

SURF



EQUITY

Coastal Commission Hearing



March 12, 2021

New Coastal Act Section 30615

On September 9, 2019, Assembly Bill 467 was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

The **“Competitions on State Property: Prize Compensation: Gender Equity”** law added a new section to the Coastal Act effective January 1, 2020.

California State Law: <https://bit.ly/3qboS8L>

California Coastal Act Section 30615: <https://bit.ly/2PWwyPa>

Coastal Act Section 30615

In 2019, the California Senate and Assembly unanimously voted for AB 467 and Governor Newsom signed the bill into law.

The law was inspired by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing, the Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission.

The purpose of the law is to prevent gender discrimination by requiring equal prize compensation for women and men at Mavericks surf competitions.

To enforce the new law Coastal Commission staff must require a CDP or CDP waiver for sports competitions that do not provide equal prize compensation for each gendered category.

Coastal Act Section 30615

Section 30615.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Event” means a competition event within the coastal zone.

(2) “Prize compensation” includes prize or purse money, other prizes, goods, or other compensation.

(b) The commission shall require as a condition of a coastal development permit for any event that awards prize compensation to competitors in gendered categories, for any participant level that receives prize compensation, that the prize compensation for each gendered category be identical at each participant level. The commission shall not approve a coastal development permit for an event that does not comply with this condition.

(Added by Stats. 2019, Ch. 276, Sec. 4. (AB 467) Effective January 1, 2020.)

Surf Contest Running at Mavericks without Permits

Currently, the Mavericks Surf Awards is running a competition from Dec 1, 2020 to April 15, 2021. The event is held on every surfable day for 4.5 months in San Mateo County.

Men are competing for 80% of the prize money and women are competing for 20%.

Please address this lack of parity.

The Mavericks Surf Awards is running without any permits; the event is operating without a coastal development permit and without a State Lands lease. Event organizers should be required to apply for a CDP so the Commission can review the contest to ensure that public resources within the coastal zone are being used fairly.

The Mavericks Surf Awards event has transformed the entire surf season into a multi-day contest. A website describes the event as a, "Performance Based Video Contest That Lasts All Season Long." Some may describe this as a "digital" format however the contest is an actual competition that uses State lands, State waters, county beach and public facilities.

The density and intensity of use has dramatically increased because the event runs everyday waves break at Mavericks as opposed to the traditional format that includes one contest day per winter season and requires a CDP and a State Lands Lease.

Please enforce the Coastal Act by requiring a CDP for the multi-day Mavericks Surf Awards.

Keala Kennelly at Mavericks Beach

2019 Big Wave World Champion



In 2015, Sabrina Brennan asked the Coastal Commission to correct decades of gender discrimination by requiring that women be included in a big wave surf competition held at Mavericks in San Mateo County. She received support for a Coastal Development Permit condition requiring the inclusion of women going forward...

Subsequently, the Coastal Commission voted unanimously to require the inclusion of a single heat for women in 2016 and 2017.

In 2018, they unanimously supported requiring a multi-heat women's division with equal prize money at each participant level.

In October 2018, the State Lands Commission approved a lease requiring the inclusion of a multi-heat women's division and equal pay for all competitors regardless of gender. This was a precedent-setting victory for equal pay in sporting events held on state property.

In December 2019, the Coastal Commission unanimously approved CDP Waiver 2-19-1211-W for a competition at Mavericks.

In, December 2020, the State Lands Commission approved a lease to a woman owned company for future Mavericks surf competitions. One of the conditions of the new 5-year lease requires a Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal Commission.

Bianca Valenti surfing Mavericks on January 10, 2021

Photo by Sachi Cunningham



Thank you

SurfEquity.org

SportEquity.org

The New York Times Magazine

The Washington Post

The New York Times **HUFFPOST**

San Francisco Chronicle **BEACH GRIT**

**SILICON VALLEY
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

San Jose Mercury News

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