

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

## PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SEMPERVIRENS FUND

WHEREAS, Sempervirens Fund, a conservation organization dedicated to preserving Coast Redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains and California's first land trust, is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2025; and

WHEREAS, Sempervirens Fund may never have been founded if not for San Jose citizen and photojournalist Andrew Hill, who, while on assignment in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1899, was shocked to see the widespread logging of old-growth redwoods and, upon returning home, launched a campaign to protect the remaining coast redwoods; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1900, on the banks of Sempervirens Creek, Mr. Hill and several prominent San Jose residents founded the Sempervirens Club by passing a hat and collecting \$32, sparking a fundraising and lobbying campaign to protect the remaining redwoods and establish a public park at Big Basin; and

WHEREAS, within two years, the Sempervirens Club convinced the California Legislature to pass a bill to create the park and acquire 3,800 acres of ancient redwood forests in Big Basin for the people of California—protecting Coast Redwoods for the first time, anywhere; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent 124 years Sempervirens Fund has protected tens of thousands of acres of forest including the establishment of Henry Cowell Redwoods, Big Basin Redwoods, and Castle Rock State Parks, and the Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument, as well as advancing conservation science and policy, sustainable forest management and public access; and

WHEREAS, in the next 125 years and beyond, Sempervirens Fund will continue its core mission to protect and connect the forest while addressing head on the challenge of this century—climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justin Cummings, Santa Cruz County Third District Supervisor, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2025, as Sempervirens Fund Day, and encourage all citizens to honor this milestone by taking a moment to enjoy the magnificence of the redwood forest.



  
Member, Board of Supervisors

April 29, 2025  
Date