



Scenic Pacifica

Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

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## CITY OF PACIFICA

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[www.cityofpacifica.org](http://www.cityofpacifica.org)

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### MAYOR

Tygarjas Bigstycck

### MAYOR PRO TEM

Sue Vaterlaus

### COUNCIL

Sue Beckmeyer

Mary Bier

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# PRESS RELEASE

## City of Pacifica Celebrates Approval of Innovative Surf Camp/School Policy by Coastal Commission

### Pacific, CA – May 25, 2023

The City of Pacifica is delighted to announce that the California Coastal Commission has unanimously approved the City's groundbreaking Surf Camp/School Policy. This policy will help achieve enhanced safety, ease of access, inclusiveness, and environmental protection for all stakeholders, including beachgoers and surf enthusiasts.

The approval of the Surf Camp/School Policy marks a significant milestone in Pacifica's commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive recreational surfing environment. This achievement comes after a collaborative and rigorous permitting process between the City of Pacifica and the California Coastal Commission that involved extensive consultation with key stakeholders, environmental experts, and surfing enthusiasts over the last two years.

The newly approved policy brings numerous improvements to the surf camp/school programs that have been in place for decades at Pacifica State (Linda Mar) Beach, especially improvements that promote the City of Pacifica's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the recreational surfing space. By implementing this innovative program, Pacifica aims to set an example for coastal communities statewide on how to achieve these goals while promoting responsible enjoyment of the coastal environment.

### Key Highlights of the Surf Camp/School Policy:

**Enhanced Safety Measures:** The policy incorporates updates to the safety standards from the previous program, to ensure the enhanced well-being of surf camp and school participants. This includes guidelines for qualified instructors, proper equipment maintenance, and emergency preparedness protocols.

**Ease of Access:** The policy focuses on improving access to surfing activities for individuals of all backgrounds and abilities, as well as non-profit surf programs that serve diverse communities seeking to be exposed to the sport of surfing. It promotes equitable opportunities for residents and visitors to engage in surf camps and schools, fostering a more inclusive surfing community.

**Environmental Protection:** The City of Pacifica remains committed to safeguarding our pristine coastal environment. The Surf Camp/School Policy includes measures to minimize the impact on beaches and marine ecosystems, preserving the natural beauty for future generations.

Pacifica anticipates that the implementation of the Surf Camp/School Policy will serve as a model for other coastal communities across California, demonstrating how diversity, equity, and inclusion can be effectively integrated into recreational surfing initiatives.

Mayor Tygarjas Bigstyk expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the Pacifica City Council, to Pacifica City Staff, Members of the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission, Community Volunteers, Local Non-Profits, Commercial Surf Camp Providers, and California Coastal Commission Staff for their collaborative approach and dedication to balancing the needs of various stakeholders while ensuring the preservation of the coastal environment. The City of Pacifica looks forward to rolling out the Surf Camp/School Policy and taking a leadership role in shaping the future of recreational surfing.

For more information about the Surf Camp/School Policy, please visit [cityofpacifica.org](https://cityofpacifica.org) or contact city staff at 650 738-7300 or email [rcollier@pacifica.gov](mailto:rcollier@pacifica.gov).