

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: June 27, 2024

From: Public Works Department

Subject: Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve

Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution to incorporate Capitola into the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve.

Background: The Save the Waves Coalition (STW) is an international nonprofit and community-led coalition that identifies, designates, and preserves surfing ecosystems around the world. Their World Surfing Reserve (WSR) designation program, akin to UNESCO World Heritage Sites for cultural and natural landmarks, identifies and safeguards exceptional surf breaks worldwide. These reserves aim to preserve surfing areas of significant environmental, cultural, and recreational value, ensuring their sustainable enjoyment for future generations by working collaboratively with local coalition partners and the WSR Local Stewardship Council (LSC).

The Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve (Attachment 1), the fourth official WSR globally, was designated on April 28, 2012, and is located on the northern side of Monterey Bay. The Santa Cruz WSR currently includes 7 miles of coastline from Natural Bridges to the Opal Cliffs, just east of Pleasure Point. At least 23 consistent surf breaks are sited along this coastline and the breaks are used by surfers throughout the year.

The Capitola City Council has previously considered applying for World Surfing Reserve status (Attachment 2), however, to date, Capitola is not included in the Santa Cruz WSR. During the June 13, 2024, City Council meeting, Council Member Clarke requested this item be agendaized for consideration.

Discussion: Staff has met with STW to explore the possibility of Capitola joining the Santa Cruz WSR, and the topic was included in the agenda at the June 19, 2024, regular meeting of the Commission on the Environment. The Commission voted (3-0-2) to recommend the City Council move forward with incorporating Capitola into the Santa Cruz WSR. Inclusion in the existing WSR requires a resolution from the City Council (Attachment 3).

Fiscal Impact: None. If incorporated into the Santa Cruz WSR, the City will designate a representative to participate in quarterly Santa Cruz LSC meetings. This representative could be a City Council Member, staff, or a member of the public.

Attachments:

1. Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve
2. City Council Agenda Report (Meeting of June 12, 2014)
3. Draft Resolution

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