



Chair Steve Kinsey
California Coastal Commission
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CC:
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RE: Cartel Management CDP application 2-15-1458-A1

Dear Chair Kinsey and Commissioners,

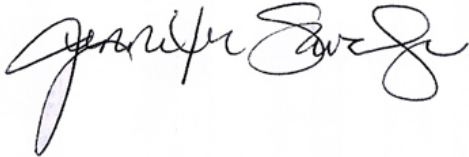
Through our global network of nearly 100 chapters, Surfrider Foundation has long been committed to ensuring beach access throughout the world. Here in California, we and our supporters look toward the Coastal Act as the benchmark by which public access is measured – and guaranteed. Although the concept of “access” is most often considered in the terms of physical barriers such as illegal gates or signage, prohibitive parking policies, coastal erosion caused by sea walls, poor water quality or other clearly quantifiable deterrents, **the Commission has also acknowledged that access can be defined – and denied – by less tangible measures.**

The lack of inclusion of a women’s division in the Titans of Mavericks contest has constituted the latter interpretation for several years by, as noted in the current staff report, “[reducing] access opportunities for a specific subset of people.” We applaud last year’s decision by the Commission to insist contest organizers comply with Coastal Act Section 30210, which states that “maximum access... and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all of the people.” We were disappointed this year to see that, when applying for the contest permit this year, Cartel suggested an “outreach program” instead of the full women’s division expected, failing to be consistent with the action taken and direction provided by the Commission in their approval of the 2015 permit.

We further agree with the point made by Brown Girl Surf’s Executive Team in that organization’s letter to the Commission on this issue, specifically: This application and the conditions attached to it **“raise the question of how access to the coast and surfing is controlled and by whom, and has great implications for all groups who have sought access.”** The answer to that question should always be based on Coastal Act compliance, which, in this case, includes adhering to the Coastal Commission’s directives as specified.

Therefore, we stand behind the Committee for Equity in Women's Surfing and support their proposal for a multi-heat Women's Division in the Mavericks competition this year and in the future. We see this as the appropriate continuance of the Commission's strong stand on access equity – and the best way to fulfill the access rights guaranteed to all citizens by California's Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Savage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Jennifer Savage
Surfrider Foundation
California Policy Manager