



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

Board of Supervisors

**DATE:** April 21, 2008  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** May 6, 2008  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** No  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Rich Gordon *RG*  
**SUBJECT:** Statement of Acknowledgment of Big Kahuna Triathlon

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the County provide to Firstwave Events a letter addressed to the California Department of Transportation indicating our awareness of, and comfort with, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Big Kahuna Triathlon; a portion of which will take place on Highway 1 in San Mateo County on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**VISION ALIGNMENT:**

**Goal(s):**

15. Residents have nearby access to green space, such as parks and recreational opportunities
- 23 Leaders throughout the County provide the impetus for broader regional solutions in land use, housing, childcare, education, health and transportation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Big Kahuna Triathlon takes place annually along the Santa Cruz and San Mateo County coast. The swimming and running portions take place entirely within Santa Cruz County, but the bicycling portion of the race extends along Highway 1 into southern San Mateo County.

This year, the bicyclists will travel as far north as Pigeon Point Road, before turning

around and returning to Santa Cruz.

The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) has indicated to the event promoters that prior to their authorizing the use of Highway 1 for this event, that all local jurisdictions effected must be aware and comfortable with the event.

**DISCUSSION:**

A comprehensive traffic management plan has been created that will make use of twenty-six law enforcement officers from the Santa Cruz Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol Offices of Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. No involvement from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has been requested, although the Office has been notified of the event and provided with a copy of the Traffic Control Plan.

It is expected that impact to Highway 1 traffic will be minimal, as the event will not necessitate a complete road closure. Rather, "vehicles will be allowed across the course between riders when safe."

It is recommended that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors direct the President of the Board to sign a letter addressed to CalTrans indicating the County of San Mateo's awareness of, and comfort with, the holding of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Big Kahuna Triathlon. It is further recommended that this letter be provided to Firstwave Events of Los Gatos, California.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.



**The Event:** The Big Kahuna is a Half Ironman distance triathlon consisting of a 1.2 mile swim – 56 mile bike – 13.1 mile run.

**The Charity:** The Big Kahuna is proud to partner with and be the premier fall destination event for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training triathlon program. Together, Team in Training and the Big Kahuna help raise over \$500,000.00 each year to fight blood cancers.

**Date:** Sunday, September 7, 2008

**Time:** Set-up: 4:00 am - 7:00 am

**Event Start: 7:00 am**

Post-Event festival (on the beach): 11:00 noon -3:00 pm

**The Theme:** The Big Kahuna is designed with a Hawaiian theme. The event offers an experience that will be incredibly fun and entertaining. Every element of the event production reflects the Hawaii atmosphere. A palm start structure, Event staff wearing aloha shirts, Hawaiian music, individuals dressed in traditional Hawaiian costumes on course are just some of the event production elements.

**The Course:** The Big Kahuna course was designed to feature the beauty of the Santa Cruz coastline and is made up of a swim, bike and run.

**The Swim:** 1.2 miles: clockwise around the Santa Cruz Wharf, finishing on Cowells Beach.

**The Bike:** 56 miles: out and back on Highway 1- turn around at Pigeon Point Light House.

**The Run:** 13 miles: out and back on West Cliff, around Natural Bridges to the turn around inside Wilder Ranch Park and finish on the Main Beach near the Boardwalk Summer Bandstand.

**The Transition Area:** located at Depot Park at Center & Pacific.

**The Finish:** On the beach, near the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

**The Expo:** At Depot Park

Staff Set-up: 9/7 from 1pm-7pm

Vendor Set-up: 9/8 from 6am-9am

Show Hours: 9/8 from 10am – 6pm

**Post-Event Festivities:** The “Post-Event Luau” is a post-Event festival open to everyone. Family, friends and fellow Triathlete will join after the competition at the Boardwalk Summer Bandstand to enjoy live Hawaiian music, demonstrations, incredible giveaways and the awards.