



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Skybrook Named Manager of Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network

Dylan Skybrook has been named manager of the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network (SCMSN), a collaboration of 19 large landowners in the Santa Cruz Mountains region stretching from south of San Francisco to the Salinas Valley, and from Santa Clara Valley to the Pacific Ocean.

Formed in 2015, the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network supports good land stewardship on both public and private lands, including "preserved" and "working" lands. The network works to enhance water quality and watershed health, protect habitat and biological diversity, provide access to public land and build citizen engagement throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains, and promotes a wide range of beneficial uses of the land, including ecological, economic, recreational, aesthetic, cultural and spiritual.

Skybrook's expertise in systems leadership and sustainability will be instrumental in his role as SCMSN's first manager as he facilitates the collaboration among network members and other leaders in the region to identify and advance opportunities for collaboration and information-sharing between members, secure resources for land stewardship and to educate the public about the importance of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

"This is an unprecedented effort by a group of forward-thinking organizations that recognize the value of the Santa Cruz Mountains," Skybrook said. "Everyone who has spent time and worked here understands collective action is needed to effectively steward this wonderful place we all share."

"We're pleased to welcome Dylan aboard. He has the right combination of skills and experience to bring these great organizations together and move us forward in the spirit of collaboration, community and environmental commitment," said Kellyx Nelson, executive director of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District.

A native of Minnesota, Skybrook has led a variety of groups through similar leadership efforts, including artists, educators, businesses and nonprofits. He has lectured in the U.S. and Europe about complex systems thinking, and is working with the University of Minnesota to develop a systems leadership certificate program. Skybrook previously lived in California and is familiar with natural resources such as Big Sur, Joshua Tree National Park, Yuba River and more.

The objectives of the Stewardship Network are multifold: enhance the ecology of the region, adapt to climate change, protect habitat and biological diversity by managing invasive plant and animal species and supporting endangered species, coordinate efforts to identify the most beneficial and cost-effective projects and more.

Skybrook will work out of the offices of the Resource Conservation District of San Mateo County in Half Moon Bay. For more information about the SCMSN and a list of members, visit www.scmsn.net.

