

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Chair Steve Kinsey
California Coastal Commission
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Subject: Support for women's Division in Mavericks surf contests; response to staff report

Dear Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

As Chair of the Surfrider Foundation Humboldt Chapter, part of the global surf network and neighboring Northern California surf community, and woman surfer myself, I welcome the news of the inclusion of a women's heat starting in 2016/17, and thank you for your involvement in bringing this to fruition. This is a step forward for equity in surfing, but is still far from the proposal originally requested by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing.

Regarding the Oct. 21st staff report, I strongly support the inclusion of a Women's Division as originally proposed by CEWS.

Please include the following as special conditions of the CDP for all Mavericks surf competitions regardless of who organizes the event.

A Women's Division with:

- Women's Inclusion on the Committee 5
- Multiple Heats
- Equal Pay

Please consider the addition of the following points, which are currently not included in the Coastal Development Permit:

- Plan to include a woman on the Committee 5, selected by women athletes; "The Committee 5 is the active governing body of Titans of Mavericks. The Committee 5 is made up of five of the most prestigious big wave riders that have shaped Mavericks'

history,” ([Titans of Mavericks website](#)). When Sarah Gerhardt became the first woman to ride a wave at Mavericks in 1999, was an essential moment in Mavericks’ history and paved the way for more women to follow. History is being made again with the inclusion of a women’s heat this year.

- Plan to include a women’s division with multiple heats (like the men have); Multiple heats allow adequate time for athletes to showcase their talent. During one hour there may be to few waves depending on the conditions.
- Plan for equal prize money. Men and women alike dedicate their careers and risk their lives to be professional big wave surfers and therefore deserve equal compensation. According to the Equal Pay Act, men and women must be given equal pay for equal work in the same establishment.

In summary, I support full recreational opportunities to all people, as is consistent with the Coastal Act. Please take these suggestions into consideration, as a part of the Coastal Development Permit.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean.

Regards,



Delia Bense-Kang