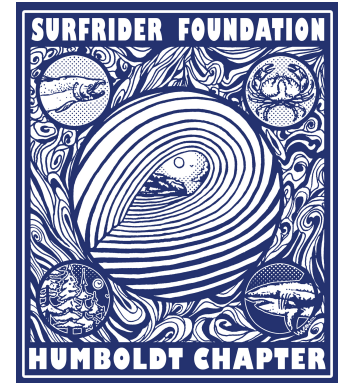


Thursday, October 6, 2016

Chair Steve Kinsey  
California Coastal Commission  
North Coast District Office  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219  
[Steve.Kinsey@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Steve.Kinsey@coastal.ca.gov)



CC:

Renee Ananda: [Renee.Ananda@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Renee.Ananda@coastal.ca.gov)  
Nancy Cave: [Nancy.Cave@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Nancy.Cave@coastal.ca.gov)  
Jeannine Manna: [Jeannine.Manna@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Jeannine.Manna@coastal.ca.gov)  
Stephanie Rexing: [Stephanie.Rexing@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Rexing@coastal.ca.gov)

**Subject: Support for women's heat in Mavericks surf contests**

Dear Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

As part of the global surf network and neighboring Northern California surf community, we the surfers of Humboldt County, **strongly support the proposal submitted by the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing. We support the inclusion of a Women's Division in all Mavericks surf competitions regardless of who organizes the event.**

Women's big-wave surfing as a sport has progressed immensely in recent years. The arguments that there is not a sufficient number of women surfing well enough to participate in big wave contests no longer hold true. There are now more than enough talented and passionate female athletes who have dedicated their lives to surfing big waves. No reason justifies excluding these accomplished women from contests such as Mavericks.

The ocean does not discriminate based on gender, ethnicity or sexuality. Men and women alike risk their lives surfing big waves every day, and all deserve the chance to showcase their talent and hard work. Mavericks is recognized as the pinnacle of big wave surfing; providing women with their own heat in the Titans of Mavericks contest gives them the hard-earned opportunity to prove and perform their talents on the same playing field as the men.

The inclusion of a women's heat in the Titans of Mavericks is much more than a stand-alone decision. This decision will set a precedent for the future inclusion of women in big-wave surfing contests and create opportunities for equality of women athletes in general.

The World Surf League (WSL) has already embraced the inclusion of women athletes in the 2016/17 WSL Big Wave Tour, with contests scheduled for Pe'Ahi, Maui and Todos Santos,

Mexico. By including women in the Titans of Mavericks, California will join the growing movement of supporting women in their quest to showcase their talent and pave the way for equality in surfing for future generations.

Not only is having a women's division in the Mavericks competition a forward step for women's equity in sports, but it is also consistent with the intent of the California Coastal Act.

- Section 30210 states that, "maximum access...and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all of the people."
- Section 30001.5 declares that the basic goals of the State for the coastal zone are to: (c) Maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities.
- Section 30009 states that: This division shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes and objectives.
- Section 30604(c) requires that: Every Coastal Development Permit that is issued between the nearest public road and the sea "Shall include a specific finding that the development is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of [Coastal Act] Chapter 3."

In summary, we support full recreational opportunities to all people, which must include women. Excluding women is not consistent with the Coastal Act. Please require the inclusion of a Woman's Division as a special condition of the Coastal Development Permit.

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean.

Regards,



Delia Bense-Kang,  
Chair, Surfrider Foundation Humboldt Chapter

## NEWS

### **World's Top Female Surfers Infuriated by Titans of Mavericks Invite List**

The Inertia, Oct. 4, 2016: <http://www.theinertia.com/surf/worlds-top-female-surfers-infuriated-by-titans-of-mavericks-invite-list/>

### **Female Big Wave Surfers Fight for their Own Division in Titans of Mavericks**

The Inertia, Sept. 29, 2016: <http://www.theinertia.com/surf/female-big-wave-surfers-fight-for-their-own-division-in-titans-of-mavericks/>

### **Women surfers submit request to ride Mavericks**

HMB Review, Sept. 28, 2016: [http://www.hmbreview.com/news/women-surfers-submit-request-to-ride-mavericks/article\\_9677d6b0-85bb-11e6-b569-ab1b0b0b729e.html](http://www.hmbreview.com/news/women-surfers-submit-request-to-ride-mavericks/article_9677d6b0-85bb-11e6-b569-ab1b0b0b729e.html)

### **Women's Championship and Big Wave Tour Qualifying Series Added for Upcoming Season**

WSL, April 15, 2016: <http://www.worldsurfleague.com/posts/197141/wsl-announces-2016-2017-big-wave-tour-schedule>