



Governor Newsom Approves Funding for Crystal Cove Historic Cottage Restoration



NEWPORT COAST, CA, June 28, 2019 – Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, a Laguna Beach resident, has been working tirelessly in Sacramento to help Crystal Cove Conservancy secure funding for the restoration of the final cottages at Crystal Cove State Park. Governor Gavin Newsom approved \$2.9M in funding from this year’s general fund budget that will be dedicated to the restoration of the 17 historic cottages located along the shores of Crystal Cove on the Newport Coast. These funds will assist with providing additional low-cost coastal accommodations at Crystal Cove State Park Historic District.

“Drawing two million annual visitors, Crystal Cove is a gem on the California coast,” said **Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris**. “I am absolutely thrilled to announce that I was able to secure state funding for the final phase of this historic renovation project.”

“Crystal Cove Conservancy is delighted to have Governor Newsom’s support at this critical time in Crystal Cove’s History,” stated **Laura Davick, Founder Emeritus and Co-chair of the campaign**. “This critical funding will kick-off the vision for completion that so many have for this park. We are ever so grateful for both Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris and Governor Newsom as Crystal Cove’s 2019 Park Champions.”

Last year, on October 1, Crystal Cove Conservancy closed a \$19M public campaign to begin the infrastructure portion of the project. This project began on December 1st and is currently under construction and ahead of schedule. This extensive site work and all necessary infrastructure is expected to be completed by June of 2020. The Conservancy is working with a variety of state agencies to create a vision for completion at Crystal Cove.

These 17 cottages at Crystal Cove have sat empty for 18 years. This Heritage Legacy Project for California represents the last area within the historic district to be restored. Once these final 17 cottages have been restored and opened to the public for the very first time, the historic district becomes financially self-sustaining, supporting new and expanded preservation, conservation and education programs for future generations to come.

New estimates for the final pricing expected for the cottage restoration portion of the project will be obtained in summer of 2019. The Conservancy is in the planning stages for the second and final portion of the fundraising campaign and is seeking additional private donations, grants and public funding in addition to funding from a variety of state and government agencies.

Crystal Cove represents one of the few existing Lower-Cost Coastal Accommodations along the coast of California. Occupancy rates are consistently at 98.8% year-round and the demand for reservations is unprecedented. With the reservation system managed by State Parks (ReserveCalifornia.com), now available daily, for six months in advance, both dorm style lodges and cottages are booked within minutes.

The cottages at Crystal Cove are a great destination for low-income families or individuals. The average cost per person, per night, in a dorm style lodge is \$19.06 and \$38.01 per person in a private cottage that sleeps up to 9 guests. These rates are based upon the January 2019 rack rates. All rentable units are located on the beach, steps from the ocean, with free parking and kitchenettes included. Currently, the majority of Crystal Cove overnight guests come from California with a surprising number from inland and low-income communities like Los Angeles, Santa Ana, National City and Cathedral City.

This is the final component of Crystal Cove State Park Historic District and completes the final plan for this park. A future dorm style cottage with shared bathrooms will also be available to house school groups participating in the coastal engineering education programs currently being developed with the University of California, Irvine. Currently, 24,000 guests stay in the low-cost accommodations annually. Once the restoration of the final 17 cottages is completed the occupancy will be doubled to 48,000 occupants each year. California State Parks, the State Coastal Conservancy and the California Coastal Commission have been outstanding partners on the completion of the first 29 cottages completed to date. These agencies have also been cooperating with Crystal Cove Conservancy on the final phase of this project. Crystal Cove Conservancy is hopeful that with Governor Newsom's support, between existing Prop 68 & 84 Park Bond funding, State Coastal Conservancy low cost coastal accommodation funding, California Coastal Commission in lieu fees and other funds, that sufficient resources will be available to fund the final phase of restoration and complete this Heritage Legacy Project for California.

Crystal Cove has been identified as a national model for public private partnerships, with a commitment to providing full public access and low cost overnight accommodations along the coast of California. The rates for the remaining 17 future cottages will mirror the existing range of affordable options offered at Crystal Cove State Park.

"Once this entire project has been completed, due to a long-term management contract held by The Conservancy, Crystal Cove State Park Historic District becomes a self-sustaining model for the future. One hundred years from now, Crystal Cove will be even more important, and more loved, than it is today," continued Davick.

Project Benefits:

- **Preserve Crystal Cove Historic District, a nationally registered historic place, for the education and enjoyment of visitors and future generations to come.**
- **Restore full, public access to the beach and state park, including North Beach.**
- **Renovate and open to the public the remaining 17 historic cottages, update infrastructure, and improve accessibility. This project will double the existing overnight rental opportunities at Crystal Cove and provide an additional 24,000 heads on pillows per year.**

- **Develop coastal engineering programs and provide an overnight lodging facility for student education.**
- **Protect the natural environment, which fosters Crystal Cove Conservancy’s mission and supports a vision of a fully restored and sustainable Crystal Cove State Park Historic District.**
- **Enhance the quality, availability, and sustainability of educational programs and outreach to all park visitors.**

About Crystal Cove Conservancy

Crystal Cove Conservancy is the nonprofit public benefit partner to Crystal Cove State Park, employing a social enterprise model to fund important preservation, education and conservation initiatives that will cultivate our planet’s next generation of environmental stewards ensuring 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 MPA. By being a stewardship partner for this Southern California jewel, the Conservancy has been uniquely positioned to develop a nationally recognized STEM education program that uses authentic field science and monitoring to immerse students and community members in the practice of conservation and open space management. For more information, visit www.crystalcove.org

Video clip of Cottie Petrie-Norris and funding

announcement: <https://www.facebook.com/AssemblywomanCPN/videos/2072999009670813/>

Press Contacts:

Laura Davick, Founder Emeritus & Co-chair of The Heritage Legacy Project for California 949-887-0062 laura@crystalcove.org

Claire Conlon, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris 916-319-2074 Claire.Conlon@asm.ca.gov