



## **Crystal Cove Conservancy Names New President and Chief Executive Officer**

*Kate Wheeler, Former Director of Partnership Development from 2015-2017, will take over as of August 12th*

**NEWPORT COAST, Calif., July 11, 2019.** *For Immediate Release* – Crystal Cove Conservancy (The Conservancy), the nonprofit dedicated to preserving the resources of Crystal Cove State Park, has announced Kate Wheeler will take over as president and CEO, effective August 12, 2019. She brings more than 20 years of nonprofit experience, including fundraising, education, finance and community engagement, to The Conservancy, most recently serving as Director of Strategic Relationships at the International Fund for Animal Welfare and prior to that as Director of Partnership Development at The Conservancy from 2015-2017.

“It’s such a wonderful turn of events to return to Crystal Cove in this new role,” said Wheeler. “The Cove is an incredibly special place for the locals, visitors, students, artists and conservationists -- it will be an honor to lead its dedicated team to expand educational opportunities and continue to preserve and restore the legacy of Crystal Cove.”

“Kate is the right leader for The Conservancy and we are thrilled to not only have her back on the team, but to lead our organization into the future,” said Jeff Cole, Chairman of the Board. “We believe her extensive experience in the nonprofit sector and her solid understanding of The Conservancy’s operations make her the ideal choice.”

Wheeler, a resident of Laguna Niguel, has worked in the nonprofit sector since 1994, primarily focused on helping organizations achieve their programmatic missions through fund development, community engagement and strategic planning for national and international organizations. Wheeler holds a Master’s degree in Nonprofit Leadership from the University of San Diego and has taught at both USD and National University’s Sanford Institute of Philanthropy. She will work alongside The Conservancy’s staff and Board of Directors to move critical initiatives forward at an important time in the Cove’s history.

### **About Crystal Cove Conservancy**

Crystal Cove Conservancy is the nonprofit public benefit partner to Crystal Cove State Park, supporting important preservation, education and conservation initiatives to cultivate our planet’s next generation of environmental stewards and ensure that Crystal Cove, and places like it, live on for generations. The Conservancy, formerly known as Crystal Cove Alliance, was founded in 1999 by Laura Davick to save Crystal Cove Historic District from being developed into a luxury resort property.

The Conservancy works in partnership with California State Parks to provide stewardship support for Crystal Cove’s nearly 2,800 acres of public lands, including: The Crystal Cove Historic District and beach cottages (a National Register of Historic Places site); 2,400 acres of pristine wilderness habitat and the unspoiled Moro Canyon watershed (a National Natural Landmark site); over three miles of rocky beach coastline and intertidal habitat; 400 acres of coastal bluff habitat; and special underwater and offshore areas including the Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area. As the stewardship partner for this Southern California jewel, the Conservancy has been uniquely positioned to develop a nationally-recognized STEM education program that uses community science to immerse students and community members in the practice of conservation and open space management. For more information, visit [www.crystalcove.org](http://www.crystalcove.org)

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