



COMMITTEE FOR EQUITY IN WOMEN'S SURFING

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Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Pacifica Surf Camp/School Policy Advisory Task Force
City of Pacifica
170 Santa Maria Avenue
Pacifica, California 94044-2506

Re: **Pacifica State Beach — Access and Equity**

Dear Pacifica Surf Camp/School Policy Advisory Task Force Members and Michael Perez, Director of Parks, Beaches and Recreation,

My name is Sabrina Brennan, writing on behalf of Surf Equity. We are an advocacy group that fights for access, equity, inclusion and equality in professional surfing. We were founded to address gender discrimination in surfing by working to improve public policy in California and Hawaii.

It's our understanding that Task Force Members are charged with advising the Pacifica Parks, Beaches and Rec Commission and the Pacifica City Council on best practices to correct an equity imbalance at one of the Bay Area's most popular state beaches. Historically, racial discrimination, homophobia, transphobia and gender discrimination have been chronic problems for Black and Brown families, women, girls and LGBTQ+ families living in Pacifica as well as visitors. Hate-based behavior has played out in the lineup and at times has resulted in fist fights on Pacifica State Beach and in parking areas. We are aware that some local surfers say there isn't enough room in the ocean for "kooks" and people they dislike based on the color of their skin, their gender identity and their sexual preference. Thankfully, surf culture is slowly changing for the better.

The City of Pacifica has an opportunity to lead by adopting the [Community Access Partnership Permit \(CAPP\)](#) framework; the process proposed by Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project. Please advocate for gender and racial diversity in the body reviewing permit applicants. **It's critically important that People of Color and Women be included in the process of reviewing and providing input on applications and proposals.**



In November 2020, the City of Pacifica first allowed Brown Girl Surf to operate at Pacifica State Beach when BGS and City Surf Project were approved for a temporary pilot permit process. We wholeheartedly support nonprofits that serve and benefit communities and individuals who have historically been excluded from coastal resources and access to Pacifica State Beach.

On Sept 5, 2018, the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing (aka Surf Equity) won the fight for equal prize money across all World Surf League global events. More change is needed. Surf Equity supports a balanced ratio of women and men in professional surf competitions. Today, men have far more opportunities to earn prize money and sponsorships than women. Several exclusive male-only pro contests still exist despite efforts to correct a history of systemic gender discrimination. To address this, it's critically important that women and girls are included in qualifying events so they can earn points and prize money and compete in the Olympics.

In the spirit of inclusivity, the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing changed its name to 'Surf Equity' in June 2020 to better serve all races, ethnicities, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, cultures, and genders, including those who identify as nonbinary and transgender. Please follow us on Instagram @SurfEquity and checkout our website www.SurfEquity.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Sabrina Brennan
Co-Founder, Surf Equity

Copy: Karen Tynan, CEWS Founding Counsel

Increasing the number of events and the number of awards for women, as well as offering equal prize money, is the only way to achieve meaningful equity in competitive sports.