

Crystal Cove cottage restoration gets boost from \$2 million grant for final 17 cottages



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To help fund low-cost overnight stays along the coast, the California State Coastal Conservancy [has granted \\$2 million toward the restoration of the remaining untouched cottages](#) at Crystal Cove State Beach.

Once ready, the 17 historic cottages on the north end of the beach, which have sat vacant for nearly two decades, should provide an estimated 24,000 more opportunities a year to stay overnight at the state park, according to Crystal Cove Conservancy CEO and President Kate Wheeler. The first 29 of the park's cottages were restored and opened to vacationers in 2006.

Spots at the quasi “campground,” a place like no other on the California coastline, are hard to nab, with online reservations quickly gobbled up when they become available on the [state's reservations system](#).

The project to finish the north end of the beach [kicked off last year with infrastructure repairs](#) such as sewer lines and stabilizing bluffs near the homes – work expected to be done by summer.

A few months later, the second phase of restoring the cottages is expected to begin. With the \$2 million approved Thursday, Feb. 6, by the Coastal Conservancy, about \$12 million, mostly from state and federal grants, is available for the project.

An estimated \$16 million is still needed for completion, which officials hope to find through other state and federal sources, though the Crystal Cove Conservancy has enough already to start the cottage restoration.

The \$2 million infusion is the first allocation under the [Coastal Conservancy's](#) “Explore the Coast Overnight” program, which is expected to fund lodging and programs. The money comes from [Proposition 68](#), approved by California voters to raise \$4 billion for parks, water and environmental projects.