

California Coastal Commission

Public Comment — February 12, 2021

I'm Sabrina Brennan, co-founder of the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing and founder of Sport Equity and Surf Equity.

In 2015, I 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. I received support for a CDP condition requiring the inclusion of women going forward.

Subsequently, you voted unanimously to require the inclusion of a single heat for women in 2016 and 2017. In 2018, you unanimously supported requiring a multi-heat women's division with equal prize money at each participant level.

The Mavericks Surf Awards is running from Dec 1st to April 15th, 2021. The event is held on every surfable day for 4.5 months. **Men are competing for 80% of the prize money and women are competing for 20%. This lack of parity must be addressed.**

The Mavericks Surf Awards is running without permits. Event organizers should be required to obtain a CDP so the Commission can review the contest to ensure that coastal resources are being used fairly and that the event does not impede public access. A website describes the event as a, "Performance Based Video Contest That Lasts All Season Long." While some may describe this as a "digital" format the contest is a physical competition that uses State waters, public beach and public launch ramps.

The event has transformed the entire surf season into a multi-day contest.

Density 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.

Please require an after-the-fact CDP for the Mavericks Surf Awards.

Thank you



Bianca Valenti surfing Mavericks on January 10, 2021

Photo by Sachi Cunningham