continuing to uphold the quality services already provided by California State Parks.

Among the recommended changes by the Parks Forward report are 31 initiatives that aim to further strengthen the relationships between the parks and their partner organizations. Crystal Cove Alliance was mentioned as one of these groups that serves as a model



for high performing local partners.

The next step in advancing the ambitious goals set forth by the Parks Forward Initiative is the development of a Transformation Team that will oversee the changes to be done over the next two years. Our very own Crystal Cove State Park Superintendent, Todd Lewis, will be joining this team to help establish the foundational changes that will help guide us in moving forward in the coming years.

While these changes are certainly attainable, change will not happen overnight. CCA Founder and Director of External Affairs, Laura Davick, is more than ready and looking forward to the upcoming changes. "This is an ambitious plan and we stand ready to assist State Parks in any way we can. There is much work to be done to protect California's most important natural and cultural resources that make up State Parks," says Laura.

## Then and Now

### SURF'S UP

#### CATCHING WAVES AT CRYSTAL COVE NEVER GROWS OLD

Although much of Crystal Cove's history can be traced back to the historic cottages, what was true back then remains true today: Life's most important events were lived outside. Whether playing volleyball or exploring the tide pools, nothing quite compared to being out in the water waiting for that next wave.

With only a few off-duty lifeguards out in the water on their planks of balsa wood, surfing was not as common—that didn't stop young Covites from rushing towards incoming swells with inflatable surf mats, however.



Today, surf culture is still ingrained in the minds of visitors to Crystal Cove. With an uptick in large swells crashing against the beaches of Crystal Cove, it's heartwarming to know that the soul of the Cove has not been lost over the years. "The origin of California's surf culture in tiny beach communities like the one that CCA works to preserve in Crystal Cove's Historic District," says CCA President & CEO Harry Helling.