San Mateo County Chapter

October 27, 2016

Chair Steve Kinsey
California Coastal Commission
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Subject: Support for women's heat in Mavericks surf contests

Dear Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

I am writing to you to express our chapters' full support for the proposal submitted by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing. Please do not be swayed by the contention that there are not enough Women big wave surfers to hold a contest. This statement is self-serving and contrary to the facts. The World Surfing League has included Women in their big wave contests in waves of equal grandeur as those at Mavericks.

We commend the Commission and staff for helping Women athletes continue to make progress towards fair and equal treatment in professional sports. We urge the Commission to only give the contest organizers, whomever they are in this year and those that follow, a one year permit. This will maximize the Commissions ability to ensure that the permit requirements and any conditions for future contest are met. It is particularly important this year because the eleventh-hour inclusion of a Women's heat in the contest was offered by the organizers only after Coastal Commission staff made it clear in their preliminary report on the contest plan that no permit would be forthcoming if women were not included.

Respectfully,

Edmundo Larenas

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Chair

San Mateo Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation