

Public Comments

Oral Communications

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 1/10/2022



January 10, 2022
City Council Meeting

From: Christine Boles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Murdock, Christian; Wehrmeister, Tina; Woodhouse, Kevin; _City Council Group; Public Comment
Subject: General Plan documents?

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Mayor Bier, Mayor Pro Tem Bigstych, Council and staff,
Both the Tribune and the City's website say the General Plan review process starts today, but I can't find the documents on the city website. The links given are circular. Can you confirm that the review process will be extended as necessary so that we have the full minimum 45 days?

<https://www.cityofpacific.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?t=62428.95&BlobID=19363>

Please confirm when the documents will be made available.

I am really disappointed to read that there will be no public launch giving an overview of the documents and explaining how residents and businesses can best contribute. My guess is that most Pacificans don't even know what a General Plan is, much less understand its importance. The fact that after 40+ years the General Plan release is not even an item for discussion on the City Council's agenda for Monday leads me to believe that the city lacks the desire for public education and engagement on the future vision of our city.

I understand that staff resources are limited and that the City Manager would want to minimize their time and expense, but Council Members, I ask you as elected representatives to question whether this is the right decision. It is obviously your call to make, not that of staff.

Respectfully,
Christine Boles

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Christine

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Public Comments

Agenda Item 10

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 1/10/2022



January 10, 2022
City Council Meeting

From: Coffey, Sarah
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: FW: Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project Surf Equity Letter
Attachments: BGS_CSP_Surf Equity Letter to Pacifica City Council & PBRC_12_10_2021.pdf

From: Beckmeyer, Sue <sbeckmeyer@pacifica.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Woodhouse, Kevin <kwoodhouse@pacifica.gov>
Cc: Coffey, Sarah <scoffey@pacifica.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project Surf Equity Letter

FYI...
—Sue B.

From: Adriana Guerrero [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 2:07:13 PM
To: Beckmeyer, Sue <sbeckmeyer@pacifica.gov>; Bier, Mary <mbier@pacifica.gov>; Vaterlaus, Sue <svaterlaus@pacifica.gov>; O'Neill, Mike <moneill@pacifica.gov>; Bigstych, Tygarjas <tbigstych@pacifica.gov>; Abbott, Cindy <abbottc@ci.pacificaca.us>; Lusson, Nick <lussonn@ci.pacificaca.us>; Heywood, James <heywoodj@ci.pacificaca.us>; Kellogg, Kevin <kelloggk@ci.pacificaca.us>; Nicolari, Carl <cnicolari@ci.pacificaca.us>; Marchetti, Mark <marchettim@ci.pacificaca.us>; Shoemaker, Gail Benton <shoemakerg@ci.pacificaca.us>
Cc: Johnny Irwin [REDACTED]; Locklin, Linda@Coastal <Linda.Locklin@coastal.ca.gov>; Targ, Sylvia@Coastal <Sylvia.targ@coastal.ca.gov>; Perez, Michael <mperez@pacifica.gov>; Seeley, Kenda <kseeley@pacifica.gov>; Phipps, Beth <bhipps@pacifica.gov>; Collier, Rebecca <rcollier@pacifica.gov>; Schriver, Anthony <aschriver@pacifica.gov>
Subject: Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project Surf Equity Letter

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Honorable Pacifica City Councilmembers and Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commissioners,

My name is Adriana Guerrero and I am the Executive Director of Brown Girl Surf. I am writing on behalf of Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project and we are writing as community leaders and advocates of equitable access to the coast and surfing.

Please see attached our surf equity letter and CAPP proposal follow up and requests towards ensuring equitable coastal and beach access at Pacifica State Beach.

Sincerely,

Adriana Guerrero

--

Adriana Guerrero, MNA
Executive Director, Brown Girl Surf
She, Her | They, Them | Ella

[REDACTED]

brown girl surf TM

www.browngirlsurf.com

Follow the ocean joy at [@browngirlsurf](https://twitter.com/browngirlsurf)

Schedule a meeting with Adriana [REDACTED] via Calendly)

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December 10, 2021

Pacifica City Council
Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
City of Pacifica
1810 Francisco Blvd.
Pacifica, CA 94044

RE: Surf Equity in Pacifica at Linda Mar Beach

Dear Honorable Pacifica City Councilmembers and Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commissioners,

We are writing as community leaders and advocates of equitable access to the coast and surfing. First, we appreciate the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Department, the PBR Commission and the Task Force for their dedication, and work throughout the past year towards establishing and implementing a Community Access Partner Permit (CAPP) system at Pacifica State Beach. We would also like to acknowledge the city's continued efforts to demonstrate a commitment to equitable beach access and keeping the promise of the California Coastal Act that the beach belongs to, and should be accessible to, all.

At Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project, our missions are to make surfing more accessible to those who have historically been excluded from the sport and the beach. Since 2018, our organizations have worked together to raise awareness about the lack of equitable opportunities for our communities to gain access to Pacifica State Beach. In June 2020, we launched an advocacy campaign, with community-wide support, to prioritize the CAPP system creation process and implementation. Our outcome was to create equitable access and support for underserved community organizations and raise them to the same level of beach access and ease of entry as current commercial surf schools.

We believe the City of Pacifica and Linda Mar Beach can become the model of equitable coastal access at both the local, state, and federal levels. Access and equity are just the starting points - we strongly urge the City of Pacifica to work towards the goal of ensuring that Pacifica State Beach at Linda Mar, and all beaches in Pacifica, are beaches where people feel like they belong, where they feel safe, and where they feel included. We also believe that until the entire

system is equal, we must first make sure that nonprofits and organizations working to increase equitable access to the coast get support needed and feel empowered to advocate for their communities.

Therefore, on behalf of the Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project communities, we request the following actions as we continue to work together with the City of Pacifica to make Pacifica State Beach accessible and an inclusive place for *all* Californians:

1. A formal public apology from the City Council on behalf of the City of Pacifica and acknowledgement of the *illegitimate** and an unfair beach permit system that was in place for 17 years which has excluded communities, nonprofits and other surf schools from accessing the coast.
2. Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project's involvement in city safety committees related to beach safety.
3. Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project's involvement in the CAPP RFP development process and implementation.
4. BGS and CSP's involvement and key stakeholder input in the development and implementation of the Community Access Review Board (CARB) for the CAPP.
5. Transparency of the Pacifica PBR Commission application, appointment process, and clear DEI practices and policies in order to ensure an equitable and fair process.
6. Required Diversity-Equity-Inclusion (DEI) training for PBR Department staff, the PBRC and the City Council.

**Note: The City of Pacifica did not have a Coastal Development Plan with the Coastal Commission, and therefore any beach permitting policy that has been in place prior to recent submission was illegitimate according to the Coastal Act.*

During the past 18 months, Brown Girl Surf and City Surf Project have received the support of Deirdre Martin, Former Mayor & Councilmember, City of Pacifica, the [ParksNow Coalition](#), the local San Mateo County Chapter of Surfrider, the California Coastal Commission, the California State Coastal Conservancy, [TOGETHER Bay Area](#), community partners including Traveler Surf Club and Surf Equity, and over 200 individuals. More recently, due to Brown Girl Surf's growing advocacy network and engagement, we've gained the support of the [Next 100 Coalition](#) and their Ocean Equity Collective and the [Ocean Justice Forum](#).

As our advocacy work expands, BGS has held conversations regarding equitable coastal access not only at the state level, but also at the federal level. Over the last month, I've represented the Brown Girl Surf community in several state and federal meetings with government officials including Chairwoman Brenda Mallory, officials from the California Natural Resources Agency, as well as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland and other

key stakeholders, as well as over two dozen BIPOC community leaders to discuss access to nature and the coast for historically excluded communities and/or underrepresented communities. These meetings have allowed us to see the grander picture of inequitable access to nature, including the California coast. We recognize and acknowledge that the thematic issues arising at Pacifica State Beach are not happening within a vacuum. This is why we believe it's so crucial that the Pacifica City Council chooses to act in a way that can serve not only as a model for California, but for the rest of the nation.

Lastly, we extend our gratitude to the Pacifica Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission for voting to pass the Task Force recommendations in support of the Community Access Partnership (CAPP) system proposal. We see the implementation of the CAPP system not only as a local achievement, but as a model for the entire State and future federal policies. We look forward to continuing to engage and work with the City of Pacifica to ensure that the CAPP is implemented and that we collectively achieve the intent of increasing equitable access to the beach and surfing.

*"The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."
-Chief Joseph of the Nez Percé tribe, from the Pacific Northwest, 1877*

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnny Irwin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adriana Dominique Guerrero
Executive Director, Brown Girl Surf

Johnny Irwin
Co-founder & Executive Director, City Surf Project

From: Camille Ramani [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 5:31 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public comment re vote on approving the CAPP recommendations

[CAUTION: External Email]

Hello Pacifica City Council,

As a longtime surfer at Linda Mar Beach and a former Pacifica resident, I am writing today to *encourage the City Council to vote in majority consensus to **recommend the original BGS and City Surf Project CAPP proposal** to the Pacifica Parks Beach and Recreation Department for implementation.*

To reiterate the reasons for a majority consensus vote:

1. Surf schools and surf camps are not the cause of overcrowding on Linda Mar Beach - there has been data collected that supports this.
2. The CAPP proposal is meant to create an entire system that will persist through the future for other organizations focused on providing beach access for underrepresented communities, not just securing permits for BGS and City Surf Project.
3. BGS and City Surf Project identify and support the goal of creating a commercial surf school system that is also equitable, however, we do not believe overhauling that system and implementing the CAPP system simultaneously will be effective in achieving surf equity.

This is a unique opportunity for this City Council to act as a steward for both environmental and social justice and set an example for other coastal cities.

Thank you.

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regards,
Camille Ramani

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From: Shelana deSilva [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 5:35 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment for Pacifica City Council Agenda Item No. 10

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Pacifica City Councilmembers,

As a long-time resident of the Bay Area, a surfer, a mother, and a woman of color, I would like to share my comments for the record, as they relate to the January 10, 2022 meeting Agenda Item No. 10 - Recommended Action to Adopt the Surf Camp/School Permitting Policy Recommendation.

Equitable access to nature is absolutely critical always, but especially now as Covid further compounds the historic exclusion of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) from parks, open space, and coastal resources. All Californians rely on safe access to nature, now more than ever. Nonprofit organizations and school-based programs with proven track records of bringing BIPOC folks to the ocean through culturally relevant, thoughtfully designed programs, are the best resource to ensure equitable community connection to nature. **These organizations' needs should be prioritized *before* the needs of commercial surf schools when considering new permitting pathways.** Without this consideration, any gains we may have made in ensuring that a diversity of community members can safely enjoy the beach will be lost.

Personally, I have experienced enough unwelcoming and outright racist behavior to last a lifetime while visiting beaches up and down the California coast, the state in which I was born. This has to change for the benefit of the next generation of Black and brown children, and it starts with decisions like the one before you.

Respectfully,
Shelana deSilva

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From: Small, Mary@SCC <Mary.Small@scc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 8:36 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Pacifica's Community Access Partnership Program

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

The State Coastal Conservancy is a state agency created to help increase public access and enjoyment of our amazing coastal resources. Our staff has followed with great interest Pacifica's Community Access Partnership Program and the work of the Surf Camp/School Policy Advisory Task Force. This process has taken more than a year but has developed a clear framework to support more equitable beach access in the future.

Through this process it was revealed that the City of Pacifica is required to apply for a Coastal Development Permit to regulate any surf school/camp activities. We support the recommendation of Brown Girls Surf and City Surf Project that Pacifica apply for a CDP that includes the Community Access Partnership Program. Pacifica has the opportunity to become an example, acknowledging outdated and exclusionary past practices, and creating a more inclusive and joyful surf culture through an equitable lens. I hope that you will take action to prioritize equitable beach access to make Pacifica State Beach a more welcoming place for all.

Thank you for your consideration.
Mary Small

Deputy Executive Officer
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St. Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

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From: Mira Manickam-Shirley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Jan 10 Council Meeting, Agenda Item 10: I urge you to pass the New Surf School Permitting Policy submitted by PBRC

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Honorable Council Members,

My name is Mira Manickam-Shirley, and I am the co-founder and former Executive Director of Brown Girl Surf, and I have been a regular surfer at Pacifica State Beach since 2009.

I want to congratulate the Pacifica Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission (PBRC), the Pacifica Parks Beaches and Recreation staff, and the PBRC Surf Permit Task Force in particular for crafting a new and adjusted surf permit policy that goes far to ensure equitable access to surfing and surf instruction at Pacifica State Beach.

In 2020, Brown Girl Surf under my leadership mobilized a group of community members to speak about the impacts of Pacifica's then current surf permitting system on their ability to access surfing at Pacifica beach. While it was not intended to do so, the long-standing surf permit policy that had been in place since 2005 had led to inequitable access to surfing opportunities at Pacifica State Beach which had collectively impacted many people. In the 2010s, groups like City Surf Project and Brown Girl Surf, came into existence specifically to ensure that folks who had been historically underrepresented in surfing. City Surf Project focused on serving low income youth of color living in San Francisco, and Brown Girl Surf focused on serving girls, women, and gender-expansive folks in the East Bay, most of whom could not afford commercial surf lessons and had never thought surfing was something available to them. However, the surf permit policy in place at Pacifica State Beach at Brown Girl Surf's formation meant that Brown Girl Surf had no means to even apply for a permit to operate. For 7 years, Brown Girl Surf participants, already traveling from Oakland, had to drive past Pacifica an additional 30 minutes, to Half Moon Bay, where we were allowed to operate.

Later in the summer of 2020, the City Council Recommended that PBRC take on this issue. What follows was 18 months of incredibly hard work by many individuals in what I think was a shining example of the power of people coming together across difference to solve an important problem. It was a difficult process. I know because I sat on the task force until my retirement in May last year. Having spent easily over 200 hours of my own time working on this issue, I believe that the CAPP system and the adjustments to the existing Surf Permit system being recommended today are the best path for creating an equitable permitting system that is fair and keeps everyone safe. There will need to be a continued re-evaluation of the CAPP permit spot allotments as more groups like City Surf Project and Brown Girl Surf come to the table. But the policy recommended today puts systems in place to do this. Pacifica has an opportunity to lead the way on the California Coast for demonstrating a permit system that truly promotes equity in surfing.

I urge you to unanimously pass the adjustments to the permitting system and the creation of the Community Access Partner Permit Program (CAPP) recommended by the PBRC. Future generations, as well as hundreds of surfers today in my own community, will thank you.

With Gratitude,
Mira Manickam-Shirley

Co-Founder and former Executive Director of Brown Girl Surf

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