

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

DRAFT

Page 1 of 30 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder): Site of the 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships
P1. Other Identifier: _____

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Los Angeles and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Long Beach Date 2021 T ___; R ___; ___ of ___ of Sec ___; ___ B.M.
A six-figure grid reference for the approximate center of the nominated area is 895366.

c. Address: 450 East Shoreline Drive (approx.) Long Beach, CA 90802

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) **Please refer to Location Map for markers (1)-(4)**

(1) Northwest Boundary: Zone 11S, 389346, 3736769; LAT 33.765248 LON -118.194920

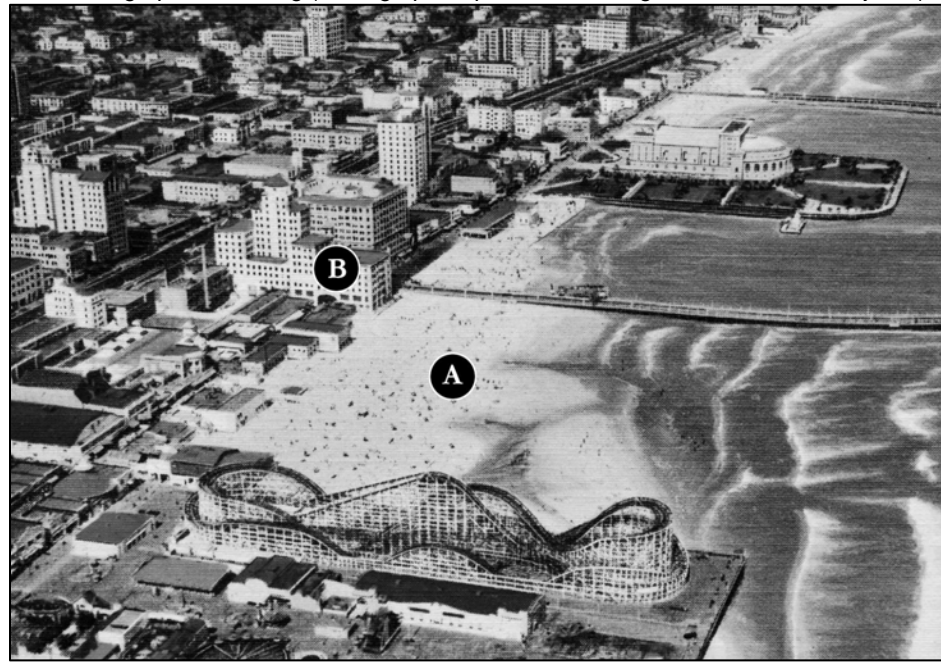
(2) Northeast Boundary: Zone 11S, 389565, 3736819; LAT 33.765722 LON -118.192562

(3) Southeast Boundary: Zone 11S, 389559, 3736319; LAT 33.761212 LON -118.192564

(4) Southwest Boundary: Zone 11S, 389342, 3736269; LAT 33.760739 LON -118.194901

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, decimal degrees, etc., as appropriate)
The nominated property includes the following Los Angeles County APNs, in whole or in part: 7278-007-925; 7278-010-914; 7278-010-920; 7278-010-921; 7278-010-922; 7278-010-923; 7278-010-924; 7278-010-925. Parcel data from Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor (maps.assessor.lacounty.gov).

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



*P3a. **Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
The nominated area is approximately 28.5 acres. The site represents a former Long Beach surf break and proximate beach area, located between the former Long Beach Municipal/Rainbow Piers and The Pike amusement zone. Land reclamation beginning in the 1940s (through beach nourishment) and subsequent infill through the 1990s significantly altered the coastline and its appearance. The site extends approximately 0.15 miles along West Seaside Way, between Pine Avenue and Cedar Avenue. The site extends approximately 1,640 feet (500 meters) south from the corner of Cedar Avenue and West

Seaside Way; follows the path of West Seaside Way eastward; and then north approximately 1,820 feet (550 meters) to the corner of Pine Avenue and West Seaside Way.

*P3b. **Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) Urban Open Space, HP31

*P4. **Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

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P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #)

A circa 1940 postcard of the Long Beach waterfront, looking east. Area attractions and a portion of downtown are visible. The arc of the Rainbow Pier encircling the Long Beach Civic Auditorium is visible at top. The Long Beach Municipal Pier extends alongside western side of the Rainbow Pier (middle). The Pike amusement zone, including its "Cyclone Racer" rollercoaster, is prominently visible (bottom). **Area A** is a nearshore area between the piers and The Pike that formed an important surf break. The break, together with its immediate beachside area, defines the nominated area. **Area B** is the Ocean Center Building (110 West Ocean Boulevard), constructed in 1929, and a convenient reference point noted in the Photograph Record. The Ocean Center Building is outside the nominated area.

Credit: CSU Dominguez Hills / James H. Osborne Photograph Collection; #JO_274c.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:** Historic Prehistoric Both
1938

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Christopher Koontz
Deputy Director
Development Services
City of Long Beach
411 West Ocean Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Long Beach CA, 90802

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)

Michael Blum
Sea of Clouds
1111 6th Avenue #300
San Diego, CA 92101-5215
www.seaofclouds.org

***P9. Date Recorded:** November 2022

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)
California Point of Historical Interest

***P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources or enter "none.")
None

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): Sketch Map

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Site of the 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships

*NRHP Status Code: 7

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B1. Historic Name: Long Beach

B2. Common Name: Site of the 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships

B3. Original Use: Beach leisure and coastal recreation

B4. Present Use: Commerce (specialty store, department store, restaurant); Landscape (city park); Transportation (road-related)

*B5. Architectural Style: No style

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

- 1902, The Pike amusement zone opens
- 1904, Long Beach Municipal Pier (Pine Avenue Pier) opens
- 1931, Rainbow Pier opens
- 1934, Long Beach Municipal Pier demolished following September storm
- 1966, Rainbow Pier demolished
- 1979, The Pike demolished

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:

Rainbow Pier (noncontributing); The Pike amusement zone (noncontributing)

B9a. Architect: _____ b. Builder: _____

*B10. Significance:

Theme: Twentieth Century Coastal Development in Southern California; Pre-war Coastal Recreation and Leisure; The Growth of Surfing on the United States Mainland

Area: City of Long Beach waterfront, Los Angeles County

Period of Significance: 1938

Property Type: Site: Coastal recreation landscape; Public open space

Applicable Criteria: (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.) See Continuation Sheet for Statement of Significance.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)
Urban Open Space (HP31)

*B12. References:

See Continuation Sheet for References.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Michael Blum

1. *Date of Evaluation: November 4, 2021

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B10. Significance

Summary

The 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships site is eligible as a California Point of Historical Interest as Los Angeles County's first surfing and paddleboard competition billed as a national event. The event was both a successful visitor attraction for the city and a notable contest for Southern California surfers and paddleboarders during the pre-war period.

Integrity

The 1938 contest site lacks all aspects of integrity and comprises no contributing resources. Beach reclamation and redevelopment projects, first initiated in the 1940s and extending into the 2000s, have noticeably altered the Long Beach waterfront. The nearshore surf break, where the surfing competition was held and that intersected the paddleboard course, was eliminated during Long Beach's extensive coastal redevelopment (**Photos 1, 2; Figure 1**). Structures bordering the surf break have similarly since been demolished and redeveloped (**Figures 2, 3, 4**). By 2010, reclaimed lands incorporating the contest site and its surrounding areas included several hundred thousand square feet of new multi-tenant retail, entertainment, marine science education, and convention spaces, as well as over 500 hotel beds. Reclaimed lands also included new public open spaces and over 1,500 recreational boat slips.

Channelization of the Long Beach River between 1938 to 1960 by the Army Corps of Engineers reduced stream flow velocity and, consequently, sediment transport out of the river. This change, combined with sediment trapping from the area's in-water structures (e.g., Silver Spray Pier) passively widened the beach,¹ degrading the surf break's quality. Farther asea, the 2.2 mile Long Beach Breakwater, completed in 1949, effectively blocked incoming the wave energy necessary for surfing from reaching the western Long Beach shoreline (**Figure 5**). Surfing was therefore eliminated from Long Beach's West End twice, across two spatial scales upon which surfing depends. First, surfing was eliminated across a small scale describing the immediate area where surfing takes place—the contest site itself—through changes in sediment flows and, later, active land reclamation and development. Second, at a larger scale, the breakwater interrupted the West End's "swell corridor," a site-specific lane through which surfing waves travel long distances as they approach a surf break.²

¹ "Lack of Beach Play Devices Hit by Reider." *Long Beach Sun*, Jun 24, 1938, A1.

² See Willard Bascom, *Waves and Beaches* (New York: Anchor Press, 1990) for a summary of wave formation, wave travel, and the physical geography of surfing.

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Setting

The City of Long Beach comprises nearly fifty square miles along 5.5 miles of coastline within Los Angeles County, California. The city was first incorporated in 1888, disincorporated in 1897, and incorporated again later that year. Long Beach borders the crescent-shaped San Pedro Bay and most of its coastal areas prominently face south-southwest.

The Site of the 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships comprises 28.5 acres on properties owned by the City of Long Beach.³ The area incorporates reclaimed lands representing the historical shoreline and nearshore (**Photos 1, 2; Figures 1-4**). The area is bordered by two attractions since demolished as part of Long Beach's waterfront reclamation and redevelopment. First, the area is bordered to the east by the former Rainbow Pier, a 3,800-foot, rainbow-shaped driving and pedestrian pier (**Figures 2, 3**). Second, to the west the area is bordered by the former The Pike amusement zone, a collection of visitor-serving entertainment, including arcades, gift shops, food stands, amusement rides, a ballroom, and bath house (**Figures 2, 3**).

Waves conducive for surfing broke in between these attractions and this unique location offered spectators an opportunity to watch swimming, surfing, and paddleboarding from either the Rainbow Pier or Silver Spray Pleasure Pier (part of The Pike). The gentle-sloping waves of the area—resulting from the interaction of its specific bathymetry (underwater profile) and larger physical processes of wind, tide, and wave energy—permitted surfers to catch waves at various points as they advanced toward shore. Multiple surfers were often seen riding waves together, and each being in a favorable position to continue their ride (**Figure 7**). While the contest's exact paddleboard course is not known, its start and finish areas are within the nominated area (**Figure 8**).

Surfing and Paddleboarding as Coastal Attractions

Through the early 1900s, Long Beach's West End shoreline was developed as both a tourist attraction and visitor destination (**Figure 2**). The area included, for example, attractions such as The Pike's Plunge bath house (opened 1902) and the Lido Ballroom (also on The Pike, 1911). The Pike's first roller coaster was built in 1902, and later its notable "Cyclone Racer" coaster in 1930. The driving-friendly Rainbow Pier opened in 1931 and the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium in 1932. For visitors, the luxury Breakers Hotel opened in 1926, and the Broadlind Hotel in 1928. Angelenos throughout the region could conveniently travel along the Pacific Electric Railway (the "Red Cars")

³ Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 7278-007-925; 7278-010-914; 7278-010-920; 7278-010-921; 7278-010-922; 7278-010-923; 7278-010-924; 7278-010-925.

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directly to Long Beach, a hub for the system. Later, attractions like the Rainbow Pier were developed around automobile-based visitor arrivals.⁴

Long Beach's pattern of visitor- and tourist-based coastal development matched other beach cities across the region. Long Beach competed with other amusement piers, fishing and walking piers, bath houses, and exclusive beach clubs in coastal Red Car destinations across Los Angeles County, from Santa Monica south to Seal Beach.⁵ Long Beach also looked out-of-state, urging non-Californians—particularly from the Midwest—to relocate for its favorable climate, employment opportunities, and an emerging coastal recreation and leisure culture.⁶

In addition to their constructed attractions, beach cities organized surfing and paddleboarding events as programmed entertainment for tourists and visitors. Hawaiian surfer and lifeguard George Freeth, recognized as introducing surfing to Southern California, performed a diving exhibition at the 1909 opening of the Plunge bath house in nearby Redondo Beach.⁷ In 1913, Duke Kahanamoku, the Hawaiian surfer and Olympic-champion swimmer, gave a surfing demonstration in Long Beach where, "Thousands of people enjoyed the exhibition and cheered his work."⁸ Southern California's first surfing contest, the Pacific Coast Surf Riding Championships, was held only ten years prior to the 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships.⁹

⁴ "When Long Beach Built a Rainbow-Shaped Pier," KCET.org www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/when-long-beach-built-a-rainbow-shaped-pier (accessed April 3, 2002).

⁵ Los Angeles area amusement piers included Santa Monica, Venice Beach, and Long Beach; fishing and walking piers included Santa Monica Venice Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Long Beach, and Seal Beach; bath houses included Santa Monica, Venice Beach, Redondo Beach, and Long Beach; membership-based exclusive beach clubs, which invariably excluded persons of color and other, like communities, included Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades.

⁶ "How Long Beach earned the nickname 'Iowa By the Sea'." *Long Beach Post*, Apr 10, 2019 www.lbpost.com/news/when-long-beach-truly-iowa-sea (accessed July 1, 2022).

⁷ Matt Warshaw, "George Freeth" *Encyclopedia of Surfing* www.eos.surf/entries/freeth-george (accessed April 3, 2022). For more on Freeth's contributions to California surfing and lifesaving, see Patrick Moser, *Surf and Rescue: George Freeth and the Birth of California Beach Culture* (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2022); "Redondo Plunge will be Opened." *Los Angeles Herald*, Jul 1, 1909, II-7.

⁸ "Local Boy Races Hawaiian Champ," *The Daily Telegram*, Jul 12, 1913, 8; Duke Boyd, *Legends of Surfing: The Greatest Surfriders from Duke Kahanamoku to Kelly Slater* (Minneapolis: MVP Books, 2014), 16-17; Charles Paddock, "Sport Sidelights," *The Long Beach Press*, Apr 21, 1922, 14. Duke returned to Long Beach and surfed in the West End area as part of a national swimming and surfing exhibition tour, "Duke Kahanamoku, Famous Swimming Champion, Gives Exhibition on Surf Board," *The Daily Telegram*, Jul 31, 1922, A1.

⁹ The Pacific Coast Surf Riding Championships were held nine times, first in Corona del Mar (Orange County) and then at San Onofre (San Diego County), between 1928 and 1941; Matt Warshaw, "1928 Pacific Coast Surf Riding Championships," *Encyclopedia of Surfing*, www.eos.surf/contests/entry/1928-pacific-coast-surf-riding-championships (accessed April 3, 2022); Corona del Mar Surf Board Club, Pacific Coast Surf Board Championship [Advertisement], *Santa Ana Daily Register*, Aug 4, 1928, D9.

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Long Beach held a surfing and paddleboard competition in August 1938 as part of a larger program celebrating Long Beach's Golden Jubilee Year.¹⁰ If competition and exhibition events were not new in 1938, they were still novel.

In this way, surfing, paddleboarding, and in-water sports more generally—while *sensu stricto* recreation—served Long Beach's tourism ambitions. Contests were programmed entertainment meant to bring visitors to witness a surfing showcase, and also to showcase the city's shoreline more generally. Contestants helped portray the coast and nearshore ocean to non-locals (many or most who couldn't swim) as enjoyable and revivifying, a less menacing and otherwise threatening place. Surfers often excelled at several disciplines and presented a "waterman" ethic of competence across surfing, paddling, swimming, and lifeguarding. Top surfers and paddleboarders, such as Freeth, Preston Peterson, and later Duke Kahanamoku himself, were all lifeguards. As early as 1918, Long Beach considered proposals to hire Hawaiian surfers as summer lifeguards—expert watermen from which the city would, "...derive most desirable publicity."¹¹

1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships¹²

At 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 13, 20,000 spectators gathered on the shore and Rainbow Pier to watch over 100 athletes (representing twelve clubs) compete in the National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships.¹³ The event was decidedly a visitor attraction, organized and produced by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Long Beach Amusement League, hosted by the Long Beach Surfing Club, and covered by newspaper and newsreel.¹⁴ Mary Ann Hawkins (Del Mar Surfing Club)—champion

¹⁰ "Surfboard Club will Hold Title Meet at Harbor," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Jul, 16, 1928, B4; "Surfboard Derby Here Next Sunday," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Jul 31, 1938, A3; "Huge Aquatic Circus Starts at Noon Today," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Aug 7, 1938, A3; "Eubanks Sets Mark in Aquatic Triumph; Local Girl is Victor," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Aug 8, 1938, A7; "Throng Sees Water Carnival Events in Rainbow Pier Pool," *Long Beach Sun*, Aug 8, 1938, 11; "States' Celebrants Take to Surfboards," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Aug 8, 1938, A1.

¹¹ "Hawaiians for Life Guards," *Long Beach Daily Telegram*, Jan 17, 1918, 10. For an account of an ocean rescue in Long Beach, executed by two Hawaiians using surfboards, see "Two Lives Saved by Skillful Use of Hawaiian Surfers," *The Daily Telegram*, Sep 4, 1911, 1. "The peculiarities of the Hawaiian surf boards was, to a large extent, responsible for the effectiveness of the rescue..."

¹² A 7-min, original home movie capturing portions of the contest is online at <https://youtu.be/NCv2tMvxuW0>.

¹³ "Surfboarders Poise for Meet," *Long Beach Independent*, Nov 10, 1938, 20; "National Surf Riders' Title Contest Sunday," *Long Beach Sun*, Nov 11, 1938, B3; "Contest to be held this Sunday; to be held between Rainbow & Silver Spray Pier (held Nov. 13, 1938)," *The Long Beach Argus*, Nov 11, 1938, 3; "Dozen Clubs in Surf Contest," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 14, 1938, B1; Pre-war era surfboards and paddleboards were wood constructed, over ten feet long, often hollow to reduce overall weight, and often lacking a rear fin that serves as a stabilizing surface underwater (**Figure 6**). Also see Don James, *Pre War Surfing Photographs* (Santa Barbara, CA: T. Adler Books, 2004) for other examples.

¹⁴ "Sea Antics Lure 40,000 Spectators," *Long Beach Sun*, Dec 12, 1938, A1.

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swimmer, diver, and paddleboarder, as well as a Hollywood stunt double—won the Women’s Division.¹⁵ Preston “Pete” Peterson (Del Mar Surfing Club), a Santa Monica lifeguard and four-time winner of the Pacific Coast Surf Riding Championships, won the Men’s Division.¹⁶ The Venice Surfing Club took top honors in the Team Paddleboard Relay.

While the paddleboard events did not require surfable waves, it was clear to organizers and competitors the surfing competitions could not take place in poor conditions. As the *Press-Telegram* reporter covering the event observed, "Flat as a table-top, with never a wave or a ground swell to break its unruffled surface, the ocean gave evidence here yesterday that Father Neptune has set his mind against the long-heralded surf-riding events."¹⁷ The surfing events were rescheduled to December 11 at the same location between the Rainbow and Silver Spray Piers. The contest joined the already scheduled, third annual Mid-Winter swim for Long Beach residents as well as sailboat races held offshore in deeper water.¹⁸ 40,000 spectators viewed the surfing contest from the shoreline as well as the piers.¹⁹

Surf clubs in the Championships competed for the 44-inch Dick Loynes Perpetual Trophy, named for the Long Beach resident, speedboat and yachting champion, and director of the Chamber of Commerce. The Long Beach Amusement League donated gold trophies for individual top places. Sixty-five competitors were led to the beach by Santa Ana Band majorettes and Dr. John Heath “Doc” Ball, the Los Angeles dentist and early surf photographer, as the starter.²⁰ Two women who competed earlier in November in the National Paddleboard Championships returned to compete in the surfing competitions: Mary Ann Hawkins (Del Mar Surfing Club), the women’s paddleboard champion, and Dorothy Fincannon (Long Beach Surfing Club), the paddleboard second-place medalist and a Long Beach Polytechnic High School senior. Los Angeles’ Manhattan Surfing Club won the team competition (**Figure 9**) and Arthur Horner (Venice Surfing Club) the Open division.

With the first edition considered a success, Long Beach held a second National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships in December 1939 at the same site between the

¹⁵ “Surf Riding Champ,” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 6, 1938, A2.

¹⁶ “Dozen Clubs,” B1; Craig Lockwood, “Waterman Preston ‘Pete’ Peterson: A Life in Three Acts,” *The Surfer’s Journal*, Nov/Dec 2005, 48-60.

¹⁷ “Surfboard Competition Due Today,” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 13, 1938, A2.

¹⁸ “Long Beach Swim Gets More Help,” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 1, 1938, A12; “Triple Water Sport Exhibition Tomorrow,” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 10, 1938, 9.

¹⁹ “Sea Antics,” A1; “Surfriders Watched by Big Crowd,” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 12, 1938, A4.

²⁰ <https://youtu.be/NCv2tMvxuW0> (majorettes at 4:15); See Doc Ball, *Early California Surfriders* (Ventura, CA: Pacific Publishing, 1995), 65-73 for photography examples including Long Beach c. 1935-1940.

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Rainbow and Silver Spray piers. Eleven surf clubs, this time including competitors from Hawai'i, participated.²¹ The Hermosa Beach Surfing Club won the Dick Loynes Perpetual Trophy (**Figure 10**), and John Olsen (Long Beach Surfing Club) won the Open surfing division. The Paddleboard Champions were Al Holland (Manhattan Surfing Club; Men's Division) and Mary Riehl (Hermosa- Manhattan Girls Surfing Club; Women's Division).²² The 1939 contest was organized and produced by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Long Beach Surfing Club.²³

Additional Historic Context

The City of Long Beach is within the traditional territory of the Gabrielino-Tongva. The Tongva occupied lands throughout the Los Angeles Basin, the coast of Aliso Creek (Orange County) to Topanga (Los Angeles County), and the four Southern Channel Islands. The Tongva had two coastal village settlements within present-day Long Beach: *Ahwaanga* and *Povu'unga*.²⁴

Povu'unga, approximately 5.5 miles from the championships site, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.²⁵ Beginning in the late eighteenth century, Tongva, including coastal persons, were removed from their lands during a Christianization process led by Franciscan missionaries. In 1994, the State of California recognized the Tongva as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles Basin.²⁶

The San Pedro and Long Beach areas were explored by the Portola colonizing expedition of 1769. In 1784, California Governor Fages, an original expedition member, made the Rancho Los Nietos land grant of some 300,000 acres and covering much of modern Los Angeles and north Orange Counties. The Rancho was reduced in size, and then partitioned and redistributed following Nieto's death in 1833. A Nieto heir received the 27,000-acre Rancho Cerritos grant in 1834. Juan Temple purchased the Rancho Cerritos grant in 1834, and Lewellyn Bixby purchased it in 1866. William Willmore purchased a 4,000-acre portion of the Rancho Cerritos grant in 1880, intending to develop a farm community of Willmore City. The effort failed and residents renamed their town Long Beach, incorporating the city in 1888. Long Beach is the second-oldest

²¹ "10 Junior Chambers to Attend Gathering Here," *Long Beach Sun*, Nov 8, 1939, 7.

²² "Surf Event is Won by Hermosans," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 4, 1939, A7; "Hermosa Beach Surfers Take Top Honors Here," *Long Beach Sun*, Dec 4, 1939, B5.

²³ "10 Junior Chambers," 7.

²⁴ "Appendix F: Previous Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Assessment," 2017, in *2nd & PCH Project: Final Environmental Impact Report - SCH No. 2014031059*, prepared for the City of Long Beach. 3-6 www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/environmental/reports (accessed April 2, 2022).

²⁵ NRHP Reference #74000521 (1974); #82000429 (boundary increase, 1982).

²⁶ Res. Chapter 140, Statutes of 1994.

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coastal city in Los Angeles County and, as of 2020, the seventh largest city in California.²⁷

Long Beach's early growth, as a regional visitor- and tourist-serving destination, a relocation destination promoted to non-Californians, and as its own municipality, was built upon welcoming and strengthening some communities while excluding and eroding others.²⁸ This pattern of exclusion and entrenchment occurred across the broader Los Angeles region. Both California's lax enforcement or overlooked civil rights laws dating back to the 1890s and Los Angeles' *de facto* supremacist policies manifested as restrictive housing, employment, and sometimes access to public spaces for communities of color. The 1938 National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships contest, organized and promoted by Long Beach civic institutions, displayed and reflected an intended white image and ideal of its emerging beach community.

²⁷ Santa Monica, incorporated in 1886, is the oldest, "Los Angeles Almanac" www.laalmanac.com/history/hi01e.php (accessed April 2, 2022); 466,742 residents, www.census.gov (accessed April 2, 2022).

²⁸ For a summary: "Timeline of Racial Inequities in Long Beach," www.longbeach.gov/health/healthy-living/office-of-equity/reconciliation/equity-timeline (accessed July 1, 2022).

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“Cold Water Braved by Natators.” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 14, 1938.

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Corona del Mar Surf Board Club. Pacific Coast Surf Board Championship [Advertisement]. *Santa Ana Daily Register*, Aug 4, 1928.

“Dozen Clubs in Surf Contest.” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 14, 1938.

“Duke Kahanamoku, Famous Swimming Champion, Gives Exhibition on Surf Board.” *The Daily Telegram*, Jul 31, 1922.

“Eubanks Sets Mark in Aquatic Triumph; Local Girl is Victor.” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Aug 8, 1938.

“Hawaiians for Life Guards.” *Long Beach Daily Telegram*, Jan 17, 1918.

“Hermosa Beach Surfers Capture Top Honors Here.” *Long Beach Sun*, Dec 4, 1939.

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"States' Celebrants Take to Surfboards." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Aug 8, 1938.

"Surf Event is Won by Hermosans." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 4, 1939.

"Surf Riding Champ." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 6, 1938.

"Surfboard Club will Hold Title Meet at Harbor." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Jul 16, 1928.

"Surfboard Competition Due Today." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 13, 1938.

"Surfboard Derby Here Next Sunday." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Jul 31, 1938.

"Surfboarders in Training." *Independent*, Nov 3, 1938.

"Surfboarders Poise for Meet." *Long Beach Independent*, Nov 10, 1938.

"Surfriders Watched by Big Crowd." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 12, 1938.

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“Throng Sees Water Carnival Events in Rainbow Pier Pool.” *Long Beach Sun*, Aug 8, 1938.

“Triple Water Sport Exhibition Tomorrow.” *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec 10, 1938.

“Two Lives Saved by Skillful Use of Hawaiian Surfers.” *The Daily Telegram*, Sep 4, 1911.

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Figure 1. Aerial photograph of the Long Beach waterfront and downtown areas looking west toward downtown Los Angeles. The Ocean Center Building (110 W. Ocean Blvd), labeled with a blue pin for reference, marks the location of the historical shoreline. Land reclamation has noticeably altered the Long Beach coastline. Credit: Liezl Estipona / City of Long Beach.



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Figure 2. Aerial photograph circa 1940 of the Long Beach waterfront and downtown areas looking east. The arcing Rainbow Pier encircles the Municipal Auditorium (top) and The Pike amusement zone is visible at bottom. The Ocean Center Building (110 W Ocean Blvd) is labeled with a blue pin for reference. The nominated area, a surf break and immediate nearshore, is sited between the two attractions. Credit: CSU Dominguez Hills / James H. Osborne Photograph Collection; #JO_274c.

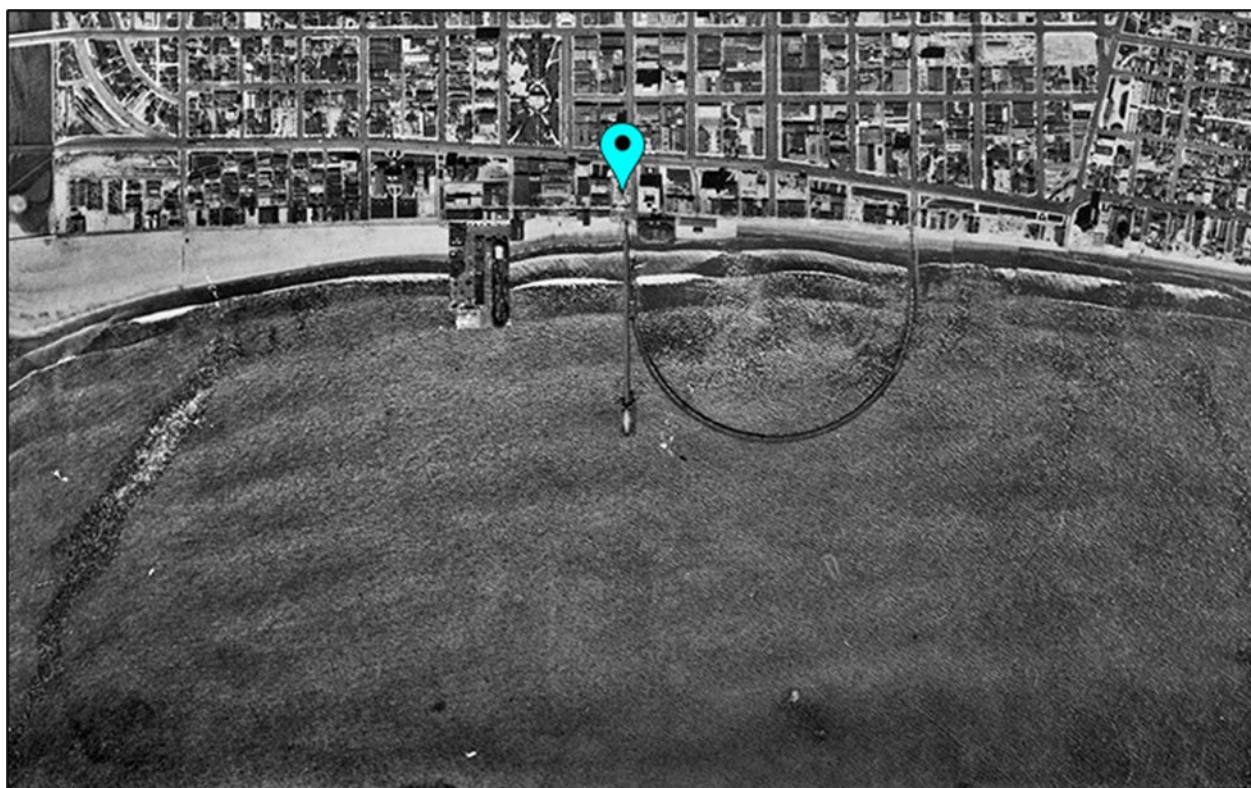


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Figure 3. 1928 aerial photograph of the Long Beach waterfront and downtown areas looking north. The arcing Rainbow Pier (right) and The Pike amusement zone (left) are visible. The nominated area, a surf break and immediate nearshore, is sited between the two attractions. The Long Beach Municipal Pier, adjoining the western side of the Rainbow Pier, was demolished in 1934 following storm damage. The Ocean Center Building (110 W. Ocean Blvd) is labeled with a blue pin for reference. [Flight C_300, Frame M-160, January 1, 1928. Courtesy of UCSB Library Geospatial Collection].



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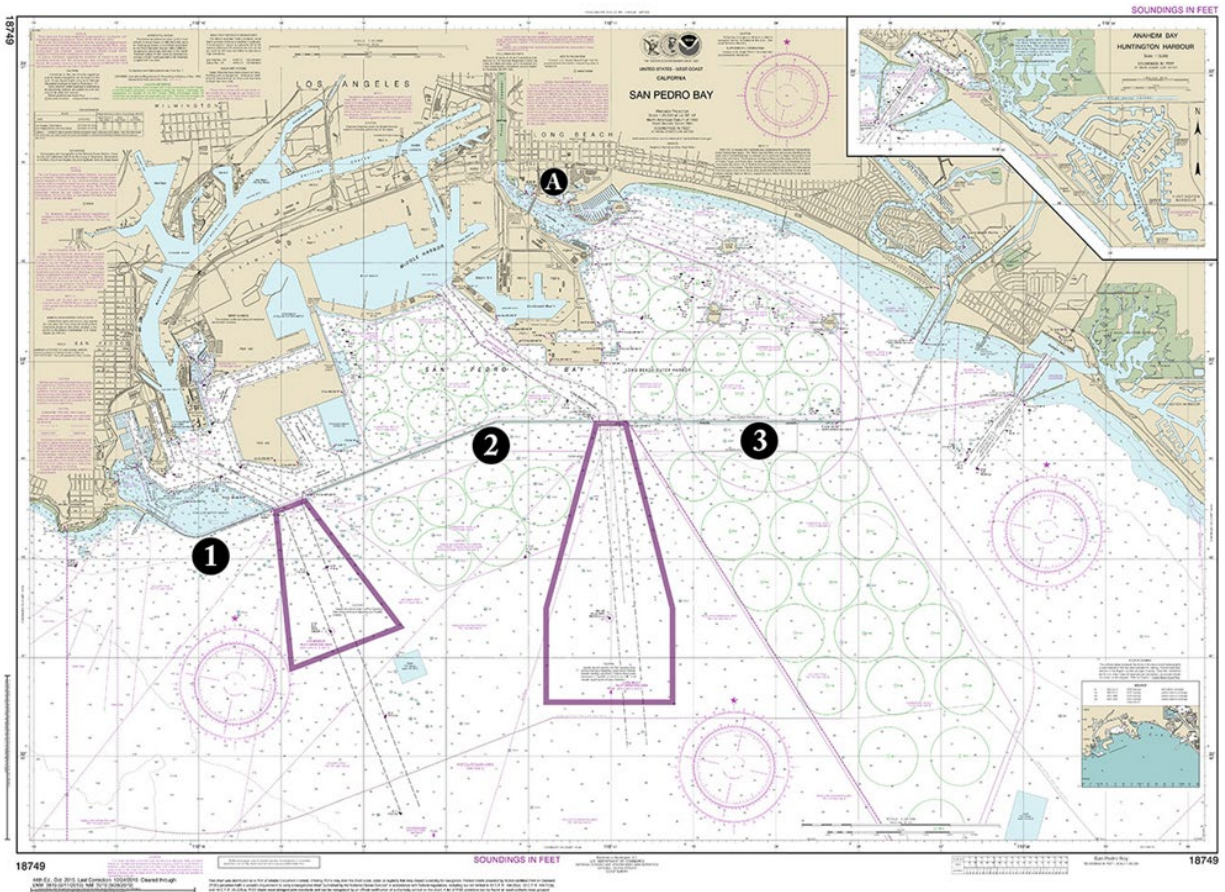
Figure 4. 2001 aerial photograph of the Long Beach waterfront and downtown areas looking north. Several decades of land reclamation has noticeably altered the coastline and reimagined the waterfront area. Former attractions, including the Rainbow Pier, The Pike amusement zone, and the nominated surf break, were eliminated during the reclamation and redevelopment process. The Ocean Center Building (110 W Ocean Blvd) is labeled with a blue pin for reference. [Flight CCC_BQK_C, Frame 49-4, May 30, 2001. Courtesy of UCSB Library Geospatial Collection].



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Figure 5. Nautical chart of San Pedro Bay, California showing three area breakwaters: San Pedro (1, constructed 1899-1942); Middle (2, constructed 1899-1942); and Long Beach (3, constructed 1941-1949). The 2.2 mile Long Beach breakwater is an effective barrier to wave energy reaching the shoreline, including the nominated area (A). Source: NOAA chart #18749 (2015).



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Figure 6. Surfer Jim Davis, 1930, at Belmont Shore, Long Beach. Mr. Davis is standing in front of an approximately twelve-foot surfboard, typical of pre-war hollow surfboards. These surfboards were wood-constructed, hollow, and likely lacked a rear fin as a stabilizing surface. Paddleboards were up to fifteen feet long, similarly constructed, and narrower at the midsection and tail (rear). Solid plank surfboards, often greater than 100 pounds, were another option for surfing and paddleboarding. Credit: Long Beach Public Library / #LBPL_10714.tiff.



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Figure 7. Photo from the November 3, 1938, *Long Beach Independent* newspaper showing local surfing and how surfboards of the era were typically ridden. Caption: "Lee Adams, left, and George Vader, right, practice for the National Surfboard championship meet which will be held here November 13. These two men are stars when it comes to keeping upright on a surfboard skittering through the water at a speed to make you dizzy. But it's constant work as it keeps them in form."²⁹ Photo: Ray Chapin, *Long Beach Independent*.



²⁹ "Surfboarders in Training," *Long Beach Independent*, Nov 3, 1938, A1.

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Figure 8. Photo from the November 14, 1938, *Long Beach Press-Telegram* showing the start of the National Championship paddleboard race. Paddleboards were narrower, and often longer, than surfboards of the period. The Pike's Cyclone Racer rollercoaster is seen in the background. Caption: "The water temperature was 56 degrees yesterday when 140 men and women dashed for the ocean at the opening of the national paddleboard and surfing championship contest in Long Beach. Lack of adequate surf caused the Junior Chamber of Commerce promoters to postpone competition for the highly prized Dick Loynes perpetual cup, emblematic of team surf riding supremacy. Twelve clubs competed before 20,000 spectators."³⁰ Photo: Ray Chapin, *Long Beach Press-Telegram*.



³⁰ "Cold Water Braved by Natators," *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Nov 14, 1938, B1.

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Figure 9. Photo from the December 12, 1938, *Long Beach Press-Telegram* showing the trophy presentation to members of the winning Team Surfing club at the National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships. Caption: "Members of the Manhattan Beach Surfing Club awarded yesterday as Dick Loynes, Long Beach yachtsman, speedboat pilot, and Chamber of Commerce director, presented the Loynes Perpetual Trophy to them following a thrilling exhibition by sixty-five participants in the first annual national surfing championships here."³¹ Photo: Ray Chapin, *Long Beach Press-Telegram*.



³¹ "Sea Antics," A1.

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Figure 10. Photo from the December 4, 1939, *Long Beach Press-Telegram* showing the trophy presentation to members of the Hermosa Beach Surfing Club at the Second Annual National Surfing and Paddleboard Championships. Caption: "Hermosa Beach's three-man surfing team is pictured above receiving the Dick Loynes perpetual trophy emblematic of the national championship which they won in an event here yesterday. Left to right are Aaron Wall, James Kerwin, and James Bailey. Loynes is presenting the trophy."³² Photo: Ray Chapin, *Long Beach Press-Telegram*.

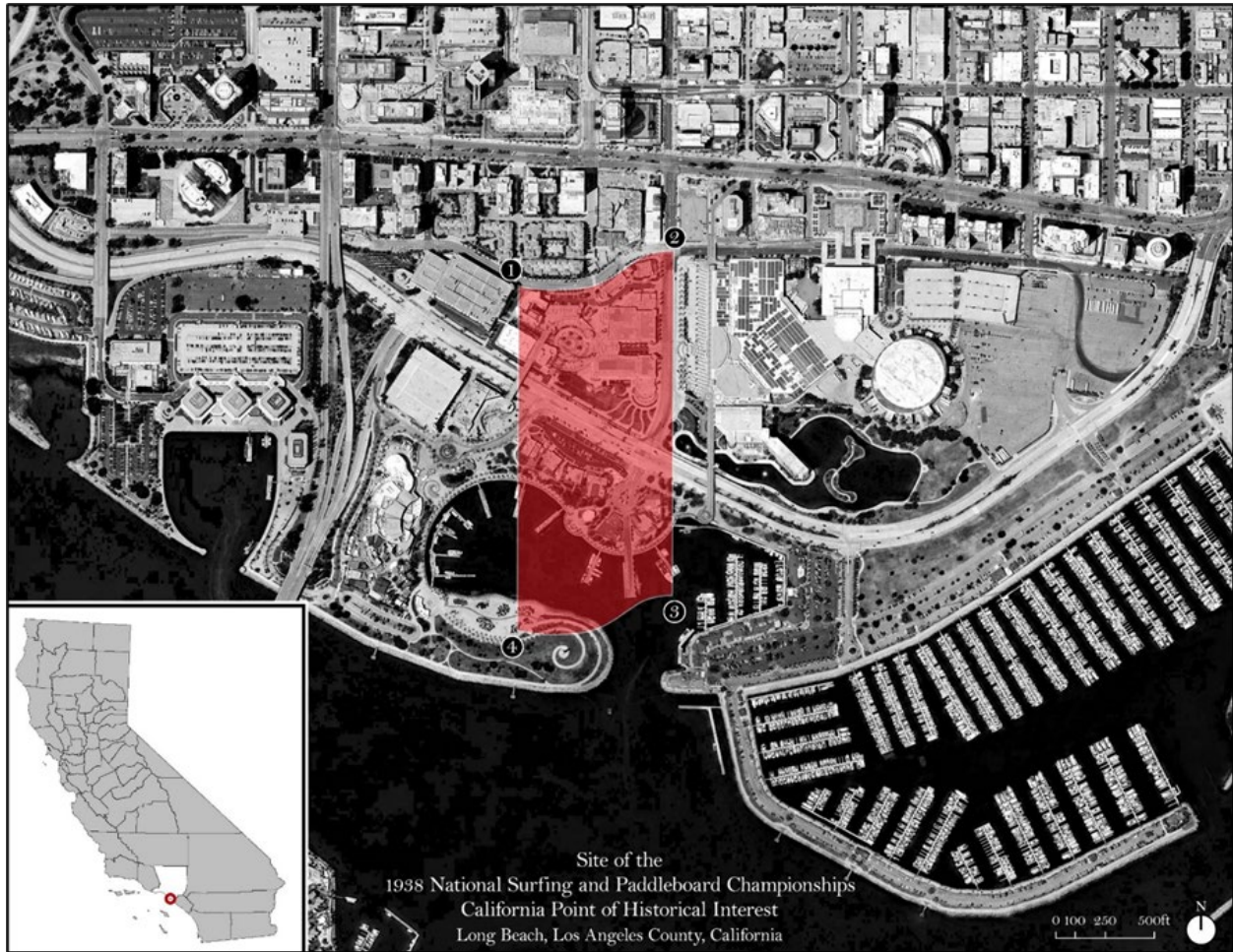


³² "Competed, Won in Fog." *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, Dec. 4, 1939, A7.

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Location Map, 2022

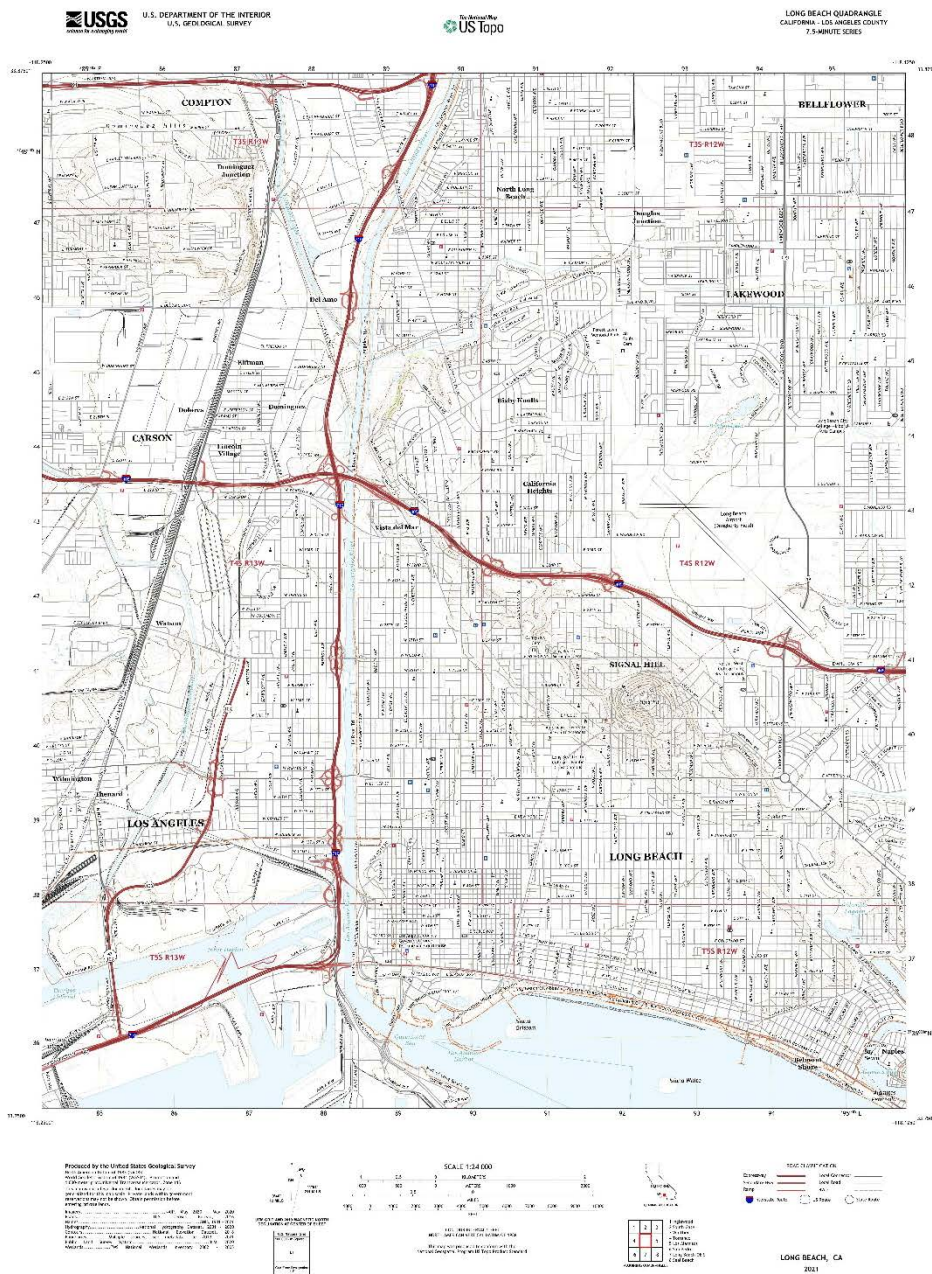


- (1) Northwest Boundary: Zone 11S, 389346, 3736769; LAT 33.765248 LON -118.194920
- (2) Northeast Boundary: Zone 11S, 389565, 3736819; LAT 33.765722 LON -118.192562
- (3) Southeast Boundary: Zone 11S, 389559, 3736319; LAT 33.761212 LON -118.192564
- (4) Southwest Boundary: Zone 11S, 389342, 3736269; LAT 33.760739 LON -118.194901

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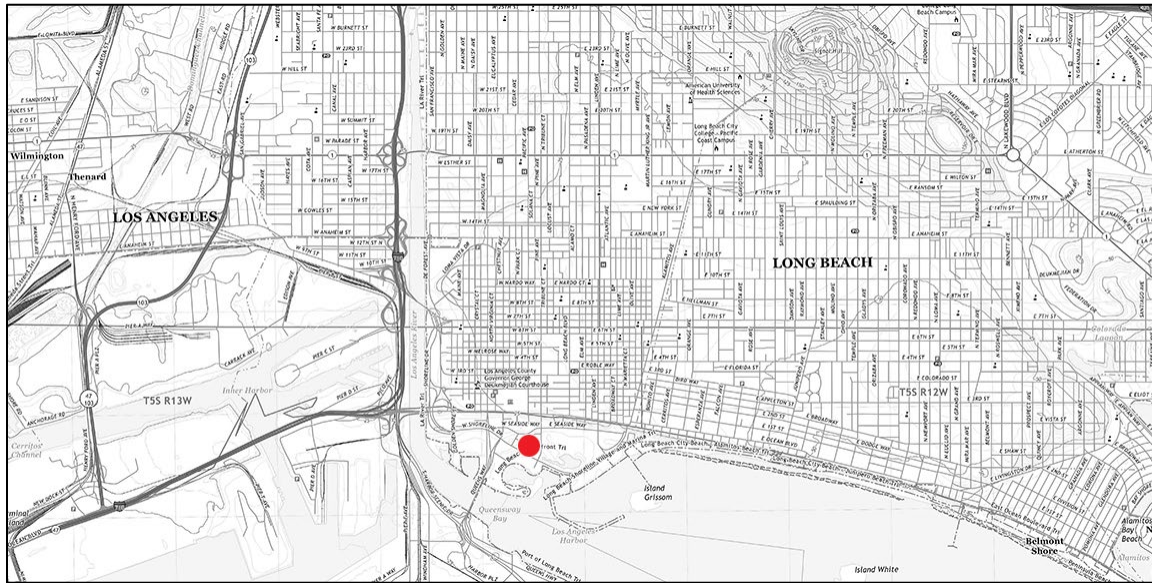
USGS Map USGS Long Beach Quadrangle, 2022; Scale: 1:24,000



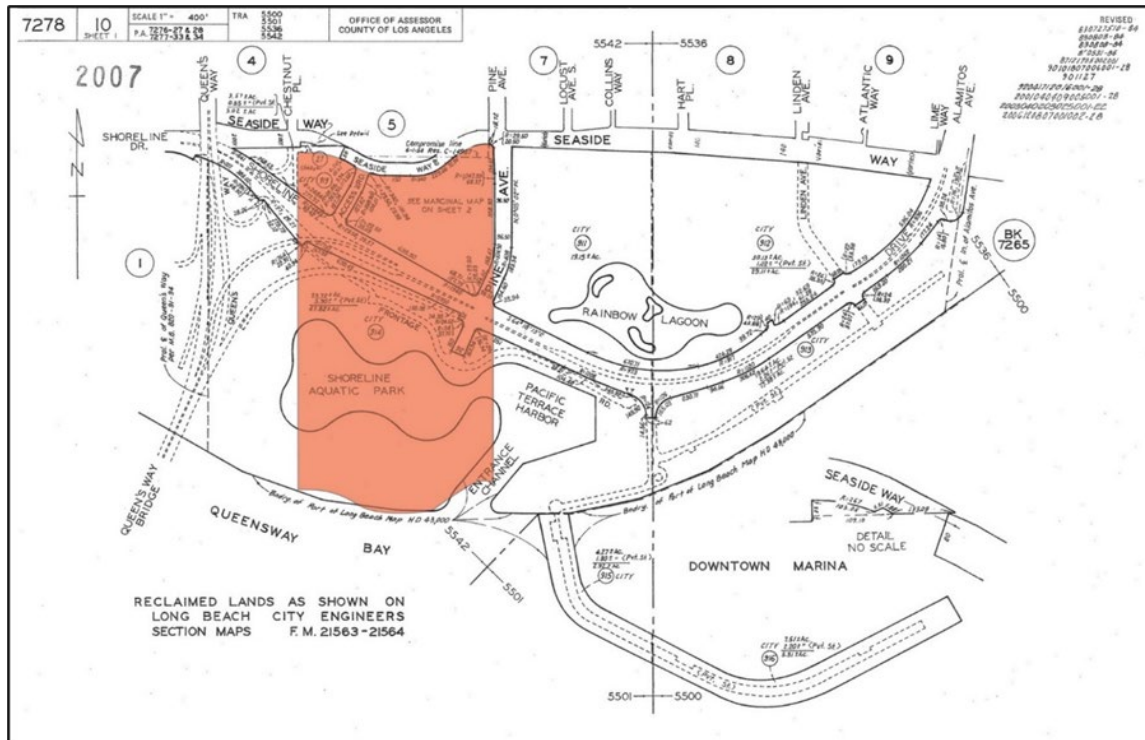
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USGS Map (excerpt) USGS Long Beach Quadrangle, 2022; Scale: 1:24,000



Assessor's Map, 2022



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Sketch Map

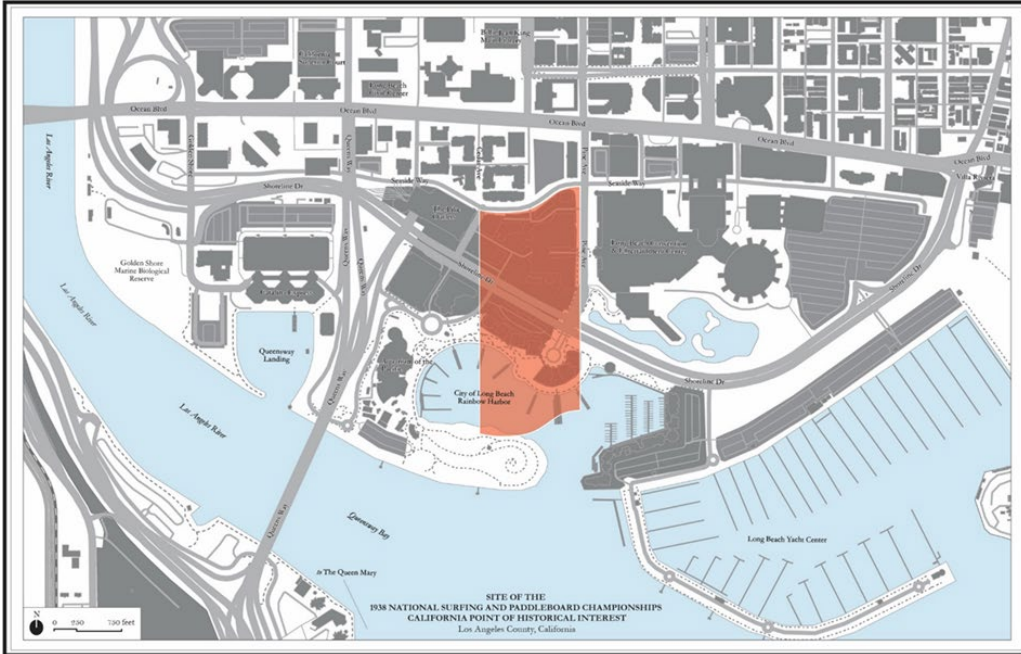
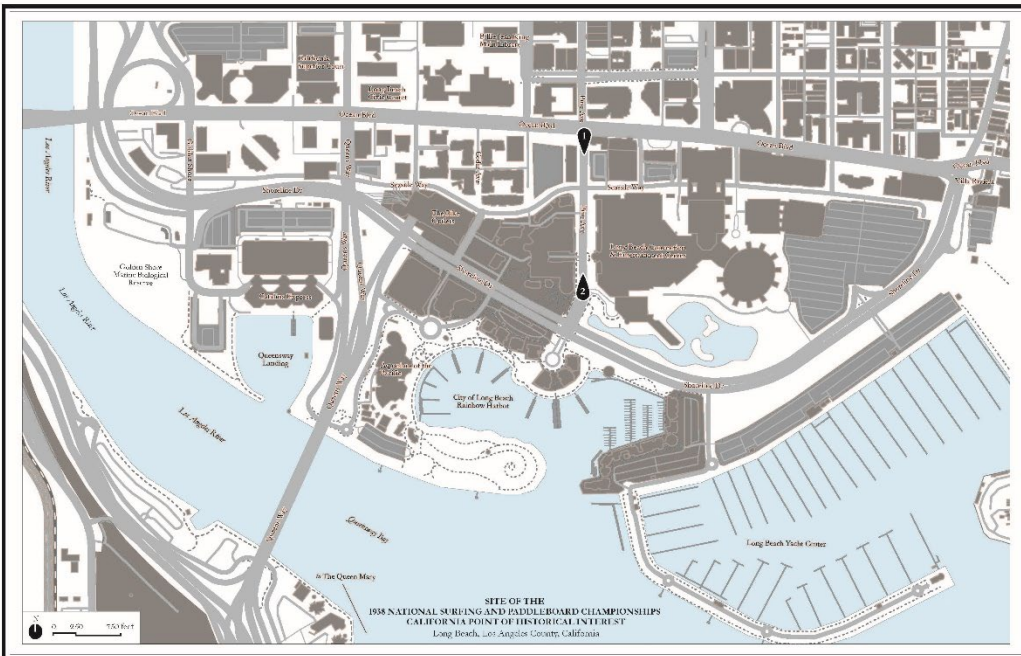


Photo Key



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Photo 1 Long Beach waterfront at the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Pine Avenue, looking out to the Pacific Ocean. The Ocean Center Building (110 W. Ocean Boulevard), a reference point not included in the nominated area, is to the right. The far end of this building at the traffic light was, historically, at the shoreline. Seaward of this point incorporates portions of the nominated area. Multi-decade land reclamation initiatives have noticeably altered the coastline.



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Photo 2 Long Beach waterfront at the intersection of Bay Street and Pine Avenue, looking back toward downtown. Historically, this intersection was a submerged, nearshore area, below the Mean High Water (MHW) line, and part of the nominated surf break. The Ocean Center Building (110 W. Ocean Boulevard), a reference point not included in the nominated area, is at top left (partially covered scaffolding). Multi-decade land reclamation initiatives have noticeably altered the coastline.



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NATIONAL SURFING AND PADDLEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1938 RESULTS³³ **Long Beach, California: November 13 (paddleboard), December 11 (surfing)**

Paddleboard, Men

1. Pete Peterson, Del Mar Surfing Club
2. Al Holland, Venice Surfing Club
3. John Campbell, Manhattan Surfing Club
4. Paul Stader, Venice Surfing Club
5. Kenneth Beck, Venice Surfing Club
6. John Kerwin, Manhattan Surfing Club

Paddleboard, Women

1. Mary Ann Hawkins, Del Mar Surfing Club
2. Dorothy Fincannon, Long Beach Surfing Club
3. Camilla Bayer, Del Mar Surfing Club
4. Pat Robertson, San Pedro Surfing Club³⁴
5. Mary Ellen Ala, San Pedro Surfing Club³⁵
6. Jeannette Thompson

Team Paddleboard Relay

1. Venice Surfriding Club
2. Manhattan Surfing Club

Open Surfing Championships

1. Arthur Horner
2. Jim Kerwin
3. Don Campbell
4. Chuck Allen
5. Tom Ehlers
6. Kenneth Beck
7. Bob Reinhard
8. John Lind

Team Surfing Championships

1. Manhattan Surfing Club
2. Venice Surfing Club
3. Santa Monica Surfing Club
4. Palos Verdes Surfriders Club
5. Del Mar Surfing Club

³³ "Dozen Clubs, B1.

³⁴ "Girls Place," *San Pedro News-Pilot*, Nov 14, 1938, 8.

³⁵ *Ibid.*