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Victories

Working through our network of grassroots chapters and volunteer activists, the Surfrider Foundation has amassed an impressive roster of impactful and precedent-setting victories and accomplishments, including:

1989 – Santa Barbara, CA – Litigated to secure open beach access to Hammond’s Reef, a popular surf break.

1989 – Bolsa Chica, CA – Negotiated a landmark agreement that thwarted plans for a marina, navigable ocean entrance and a mile-long breakwater, thereby preserving the surf spot, beach and bike path for public use.

1991 – Humboldt, CA – Took legal action against Louisiana Pacific and Simpson Paper and settled the second largest Clean Water Act violations case in the United States.

1993 – San Diego, CA – Influenced the adoption of a storm water ordinance in San Diego making it illegal to dump anything other than water into a storm drain.

1994 – Deal, NJ – Opened beach access for surfers in New Jersey.

1995 – Honolulu, HI – Brought legal action against the City and County of Honolulu, settling over 13,000 suits for Clean Water Act violations.

1996 – Ocean County, NJ – Opened beach access for surfers in New Jersey.

1997 – Westport, WA – Stopped in-situ petroleum test burn along 10 miles of Washington coastlines involving 10,000 gallons of crude oil.

1998 – Washington, D.C. – Provided critical testimony before Congress, urging them to later pass the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (B.E.A.C.H. Bill), which mandated a national water quality-testing program.

1998 – Ventura, CA – Convinced Ventura County, the last non-testing county in Southern California, to undertake a comprehensive ocean water quality testing program, after five years of persistent volunteer testing and publication of water quality data.

2002 – Rincón, Puerto Rico – Successfully stopped a hotel and villa project that would have fatally impacted the endangered coral reefs offshore, and endangered the world-class break at Tres Palmas.

2002 – Orange County, CA – Convinced the Orange County Sanitation District to cease their usage of the 301(h) Waiver which allowed for the continued discharge of over 240 million gallons of partially untreated wastewater per day into the waters off of Huntington Beach.

2002 – Palos Verdes, CA – Worked with local law enforcement and city officials to develop an ordinance making it illegal to impede or obstruct public access to the beaches or surf spots in the city of Palos Verdes Estates.

2003 – Solana Beach, CA – Won court decision blocking the construction of two seawall projects, which would have contributed to additional loss of beach along the adjoining coastline.

2003 – Asbury Park, NJ – Convinced local officials to repeal a ban on surfing at New Jersey's legendary Asbury Park Beach

2004 – Rincón, Puerto Rico – Worked to establish a marine reserve over one of the last and largest expanses of Elkhorn coral in the Caribbean.

2005 – Rockaway Beach, NY – Successfully overturned a long running ban on surfing at New York's Rockaway Beach.

2007 – North Shore, HI – Worked with local activists to help fund the North Shore Land Trust and protect Pupukea-Palimalu in perpetuity.

2008 – San Clemente, CA – Led massive effort to convince the California Coastal Commission to oppose a proposed toll road project that threatened the world-class surf break at Trestles.

2008 – San Clemente, CA – Successfully convinced the U.S. Department of Commerce to uphold the California Coastal Commission's ruling that found the Transportation Corridor Agency's proposed extension of the 241 Toll Road inconsistent with the California Coastal Act.

2010 – Malibu, CA – Led a coalition that successfully convinced the California State Water Resources Control Board to unanimously vote to support the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's decision to prohibit septic systems in the Malibu Civic Center area. This decision requires commercial facilities to be off septic systems by 2015 and residential sites by 2019.

2010 – United States of America – Rallied national support leading to the Obama administration's announcement that it would ban new offshore drilling in the continental United States for the next seven years, capping a two-year effort by the Foundation to restore coastal protection lost in 2008.

For the entire list of our victories, visit www.surfrider.org/victories.