

## PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

Rafael Payan  
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District  
831-718-7581 / [payan@mprpd.org](mailto:payan@mprpd.org)  
*Images Available*

### **JOYCE STEVENS MONTEREY PINE PRESERVE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**Carmel, CA, June 17, 2021** – The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s 850-acre Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve will be formally dedicated in a ceremony on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 1:30 PM. The Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve (Preserve) is located at the junction of Olmsted-Monhollan and Jacks Peak roads near Highway 68.

In December 2014, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District purchased the historic Rancho Aguajito property for \$7.45 million from Pebble Beach Company and shortly afterwards named the heavily wooded land in honor of Joyce Stevens, long-time local conservationist and environmental activist who worked tirelessly to protect the property from development.

The Preserve wraps around Monterey County’s Jacks Peak Park on three sides and supports a mosaic of Monterey Pine Forest, uncommon Maritime Chaparral, and pocket meadows of Coastal Prairie. At least ten threatened and endangered plant species are found on the Preserve, including Yadon’s Piperia, a federally listed endangered orchid native only to the Monterey region. According to Ms. Stevens, “This biologically significant property is an integral part of the largest contiguous Monterey Pine forest habitat remaining on the planet.”

“Joyce Stevens has been one of the primary catalysts for open space conservation in the Monterey Bay area and has worked for over 50-years to safeguard, advocate, and educate on behalf of the Central Coast’s incomparable environment. She is admired by local volunteers for her keen humor and indefatigable energy and by civic leaders as an organizer, mentor, and visionary. This recognition is long over-due,” said Bill Perocchi, CEO, Pebble Beach Company.

Stevens has been involved in numerous local causes that have protected scenic, ecological, and cultural resources throughout the Monterey region, including the defeat of the Hatton Canyon Freeway and the conservation of the Marina Dunes. She was instrumental in the original formation of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and has served in the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, and as President of the Big Sur Land Trust and Monterey Pine Forest Watch.

For the past 30-years, Joyce has been a leading voice behind community efforts to preserve the Monterey Peninsula’s iconic Monterey Pine forest habitat. Monterey Pine forests are exceedingly rare and can only be found in three coastal California groves and on two islands off the west coast of Baja California. Joyce has raised our community’s awareness of the rarity of this native forest type, as well as the inherent value of natural resources and landscapes we all appreciate.

Joyce was born in Alaska before it became a state. She studied architecture at the University of Washington at a time when there were few women in that profession. After practicing in Alaska, Joyce moved to Carmel in 1962 with her young daughter and felt awe and admiration for the beauty of the trees and natural landscapes of the Central Coast. She worked as the staff architect at the Fort Ord U.S. Army post, and designed the vaulted, open-beam church at Fort Hunter Liggett.

The summer solstice is one of the most fitting days to pay tribute to Joyce's accomplishments. Rafael Payan, General Manager of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District said, "The naming of the Monterey Pine Preserve honors the many years of service Joyce Stevens has given to our community and the conservation achievements that she has contributed to the quality of our lives on the Central Coast." Payan added, "We want to thank Joyce, her colleagues, and the County of Monterey Parks Department for making this celebration possible. The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and the County of Monterey look forward to our continued collaboration in the protection of this and other important habitats throughout our region."

###

#### ***About the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District***

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has been preserving and protecting parks and open space since 1972. MPRPD is committed to being an inspirational, inclusive, respected, sustainable and valued open space district that collaborates with and serves the community and its conservation needs through interconnected open spaces, public parks, education and advocacy for the entire community. For more information on the MPRPD and its mission, vision and open spaces, please call 831.372-3196 or visit [www.mprpd.org](http://www.mprpd.org).



Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve monument sign at the corner of Olmsted-Monhollan and Jacks Peak roads near Highway 68. Photo by Mike Buffo House of 8 Media



Joyce Stevens (left) and Kathleen Lee (right), MPRPD Board Director.