



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

APPROVAL OF NEW 2025 SPECIAL EVENTS AND FIND THE SAME EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

(Senior Recreation Supervisor Brian Sousa)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council hold a public hearing to approve the Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Advisory Commission's recommendation to include the following new special events on the 2025 Special Event Calendar:

1. Winter Challenge on the volleyball courts north of Pier on Friday, February 7 through Saturday, February 8, 2025; and
2. "Maya and the Wave" at the Community Theatre and courtyard on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Executive Summary:

The Community Resources Department is tasked with overseeing special events on public property. New events require review by the Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Advisory Commission (Commission) and approval by City Council through a Public Hearing.

At its November 4, 2024 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing and recommended City Council approve the following new special events on the 2025 Special Event Calendar:

- The Winter Challenge on the volleyball courts north of Pier on Friday, February 7 through Saturday, February 8, 2025; and
- "Maya and the Wave" at the Community Theatre and courtyard on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Background:

The Special Events Policy Guide (**Attachment 1**) serves as a comprehensive document for event producers with information on the review and approval process, applicable fees, policies, and Hermosa Beach Municipal Code chapters and sections pertaining to special events. Special events are evaluated based on several factors and categorized as either Impact Level I, II, or III using the Impact Characteristics Matrix in the Special Events Policy Guide. The matrix considers event characteristics to determine the impact level such as the total estimated attendance; the event location; the day and season in which the event

would take place; the total number of consecutive event days; and special requests such as reserved parking, amplified sound, etc. The event’s impact level determines the application submission deadline and the required level of review and approval which may involve City staff, Commission, and/or Council. New events or Impact Level III events, which are events with the largest impact to the City, require Council approval. Impact Level II returning events require Commission approval and Impact Level I returning events are approved by staff.

Special event application deadlines are as follows:

- New events: If the new event is an Impact Level I or II, the application must be submitted at least 90 days in advance of the event. If the new event is an Impact Level III, the application must be submitted no later than July 30 for the following calendar year.
- Returning Impact Level III events: Must be submitted no later than July 30 for the following calendar year.
- Returning Impact Level II events: Must be submitted at least 90 days in advance of the event.
- Returning Level I events: Must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the event.

At its November 4, 2024 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing and recommended City Council approve the following new special events on the 2025 Special Event Calendar:

- The Winter Challenge on the volleyball courts north of Pier on Friday, February 7 through Saturday, February 8, 2025; and
- “Maya and the Wave” at the Community Theatre and Courtyard on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Past Commission Actions

| Meeting Date | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| November 4, 2024 | Commission recommended approval by City Council the inclusion of new special events on the 2025 Special Events Calendar. |

Discussion:

Staff received two new Impact Level II special event applications. A brief summary of each event request is included below. The two new special event requests are included on the 2025 Special Events Calendar (**Attachment 2**).

Winter Challenge

Hope Chapel requests approval to hold the Winter Challenge on the volleyball courts north of Pier on Saturday, February 8, 2025, with set-up on Friday, February 7, 2025. The event would include an adult beach volleyball tournament and anticipates 72 participants

and 200 spectators. The Winter Challenge was held in previous years in Manhattan Beach, and the event producer would like to host the tournament in Hermosa Beach beginning in 2025. The event producer may apply for additional event dates in future years to host the tournament more than once a year and shared that future event date requests would fall in the off-season, and not within the peak season (Memorial Day to Labor Day). Additional event details are included in the Winter Challenge Event Overview (**Attachment 3**).

Maya and the Wave

The South Bay Boardriders Club requests approval to hold a film screening of “Maya and the Wave” at the Community Theatre with a pre-event reception within the Courtyard of the Community Center on Thursday, May 22, 2025. The pre-event reception would include live music, food and beverages, and pop-up tents. The film screening of “Maya and the Wave” would follow in the Community Theatre. The event producer anticipates 300 participants. While the event activity within the Community Theatre is subject to approval by staff, the request to use the Courtyard for the pre-event reception requires a special event permit. Additional event details are included in the “Maya and the Wave” Event Overview (**Attachment 4**).

Environmental Review:

Approval of the two new 2025 special events would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15304 (e). The events are a minor, temporary use of land in the form of a beach volleyball tournament and pre-event reception for a film screening. These types of temporary events will have negligible or no permanent effect on the environment and thus the aforementioned exemption applies.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendation have been evaluated for their consistency with PLAN Hermosa, the City’s General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

Governance Element

Goal 5. Small beach town character is reflected throughout Hermosa Beach.

Policy:

- **5.7 Visitor and resident balance.** Recognizing the desire and need to balance visitor-serving and local-serving uses as a key to preserving character and the economic vitality of the community.

Parks and Open Space Element

Goal 3. Community parks and facilities encourage social activity and interaction.

Policies:

- **3.1 Community-friendly events.** Encourage, permit, and support community group, nonprofit, or business organized events on City property that support physical activity, beach culture, and family-friendly social interactions.
- **3.2 Social and cultural events.** Design and program parks and open space to accommodate unique social and cultural events to foster connectedness and interaction.

Goal 7. The beach offers high quality recreational opportunities and amenities desired by the community.

Policies:

- **7.3 Recreational asset.** Consider and treat the beach as a recreational asset and never as a commercial enterprise.
- **7.5 Designated recreational uses.** Continually evaluate and explore devoting certain portions of the beach to different preferred recreational uses while providing access for all users and meeting the recreation needs of visitors and residents.

Fiscal Impact:

If approved, the estimated event revenue would be \$3,610 to the General Fund.

Attachments:

1. Special Events Policy Guide
2. 2025 Special Events Calendar
3. Winter Challenge Event Overview
4. “Maya and the Wave” Event Overview

Respectfully Submitted by: Brian Sousa, Senior Recreation Supervisor

Concur: Lisa Nichols, Community Resources Director

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Patrick Donegan, City Attorney

Reviewed by: Angela Crespi, Deputy City Manager

Approved: Suja Lowenthal, City Manager