

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Murrieta Volunteers Needed to Support Partial Reopening of
Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve**

Date: RSVP Deadline – September 30,2020

Site: Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve – 39400 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta 92562

Contact: Rob Hicks – SRPER RivCoParks Interpreter – rhicks@rivco.org (951) 677-6951
Ginger Greaves – Recruitment Coord – execdirector@srpnef.org (909) 732-2209

The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve is slowly, but surely, recovering from the September 4, 2019 Tenaja Fire and the COVID closures. Except for the Sylvan Meadows Multi-Use Area, the Reserve has remained closed to the public since the fire to help protect those sensitive habitat areas damaged from the fire, and cultural resources exposed by the fire. However, plans are now under way to partially reopen the Hidden Valley and Vernal Pool trailheads, located on Tenaja Road and Via Volcano Road, on Friday, Saturday and Sundays in the Fall. To do so, a robust recruitment effort is being launched to recruit over 100 adults, ages 21-64, to serve as Trailhead, Gatekeepers and Trail Protection volunteers. The Sylvan Meadows trailhead will remain open daily Monday-Sundays, 7am – 6pm. This new volunteer crew will be instrumental in the successful partial reopening of the trailheads and ultimately help with the full reopening in the future. In addition to the support needed for the partial reopening, volunteers will be on the list for other future volunteer opportunities at the Reserve.

Assignments will consist of 3-hour shifts between the hours of 7am and 6:30pm. Applicants should be aware that certain assignments may require a 2.5 mile round-trip hike into designated volunteer posts. All volunteers will be required to complete a RivCoParks' application and background check that requires fingerprinting, participate in volunteer training, adhere to COVID related social distancing and face mask mandates, and sign a liability waiver.

To receive a volunteer application, send an email with subject line *SRP Volunteer* to programs@santarosaplateau.org by September 30. Visit www.rivcoparks.org for additional information about County parks and the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.

#####