

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEOctober 14th, 2009

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Mavericks Surf Contest® Public Safety Community Meeting **Road Closures, Environmental Precautions Amongst Details to be Discussed**

PRINCETON-BY-THE-SEA, Calif. – As big-wave surfers from around the world prepare for the annual Mavericks Surf Contest, public safety officials and representatives from the Mavericks Surf Contest will discuss plans to ensure public safety and manage the expected crowds.

The famed surf break is a quarter-mile offshore and the surrounding beaches and cliffs are not spectator friendly. Still, that has done little to prevent up to 40,000 people from jamming San Mateo County's coast in hopes of catching a glimpse of the contest, which is held on short notice when organizers deem the surf conditions favorable.

San Mateo County officials, in partnership with local, state and federal agencies, will discuss the detailed public safety plan on Oct. 21 during a public meeting at the Oceano Hotel at 280 Capistrano Road, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 at 7pm. This is will be an important opportunity for local residents and media to learn about public safety since the contest window will open on November 1st, a month earlier than previous years.

Members of the public and the media will be able to ask detailed questions to members of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, San Mateo County Harbor District, and the event's producer, Mavericks Surf Ventures. Representatives from other agencies will also be on hand to answer questions.

"Plans have been developed to help minimize the impacts on the thousands of people who live and work on our coast," said Supervisor Rich Gordon, whose district includes the Half Moon Bay and Princeton areas. "The Mavericks Surf Contest is a world-renowned event and shines a spotlight on San Mateo County each year. However, we must ensure the public is safe and the environment is protected."

Public safety officials hope to spread the word that the surf spot is often invisible to those on the beach or cliffs due to weather conditions and the distance of the break from the shore. Mavericks Surf Ventures has arranged for live video feeds to be shown at AT&T Park throughout the contest, as well as on any PC with an internet connection.

The Mavericks Surf Contest is scheduled to be held sometime between November 1, 2009, and March 31, 2010. The contest during the winter of 2008-09 was not held due to lack of swell and the contest of

2007-08 was held on Saturday January 12th and was the first time the contest has been held on a Saturday.

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