



520 Kelly Ave., Suite 3
P.O. Box 3205
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
PHONE: 650.284.5056
FAX: 650.284.5059

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Contacts
Michael La Guardia, Board President 650.520.6845
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Executive Director 650.284.5056
zoek@CoastsideLandTrust.org

Local environmental group changes name, increases efforts to protect open space

Half Moon Bay: The Half Moon Bay Open Space Trust announced today the organization's new name, Coastside Land Trust, chosen to reflect the group's mission to protect urban open space throughout the Coastside.

Also today, the Land Trust launched its new website at www.CoastsideLandTrust.org.

These changes are part of the nonprofit group's intensified efforts to protect land in the face of increasing population and development pressures on the San Mateo County coast. Coastside Land Trust's mission is to preserve scenic lands, urban open space, and property that is environmentally or agriculturally valuable from the southern city limits of Half Moon Bay north through the community of Montara.

Board President Michael La Guardia said, "Thanks to strong support from those who love the beauty and unique character of the San Mateo County urban coast, the Coastside Land Trust is stepping up its efforts to protect local open space for enjoyment now and for the future. We are proud of what we have achieved over the past decade, and expect that our new name and broader focus will help us serve the entire Coastside community."

The organization will be celebrating its successes, its new name, and land conservation on the coast on Friday, June 8, from 5-7pm at the San Benito House in downtown Half Moon Bay. There is no charge to attend, but tax-deductible donations are welcome.

Founded in 1997, the organization has protected several key coastal parcels. Coastside Land Trust acquired conservation easements along the historic Ocean Shore Railroad Right-Of-Way in Half Moon Bay from Kelly Avenue south to Seymour Street, forever protecting this scenic corridor and sensitive wetland habitat. The trust also owns and maintains lands adjacent to the Coastal Trail in Half Moon Bay, providing scenic protection for this popular hiking and biking path. Most recently, the group has accepted donations of several conservation easements along Pilarcitos and Frenchman's Creeks, permanently protecting these sensitive stream corridors.

For more information about the Coastside Land Trust, including how to make tax-deductible contributions of cash or land, please visit the organization's new website, www.CoastsideLandTrust.org.

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