

## COMMITTEE FOR EQUITY IN WOMEN'S SURFING

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### California's "iconic" state sport

On Monday, Aug 20, 2018, Gov. Jerry Brown recognized the importance of coastal access when he signed a bill that makes surfing our official state sport.

In May, the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing sent letters to legislators in support of AB-1782. We are very please that the bill received broad support from recreational surfers, professional athletes, and the many businesses that benefit from this iconic California lifestyle.

Bianca Valenti, Co-Founder, Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing said:

*I'm excited about surfing becoming California's official state sport! Lawmakers get it; they know that responsible use of our coastline and coastal access is a top priority for all Californians. As a professional big-wave surfer I believe this recognition will help leverage progress towards achieving equality. When we share the ocean everyone has an opportunity to explore surfing, improve their performance, and earn equal pay in the water!*

The new legislation acknowledges that surfing originated with the Polynesian people and was imported into California from Hawaii.

With some 3.3 million surfers nationwide, the industry — almost exclusively based in California — accounts for more than \$6 billion in United States retail sales annually.

The state's 1,770 kilometers of coastline are home to a number of world-famous surf breaks. California hosts the the Mavericks big wave surf competition, the International Surf Festival, the US Open of Surfing and the Founders' Cup of Surfing. It's also the site of the Surfers' Hall of Fame, the International Surfing Museum, and the California Surf Museum.

Founded in 2016, CEWS is comprised of stakeholders and advocates in support of female professional surfing. We have worked successfully with the California Coastal Commission to include women in the Mavericks big wave surf competition. We provide resources for women surfers, and most importantly, we seek to make surfing accessible for athletes and recreational surfers across California.