



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4<sup>th</sup> street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013  
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

December 8, 2016

Agenda Item: 3d

To: Governing Board

From: Tom Ford, Executive Director

Re: Support of Nomination of Malibu Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places

## **Action Requested of the Governing Board:**

- Consider approval of a resolution that supports the nomination of the Malibu Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places

## **Background**

In December 2015, a nomination to the California Office of Historic Preservation was submitted for the area from the Malibu Pier through Malibu Lagoon State Beach (as the "Malibu Historic District") to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Sea of Clouds, a local organization responsible for the nomination notes that a primary goal of the nomination is to "recognize, through the National Register of Historic Places, Malibu's worldwide contribution to surfing's history and culture".

Michael Blum, a representative of Sea of Clouds (and former President of the Malibu Surfing Association, an SMBRC Watershed Advisory Council member) stated to staff that there is little within the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) itself regarding protections for historic resources. There aren't building guidelines, enforcement capabilities, or oversight. Rather, most people understand the NHPA and the National Register through the actions of local governments -- expressing a community's value of their historic resources through local zoning and planning codes.

Blum also noted that the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 establishes the process by which nominations are made to the National Register, as follows:

- Nominations are first submitted to, and reviewed at, the state level. In California, by staff at the Office of Historic Preservation in Sacramento.
- Nominations in an "approved form" are forwarded to the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC), to be evaluated at a public meeting. The SHRC meets quarterly and there is a 60-day public comment period before the meeting.
- If approved by the SHRC, the nomination is sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer for nomination to the National Register.
- The final determination is made approximately 45 days after receipt by the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.

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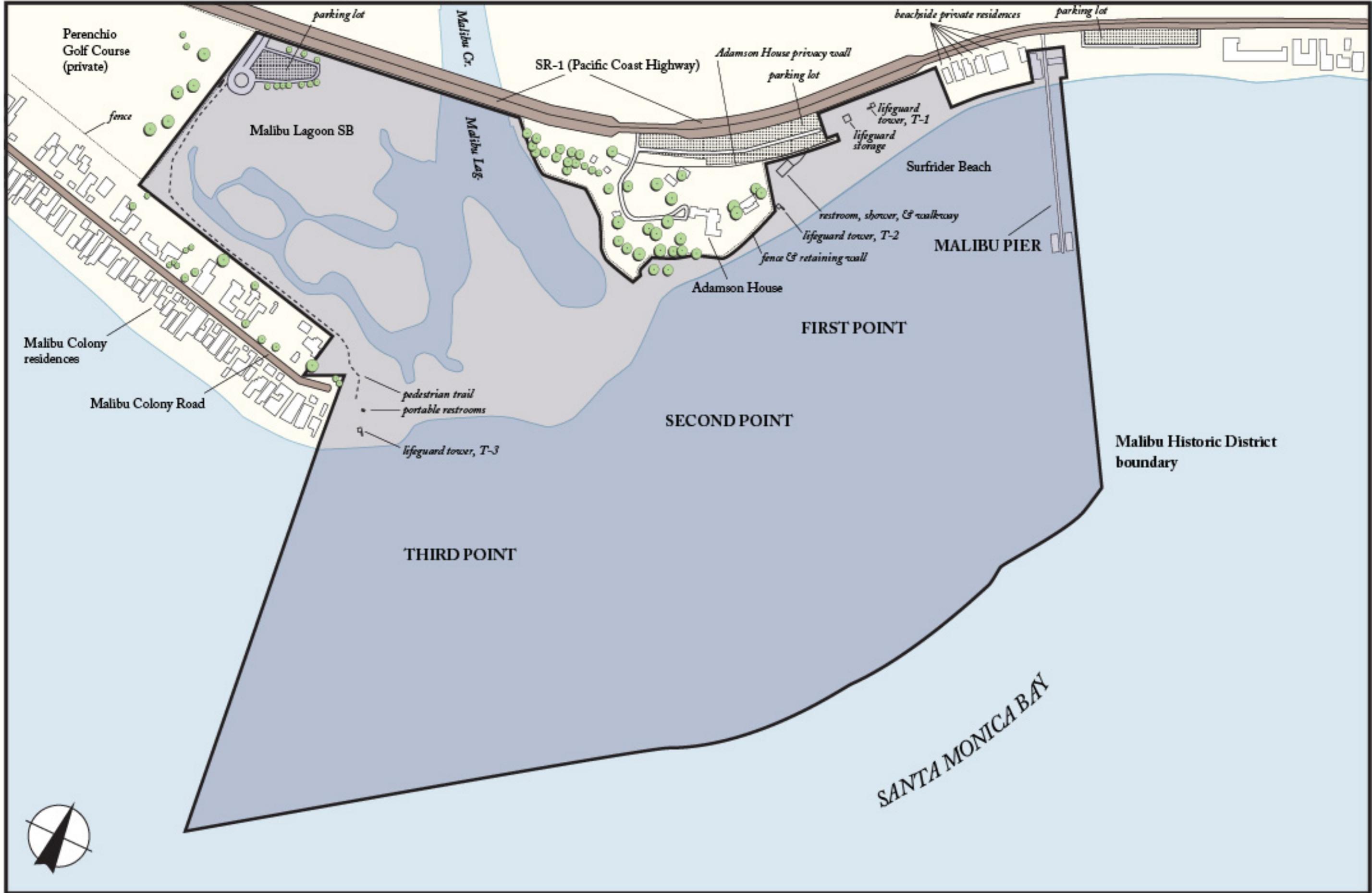


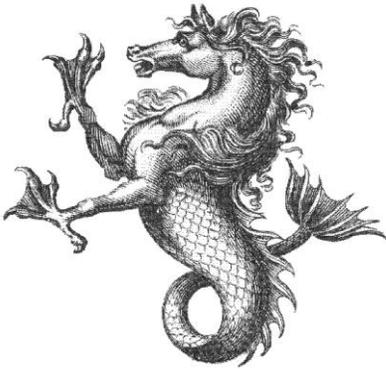
In April 2016, the City of Malibu City Council voted to authorize its mayor to send letters of support for the nomination of the Malibu Historic District.

Methods of support by the SMBRC include adopting a resolution or directing the Chair or Executive Director to submit a letter of support accordingly.

Attached to this staff report is a map of the Malibu Historic District, a Position Summary prepared by Sea of Clouds, and a sample resolution.







## **THE MALIBU HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places  
December, 2015  
[seaofclouds.org/malibu](http://seaofclouds.org/malibu)

### **CONTACT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

*"Although new ideas of surfing were developing worldwide, Malibu served as a cultural, technological, and intellectual arena for its expert surfers and surfboard shapers. It was a focusing point for surfboard design theory, the deconstruction of surfing style, and the development of a bohemian lifestyle that defined this era of surfing while serving as a template for the next. Malibu, then, is associated with the broader history of surfing; it is an important California locale which represents the evolution of modern surfing both in the minds of surfers and the general public."*

### **OVERVIEW**

The Malibu Historic District includes Malibu's First, Second, and Third Point surf breaks, as well as the Malibu Pier as contributing historical resources. The overall area has a small footprint (approximately 150 acres) and is contained entirely on public property. The District includes portions of the popular Surfrider Beach (owned by the County of Los Angeles) and Malibu Lagoon State Beach (owned by California State Parks) areas, which together receive more than three million visitors annually, as well as nearshore areas up to 500 meters from the mean high tide line. A National Register listing at Malibu will not impact public access, safety, or the area's current uses, such as: pier fishing, summer camps, special events and, of course, surfing. Also, a listing will have no environmental impact.

### **SUMMARY**

Property Name: Malibu Historic District  
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Location: City of Malibu, Los Angeles County  
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Registration Program: National Register of Historic Places  
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Nominated: December, 2015  
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Anticipated State/Federal reviews: Early, 2017  
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#### **Goals:**

- 1) recognize, through the National Register of Historic Places, Malibu's worldwide contribution to surfing's history and culture
- 2) incorporate the property into Federal and State coastal planning explicitly within a context of its value to surfing

- 3) have a National Register listing qualify for other protection programs
- 4) develop precedent for other historically- or culturally-significant coastal places

**CURRENT PROJECT SUPPORTERS**

online at [seaofclouds.org/malibu](http://seaofclouds.org/malibu)

**RECENT ARTICLES**

*Malibu Times:*

[malibutimes.com/news/article\\_39eef59a-0c1c-11e6-90c7-9b7fd277ab97.html](http://malibutimes.com/news/article_39eef59a-0c1c-11e6-90c7-9b7fd277ab97.html)

*National Trust:*

[savingplaces.org/stories/surfs-up-a-quest-to-create-the-malibu-historic-district](http://savingplaces.org/stories/surfs-up-a-quest-to-create-the-malibu-historic-district)



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## **DRAFT\*\*SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION\*\*DRAFT** **December 15, 2016**

### **Resolution No. 16-07**

#### ***Resolution Endorsing the Nomination of the Malibu Historic District To the National Register of Historic Places***

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Bay has a long history of surfing, possessing some of the best surf breaks in all of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Malibu is widely considered a world-class wave and is one of California's iconic surfing areas; and

WHEREAS, in the years following World War II, Malibu surfers and surfboard shapers made significant contributions to surfing through: innovative surfboard design theories and new construction materials adapted from the Los Angeles aerospace industry; new definitions of a progressive surfing style to match the long, well-formed waves of Malibu; and the style and mannerisms of how surfers looked out of the water; and

WHEREAS, Malibu Point has hosted prestigious amateur club and regional surfing competitions as well as professional surfing contests: the annual competitions Call to the Wall, the Malibu Invitational, and MSA Classic Invitational have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for representative charities; professional competitions have included the: Hang Ten Women's Championships (1975), Sunkist U.S. Pro (1979), U.S. Pro Invitational (1981), Acura Integra Malibu Pro (1993), Oxbow World Longboard Championships (1994), Body Glove Hawaiian Airlines Pro (1995), and Rip Curl Malibu Pro (2005); and

WHEREAS, surfing at Malibu has been featured in over 100 surf films and longboard-style surfboards are known as "Mals" throughout Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Malibu surfing area — including First Point, Second Point, and Third Point — were incorporated into the first World Surfing Reserve for its quality and consistency of waves; the area's environmental richness and fragility; and its broader significance to surf culture and history; and

WHEREAS, surf breaks and surfing areas have significant value to local economies as shown in studies at Trestles (San Diego County) and Mavericks (San Mateo County), that estimate their total economic impact and "non-market" economic value to be between \$8-\$13 million and \$24 million respectively; and

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WHEREAS, other governments, including: Australia, the Chile, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, New Zealand, and Peru have recognized the environmental, recreational, cultural, and historical value of surf breaks by applying coastal policy to ensure their protection; and

WHEREAS, the National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Santa Monica Bay's important coastal places, such as Malibu, is consistent with the mission of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission: "To restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the Bay's benefits and values,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission endorses the nomination of the Malibu Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places for its significant association with the growth and development of surfing in Southern California.
2. The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission urges organizers to seek additional recognitions and complimentary protections for the Malibu Historic District based on its cultural heritage and historical significance.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enrique Zaldivar  
Chair, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission