

STAFF REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING DATE:
September 10, 2012

ITEM FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

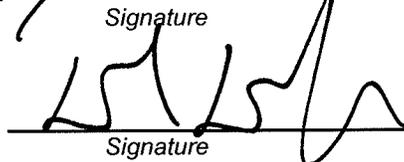
Letter of support for Rincon Point World Surfing Reserve designation.

**Parks & Recreation,
Matt Roberts, Director**

**City Manager,
Dave Durflinger**



Signature



Signature

ACTION ITEM X ; NON-ACTION ITEM ___

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for designating Rincon Point a World Surfing Reserve.

SAMPLE MOTION: I move to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support and direct staff to transmit the letter to the appropriate parties.

I. BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Save The Waves Coalition, in partnership with National Surfing Reserves Australia and the International Surfing Association, established the first World Surfing Reserve (WSR) in the U.S. in 2010 at Surfrider Beach in Malibu. In 2011 Santa Cruz was dedicated as a WSR and reserves have also been dedicated in Australia and Spain. Councilmember Reddington is working with a group that is preparing a WSR application as a part of nominating Rincon Point for a WSR designation.

WSRs are produced through a partnership of Save The Waves, National Surfing Reserves Australia, the International Surfing Association (ISA) and Stanford University's Center for Responsible Travel (CREST). Information about the program can be found at the group's website: www.worldsurfingreserves.org

According to information about the program on the Save the Waves Coalition website, the WSR program was modeled on the United Nations' UNESCO World Heritage Site designations. The designations do not establish any law or provide any funding for projects, programs or services (private or public). The designation is intended to raise awareness as a part of protecting an area's historical, cultural, economic and ecological significance.

The process for gaining WSR status includes: nomination of a site (typically by a local group), selection of a site that is determined by the WSR Council to meet the established criteria, dedication of the approved site, and implementation of a stewardship/management plan through a Local Stewardship Council.

The established criteria are described by WSR as follows:

WSR eligible waves and surf zones are evaluated and chosen based on the following criteria:

- 1) Quality and consistency of the wave or surf zone;*
- 2) Unique environmental characteristics of the area;*
- 3) Surf & ocean culture and history of the area;*
- 4) Local community support*

To qualify as a World Surfing Reserve, sites normally possess the following as minimum criteria: a globally-significant surf spot or outstanding series of surf breaks; unique environmental characteristics along with a strong passion to protect them; a rich surf culture and history; and strong community support. Sites are evaluated on a combination of the above criteria, so in certain instances areas that score very high in one category and lower in another might still qualify and be accepted. Conversely, sites that score extremely low on one of the criteria might not be accepted despite ranking high on others. Additionally applications for sites that don't provide sufficient documentation or evidence regarding the various criteria might be delayed or asked to resubmit an application at a future time.

Councilmember Reddington is requesting a letter of support from the City of Carpinteria and other local government agencies as a part of demonstrating local support for designating Rincon Point as a World Surfing Reserve.

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| II. ATTACHMENTS: |
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Draft letter of support
Supervisor Carbajal letter

CITY of CARPINTERIA CALIFORNIA



September 10, 2012

Members of the City Council

Al Clark - *Mayor*
J. Bradley Stein - *Vice Mayor*
Joe Armendariz
Gregg Carty
Kathleen Reddington

Mr. Dean La Tourrette and Mr. Will Henry
Save the Waves Coalition
Attn: World Surfing Reserves
P.O. Box 183
Davenport, CA 95107

Dear Mr. Tourrette and Mr. Henry:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Carpinteria, I am writing to express support for the nomination of Rincon Point, California, to be designated a World Surfing Reserve.

Rincon Point has been world famous for decades as one of the finest surfing spots in California. The point has ample exposure to north and northwest swells and is oriented to provide experienced surfers with powerful and fast breaks that have long duration. During periods of low surf, the point provides a nice wave for beginners to hone their skills.

Rincon point is situated on the border between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and has two free public parking lots with restrooms. This excellent coastal access makes Rincon Point surfing one of the most accessible world-class surfing locations in California. In addition, the point is within view of the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Sanctuary, the Los Padres National Forest, and Rincon Creek, which is undergoing steelhead trout habitat restoration. A resident population of coastal bottlenose dolphins may be seen swimming by the point every day. The surfing experience here is enchanting because of the waves and captivating because of the surrounding environment.

Rincon Point is a favorite surfing location for locals and visitors alike. The offshore culture here is friendly even though the break will be crowded when the surf is good. The point is host to several fund raisers each year including the Rincon Surf Classic that has raised significant funds for ocean ecology and ocean youth recreation programs. The point has also inspired many surf photographers and videographers to capture its magic on film.

Mr. Dean La Tourette and Mr. Will Henry
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The Carpinteria community is proud to have a restored salt marsh preserve, a coastal bluff nature preserve, an environmentally restored coastal creek and a protected harbor seal sanctuary. The commitment to preservation of the ocean and the adjacent environment is profound in Carpinteria.

The inclusion of Rincon Point as a World Surfing Reserve will provide recognition to a precious and great coastal asset that has been a part of both Carpinteria's and California's surfing culture for decades.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information or assistance.

Respectfully,

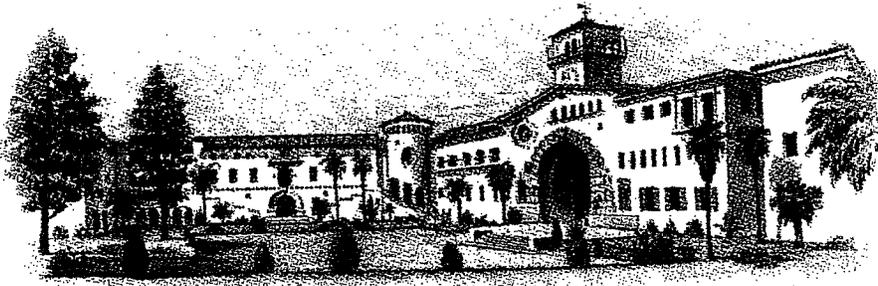
Al Clark,
Mayor

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District Supervisor

JEREMY TITTLE
Executive Staff Assistant

MARY ELLEN WYLIE
Administrative Assistant

ERIC FRIEDMAN
Administrative Assistant



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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supervisorcarbajal@sbcbos1.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 28, 2012

Mr. Dean La Tourrette and Mr. Will Henry
Save the Waves Coalition
Attn: World Suring Reserves
P.O. Box 183
Davenport, CA 95017 USA

Dear Mr. Tourrette and Mr. Henry,

I am writing to urge your support for Rincon Point, known to the surfing as community as "the Queen of Coast", as a World Surf Reserve Designation.

As First District Supervisor for Santa Barbara County, I know first hand the historic legacy and environmental significance Rincon has for both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, as well as the broader beach-going and surfing public. Specifically, the history of Rincon goes back thousands of years where the area was used by the Chumash Tribe for a variety of purposes. Starting in the 1950's, Rincon is credited as one of the first Southern California big wave breaks that ushered in the modern surfing era and established many of the sports most celebrated pioneers.

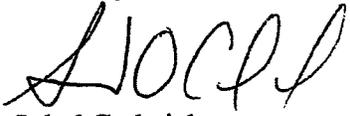
Environmentally, adjacent to the point is the 10,000-acre Rincon Creek Watershed containing a half-acre lagoon, creek and riparian corridor that both Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties have designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. A variety of issues including habitat degradation, water quality, potential impacts of future offshore oil development and unknown impacts from projected sea level rise threaten to impact this area. Efforts to address these issues have taken place including converting homes from septic to sewer as a well as the creation of the Rincon Creek Watershed Plan that identifies strategic approaches to preserving and enhancing Rincon Point and its surrounding ecosystem.

Rincon Point is locally and internationally recognized symbol of surfing culture. In addition, its high-profile status also serves to raise awareness for the need to protect our globally shared oceans.

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Carbajal

I appreciate your consider of Rincon Point as a World Surf Reserve Designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Carbajal", written in a cursive style.

Salud Carbajal
First District Supervisor