

SURF



EQUITY

State Lands Commission Meeting



February 23, 2021

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 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 2020, you 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.

Keala Kennelly at Mavericks Beach

2019 Big Wave World Champion



Surf Contest Running Without a Lease and Without Permits

Currently, 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%. Please address this lack of parity.

Bianca Valenti surfing Mavericks on January 10, 2021

Photo by Sachi Cunningham



The Mavericks Surf Awards is running without a state lease and without any permits. Event organizers should be required to apply for a State Lands lease so the Commission can review the contest to ensure that state land is being used fairly, without impeding public access or jeopardizing public safety.

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, public 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 State Lands Lease.

Please consider requiring a lease for the multi-day Mavericks Surf Awards.

Thank you

The New York Times Magazine

The Washington Post

The New York Times  **HUFFPOST**

San Francisco Chronicle 

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San Jose Mercury News

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