



September 25, 2024

**Statement of Support for Prop K:** Establishing a Public Open Recreation Space by extending the weekend closure for private vehicles to 7 days a week for the Great Highway section (between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard adjacent to Ocean Beach) and thereby enhancing recreational enjoyment and beach access of this special place.

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves, and beaches for all people. This includes protecting local beaches for public use and safeguarding them against the impacts of climate change. On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's San Francisco Chapter and our 1,400 chapter members, we are writing to endorse Proposition K on the ballot this November.

Prop K provides the opportunity for our communities to come together to adapt our coastal environment to the impacts of climate change and give all San Francisco residents more access to recreation at Ocean Beach. Voting "yes" on Proposition K is a critical first step towards re-envisioning our coastline for the benefit of both people and the natural environment.

### **Increasing and Expanding Access to the Beach**

Surfrider's mission includes safeguarding public access *and* recreation at the shoreline. This measure will help provide space for our beach as sea levels rise and ensure people can recreate, bike, walk, and enjoy Ocean Beach now and for decades to come. By creating a park, we will make our coast more accessible to recreation, ensuring that more San Franciscans can experience the unique outdoor opportunities our beaches offer.

### **Restoring the Native Dune System**

Surfrider also seeks to preserve beaches in light of accelerating sea level rise that will squeeze out beaches without necessary proactive planning and adaptations. Proposition K's establishment of a park along the Upper Great Highway will allow for the restoration of the dune ecosystem that existed before the construction of the road. Restoring this natural landscape is essential to protecting our beach and coastal community from sea level rise, while also providing critical habitat for native species.

### **The Future of Ocean Beach**

Voting "yes" on Proposition K moves us closer to an Ocean Beach where human and natural systems can coexist in harmony — but it's only the beginning. When Proposition K is passed, Surfrider will work to ensure that the plans for Great Highway Park appropriately prioritize the diverse needs of all the flora and fauna that depend on and share the natural resources of Ocean Beach.

Surfrider supports coastal access, sea level rise planning and shoreline recreation, and we view Prop K as an opportunity to create a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for our coast and community.