

HERMOSA BEACH

SPECIAL EVENTS POLICY GUIDE

Hermosa Beach Special Events

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This policy guide has been developed to clarify and carry out the City's mission statement related to special events that occur on or at the beach, within public space directly adjacent to the shore, and at City facilities throughout the community.

Cover Image: Hermosa Beach Murals Project - John Van Hamersveld

Mission Statement

Hermosa Beach strives to offer a safe and enjoyable environment for special events to take place in a way that balances resident and visitor needs. Special events in Hermosa Beach are celebrated for being community-friendly, enhancing local beach culture, and offering a myriad of benefits to the local community. The City of Hermosa Beach* works collaboratively with event operators in an efficient and clear manner to process and carry out permits in compliance with this policy.

**"City of Hermosa Beach" collectively refers to City Staff, Parks and Rec Commission, City Manager, and City Council.*

City Contact Information

The City of Hermosa Beach Department of Community Resources is available to assist and answer any questions related to the special events process:

Web: Special Events Page <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=89>

Phone: (310) 318-0280

Email: hbconnect@hermosabch.org

Address: 710 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

1. General Information + Frequently Asked Questions

When is a special events permit required?

Any group, organization, or individual requesting use of a public outdoor area with 100 or more people is considered a special event and required to obtain a permit from the City of Hermosa Beach. Gatherings of 25 to 100 people, not affiliated with a commercial group or non-profit organization, and not requesting to use amplified sound, professional filming, or charge participants are encouraged to make reservations (for City Parks) and notify the City of Hermosa Beach of organized gatherings to be held at the beach. Additionally, events organized by a non-profit or commercial organization are required to obtain a permit, regardless of the number of attendees.

Regardless of the number of people, an Outdoor Fitness Instruction Permit or Contract Class Agreement is required prior to conducting physical fitness, sports, or athletic instruction or classes for compensation in a City park or on the beach. Failure to obtain the proper permits for outdoor fitness instruction may result in fines or restrictions on the use of City facilities. Outdoor Fitness Permit information can be found online at <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=875>.

How do I apply for a special events permit?

The application, current fee schedule, timing of submittal, and other applicable information is available on the City of Hermosa Beach website and questions may be directed toward the Department of Community Resources:

- Special Events and Promotions Page - <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=89>
- Department of Community Resources - Phone (310) 318-0280, hbconnect@hermosabch.org

Applications must be filled out in an electronic format, fully completed, and accompanied with an application fee in order to be processed and reviewed. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.

What findings are needed to approve a special event permit?

A special events permit may be issued upon finding that:

1. The applicant reimburses the City for all costs incurred by the City in connection with the event, including public safety, traffic control and monitoring.
2. The number of estimated attendees can be accommodated at the proposed location and surrounding area.
3. The applicant is capable and qualified to manage the event in a competent, professional manner in accordance with all conditions of approval.
4. Adequate provision has been made for satellite parking, shuttle transportation and traffic control (as requested and determined by City Staff).
5. Adequate provision has been made for security, crowd control, ingress and egress, and clean-up.
6. The total number of days required for the event shall not exceed sixteen consecutive days.
7. The applicant provides required insurance, deposits, bonding and indemnification of the City.

Are private events allowed?

All events located on the beach within the commercial zone, the Pier, or Pier Plaza must be open to spectators/general public free of charge. Participant entry fees are permissible.

What is the “Nothing Weekend”?

On at least one weekend during each summer season, the Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission will recommend that no organized events be held on the beach. This means that any special event applications that request a permit that coincides with the Nothing Weekend will be asked to change dates in order to approve the event.

How will this policy be enforced?

The special events policy will be strictly enforced by Community Resources Department Staff, Code Enforcement Officers and the Police Department. Events, either permitted or unpermitted, found to be violating the City's rules or failing to comply with any of the requirements of the Hermosa Beach Municipal Code will be shut down and may be subject to penalties or fines.

Special events, and any of its participants, vendors, or spectators, found to have caused damage or be in violation of any City rules may be subject to greater deposits, regulation, or restrictions when submitting special events applications in the future.

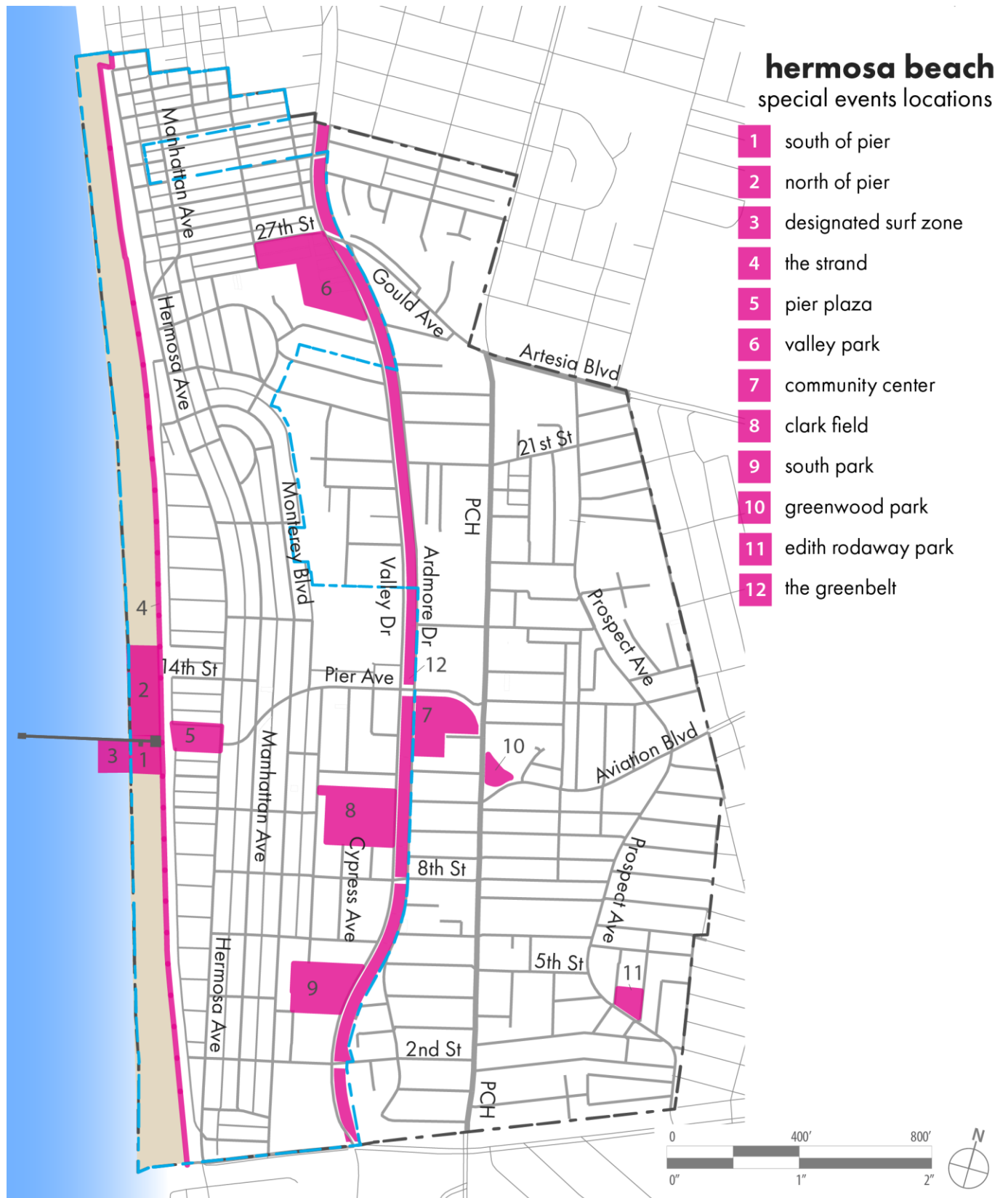
Where are special events allowed?

To ensure adequate space and resources are available, and to limit potential disturbances to residents, special events are limited to the following locations:

- South of Pier (Adjacent to the commercial area on the beach (between 10th Street and the pier);
- North of the Pier (Adjacent to the commercial area on the beach (between the pier and 15th Street
- Designated Surf Zone
- Along The Strand (only allowed for races or events that are continuously moving);
- Pier Plaza
- Within a public right of way (please note that any event, race, or block party within the public right of way is subject to approval by the Chief of Police);
- The following City Parks and Facilities
 - Valley Park: Corner of Gould and Valley Drive
 - Community Center: 710 Pier Avenue
 - Clark Field: 861 Valley Drive
 - South Park: 425 Valley Drive
 - Greenwood Park: PCH & Aviation
 - Edith Rodaway Park: Prospect & Hollowell Ave
 - The Greenbelt

Events on the beach outside of the commercial area (between 10th and 15th Street) are not permitted. Holding a gathering or event outside of the commercial area is at your own risk and is open to the general public.

Special Events Permitted Locations



Beach Special Event Boundaries



2. Use Classifications + Impact Characteristics

Special events are evaluated based on a number of factors and will be classified under one of three categories. Special Events are required to submit a completed application including the impact characteristics matrix, to be considered for approval.

Special Events will be categorized as a Level I, II, or III event based on information provided in the impact characteristics matrix and special event application. If an event is requesting a multi-year contract with the City of Hermosa Beach it is automatically classified as a Level III and subject to approval by the City Council. Events that are new to Hermosa Beach will also be subject to approval by City Council. The Impact Level of the event will be used to determine:

- applicable fees;
- timing of application submittal;
- requirements for pre event meeting and post event walk through; and
- level of review for approval (Community Resources Staff, Commission or City Council)

If more than one option is applicable, choose the highest characteristic for each category. Below is a summary of the special events impact characteristic worksheet included in the application form.

Characteristic	Impact Level I	Impact Level II	Impact Level III
Event is expected to include:	100-500 participants	500 – 2,000 participants	2,000 or more participants
Event has previously occurred in Hermosa Beach:	3 or more years	1 or more years	New event
Event will be located at:	a park, City facility, or on the beach	on the Pier or Pier Plaza	on The Strand, or public right of way
Event will occur during the following season:	Winter	Spring or Fall	Summer
Event will occur on the following day(s) of the week:	Monday - Thursday	Friday, Saturday, or Sunday	On a holiday
Event will occur for consecutive days:	Less than 2 days	3-4 days	5 or more days
Event will be held on multiple occasions:	1-2 events/year	3-4 events/year	5 or more events/year
Additional requests such as (filming, reserved parking, fencing, stage, road closures, amplified sound) are needed:	No additional requests	1-2 additional requests	2 or more additional requests
Total category selected:	6 or more applicable =	3 or more applicable =	2 or more applicable =
Impact Level	Impact Level I	Impact Level II	Impact Level III

Pass-Through Events

A Pass-Through Event is exactly what the name implies, the event participants pass through the City of Hermosa Beach and the event does not start or end in Hermosa Beach. A Special Event

Application is required to be completed along with the approval process, and may be subject to a permit fee and other applicable fees.

3. Special Events Approval Guidelines and Process

Peak Season Event Limits

To balance coastal access with beach events, the beach/Pier Plaza area will be limited to the following number of events during the peak summer season (Memorial Day to Labor Day – approximately 100 days over the summer):

- Maximum of 30 days used by Level III Events
- Maximum of 40 days used by Level I and II Events (or any days not used by Level III events)

Additionally, the monthly number of event limits for off-peak season (Labor Day to Memorial Day) on the beach/Pier Plaza will be limited to a maximum of 15 days used by events per month.

Simultaneous Use of North and South Volleyball Courts

One side of North/South of Pier Volleyball courts will be required to remain open for general public use during special events occurring on weekends (exception provided for events that occur at the same time as City-sponsored classes on Saturday AM) or at the discretion of the Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission and the City Council.

Event Approval Findings

A special events permit may be issued upon finding that:

1. The applicant reimburses the City for all costs incurred by the City in connection with the event, including public safety, traffic control and monitoring.
2. The number of estimated attendees can be accommodated at the proposed location and surrounding area.
3. The applicant is capable and qualified to manage the event in a competent, professional manner in accordance with all conditions of approval.
4. Adequate provision has been made for satellite parking, shuttle transportation and traffic control (as requested and determined by City Staff).
5. Adequate provision has been made for security, crowd control, ingress and egress, and clean-up.
6. The total number of days required for the event shall not exceed sixteen consecutive days.
7. The applicant provides required insurance, deposits, bonding and indemnification of the City.

Application Submittal Deadlines

Special Events Applications must be submitted as follows:

- **Level III events:** Must be submitted no later than July 30 for the following calendar year. City Council will review Level III application requests in October of each year and upon Council approval, permits will be processed and issued by the Community Resources Manager.
- **Level II events:** Must be submitted at least ninety (90) days, but no earlier than October 15 of the prior calendar year. The Parks and Recreation Commission will not review or approve application requests until after Level III events have been approved for the following

calendar year. Upon Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation, the Community Resources Manager may process and issue permits. Should the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend denial of a Special Event, that decision may be appealed to the City Council.

- **Level I events:** Must be submitted at least thirty (30) days, but no earlier than October 15 of the prior calendar year. Level I events will be reviewed and permits will be issued by the Community Resources Manager. Should the Community Resources recommend denial of a Special Event, that decision may be appealed to the City Council.

The Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council will evaluate and recommend approval of Level III events and a “Nothing Weekend” first, and then recommend Level II events to round out the calendar within the targets established in Peak Season Event Limits. Events submitted earliest will be given priority for their preferred dates.

Review Timeline	Application Period Opens	Last Day to Submit Application	Parks and Rec Commission Review	City Council Review
Level I	October 15 (for following calendar year)	30 days prior to event	n/a	n/a
Level II	October 15 (for following calendar year)	90 days prior to event	Beginning in December (rolling basis thereafter)	
Level III	July 1 (for following calendar year)	July 30 (for following calendar year)	September Meeting	First October Meeting

At the discretion of the Community Resources Manager, applications may be submitted and approved after the application submittal deadline has passed, provided:

- there are unforeseeable circumstances (memorial service, team victory celebration, need for minimal marketing/advertising)
- the event does not exceed Peak Season Event Limits
- the event can still meet all of the event approval findings (as noted above)

The Community Resources Manager and the City's Special Events Team will participate in the review and approval of event applicants submitted after the deadline has passed. The Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Advisory Commission will receive an update on the status of events submitted after the deadlines.

Level of Review and Approval

Special events will be reviewed and approved through the following:

- **Level III Events:** Will be subject to a public hearing by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council. Event organizers for Level III events and any event that is new to Hermosa Beach are expected to be present at Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council Hearings to review/approve special events.

- **Level II Events:** Will be subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission and appealable to the City Council. These events will not be approved or added to the master calendar until after Level III events are reviewed and approved.
- **Level I Events:** Will be reviewed and approved by the Community Resources Manager and appealable to the Parks and Recreation Commission. These events will not be approved or added to the master calendar until after Level III events are reviewed and approved.

A summary of the level of review for each category of event is provided in the table below.

Level of Review	Level I (Small)	Level II (Medium)	Level III (Large)	Unforeseeable Events	Appeals
Special Events Team Approval	X				
City Manager				X	
Parks and Recreation Commission Approval		X			Level 1
Parks and Recreation Commission Public Hearing			X		
City Council Public Hearing			X		Level 2

City Staff will provide both a calendar of all upcoming special events and a brief event wrap-up summary for special events to the Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Commission and City Council. Once approved, all applications will be publicly posted/linked on the City website.

Event Day Expectations

In order to immediately address any issues or changes that may arise during the course of an event, producers are responsible for:

- Providing a cell phone number upon which City Staff may contact the producer
- Being available on-site or providing a designated contact at all times during the event. This includes agreement that producers (or their designated contact) will not actively participate in the event.
- Maintaining copies of all applicable Special Events permits and any other permits issued by the City of Hermosa Beach on-site during the event.

Pre/Post Event Meetings

Pre-event meetings and post-event walkthrough/evaluations with City staff and event producers may be required for Level II and III events.

A "pre-event meeting" may be scheduled anytime between 3 months to several weeks prior to the actual event date as determined by City staff. The goal of this meeting is provide information to any and all City departments involved or impacted by your event. The Community Resources Department may require any event to have an "on-site meeting" prior to the event and a final site map must be presented at this time. City staff may require multiple meetings if the event details requires further discussion or if additional information is requested.

Permits will also specify a time for a "post-event walkthrough" (if required). The applicant, event coordinator, or another authorized representative of the applicant is required to be present

during the “post-event walkthrough” inspection, as staff will walk through the site and assess the condition it was left in.

First-time events that expect to be recurring events may also be required to attend a “post-event meeting”, generally held within 2 – 4 weeks after the event. This is a time to discuss any problems or ideas for the next year, while items are still fresh in everyone’s mind.

The Community Resources Department will invite representatives from other City Departments to these meetings if they were involved or affected by your event. It is important that you make the designated times, as several people are usually scheduled for these meetings. If you cannot make the designated times, please call in advance to re-schedule. Failure to participate in pre or post meeting events, may jeopardize your approved event or future events in Hermosa Beach.

4. Applicable Fees

All special events are subject to a permit processing fee (application fee) established by resolution of the City Council and any additional costs incurred by the City on behalf of the event. The current fee schedule can be found on the City of Hermosa Beach Website:

<http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=222>

There are three categories of fees associated with special events:

- Application Fees – paid at the time an application for special events
- Special Event Permit Fees – paid once event has been approved/authorized by appropriate review body, but at least 10 days prior to event
- Additional Impact Fees – paid once event has been approved/authorized by appropriate review body, but at least 10 days prior to event

Application Fees

All applications must be received with a non-refundable event application fee. This fee will not be applied to special event permit fees. Applications submitted without the application fee will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Special Event Permit Fee

Events are subject to a daily permit fee based on the designated event category level. The daily permit fee applies to event days and (a reduced rate) on set up/break down days.

Payment of applicable special event permit fees shall be due following event approval and must be submitted at least 10 days in advance of the scheduled event.

Additional Impact Fees

Applicants should indicate the anticipated permit requests at the time of application submittal. The Community Resources Department will confirm the necessary permits during application review and will coordinate with applicants to secure permits and process fees from the appropriate City departments once the Special Event is approved by the appropriate review body. Additional fees may be required for:

- the use of Pier Plaza and reservation of City Facilities
- installation of street banners or temporary signs

- reservation/use of public parking spaces
- use of amplified sound
- use of professional filming or still photography
- presence of police, fire, community resources, or paramedic staff on site before, during or after event
- application for business license

The Community Resources Manager has the discretion to revoke a permit or place a hold on processing future event applications if all applicable fees are not paid in a timely manner.

Damage Deposit

Monetary deposits, bonds and other security as may be necessary to guarantee performance of all required conditions, clean-up and repair of any City property or facilities damaged as a result of the event. All Level II and III events must submit a deposit, to cover any potential damage to City facilities. All or a portion of the deposit may be refunded upon post event inspection or sign-off by Public Works, Chief of Police, or other applicable City staff. Events will be billed for the costs to repair or replace any City property damaged as a result of the event if the damage exceeds the deposit provided.

Fee Waivers

A completed fee waiver request must be submitted and approved by City Council to be eligible for fee waivers or reductions. City Council will consider the benefit to the community, size/scale of the organization, and the beneficiaries or groups receiving the money raised by the organization when approving organizations to be eligible for fee waivers.

An approved organization may request to have the special event permit fee waived and any additional impact fees reduced up to a maximum of 10%. The application fee is non-refundable and will not be waived.

Refund or Cancellation Policy

The permit application fee is non-refundable. Once a permit is approved and issued, the special event permit fees may be refunded when written notice is given to the Community Resources Department at least two weeks prior to the event date and provided that no staff services are incurred. If rain is predicted and the decision is made to cancel within two week prior to the event, no monetary refund will be given but City Staff will work with event producers to re-schedule events to another available date.

5. Permit Procedures

Applicant Information

Applications are available on the City of Hermosa Beach Special Events and Promotions Page: <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=89> or at the Department of Community Resources Offices - 710 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Applications must include the name, address, telephone number and other identification information about the person or organization responsible for organizing the event, including its commercial/nonprofit status.

Applications must be FULLY completed, filled out in an electronic format, dated and signed by the organizer or its authorized agent attesting to the truth, completeness and accuracy of the contents of the application. Separate applications should be submitted for each event (tournament, race, concert series, etc.), even if each event has similar characteristics. Applications deemed incomplete by the Community Resources Manager will be returned to the applicant and will not be reviewed until fully completed.

Community Benefit

Applications for Level II and III events must include a brief description of the benefit to the community provided by the special event. The Community Decision-Making Tool may be used as a guide: <http://www.hermosabch.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5226>

Site Plan, Equipment, and Signage

A detailed map schematic must be submitted with event applications to include a description or diagram showing the proposed location of the event, including all temporary facilities/structures/signage/equipment to be erected, ingress and egress, number and type of vehicles and whether existing structures/facilities are to be relocated or modified. Events requiring Building, Police, or Fire Department review, must include maps and plans that are drawn to scale.

Events that set up bleachers, stages higher than 2' off the ground, fencing or other temporary structures will be subject to review and inspection by the City Building Official prior to the start of the event. Accessibility compliance will be required for seating, bleachers or any stages higher than 2' off the ground. Pedestrian access shall be maintained and a layout plan may be required to ensure proper access and circulation.

A parking plan showing the number of public parking spaces to be occupied by the event organizers, the location of satellite parking lots to be used for attendee parking, arrangements for shuttle bus transportation, and plans for publicizing the availability of off-site public parking may also be required.

Events including promotional signs/banners, a frame signs, and other signage items shall not be placed on City facilities or premises without prior written approval from the City and must include a temporary sign/banner permit and site plan.

Amplified Sound

Amplified sound (Public Address system for announcements, etc.) is limited to the hours of 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM up to a total of four hours in any day. Exceptions may be approved for special events, in conjunction with the Special Event approval. Events must comply with the [City Noise Ordinance HBMC 8.24](#) and speakers must be facing westward (towards the ocean) at all times. Event producers are required to obtain an Amplified Sound Permit if the event intends to use a loudspeaker or sound amplifying equipment for the purpose of giving instructions, directions,

lectures, or transmitting music. Requests should be noted when submitting a special events permit application to the Community Resources Department to ensure proper coordination with the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police will consider the following in the issuance of amplified sound permits:

1. The volume and intensity of the noise, particularly as it is experienced within a residence or place of business;
2. Whether the noise is prolonged and continuous;
3. How the noise contrasts with the ambient noise level;
4. The proximity of the noise source to residential and commercial uses;
5. The time of day; and
6. The anticipated duration of the noise

Food, Beverage, or Merchandise Sales

In accordance with HBMC Section 12.20.300, the sale of food, non-alcoholic beverages, or branded merchandise from the event producer on the beach are allowed pursuant to a special events permit approved by the City Council. The sale of any other commodity, merchandise, wares, products, or service on the beach or the strand is not allowed.

Applicant is responsible for obtaining any applicable food or beverage permits. A Temporary Food Permit is required when selling, serving, giving away, or sampling food or consumable products, including water or other beverages, at a public event. Additionally, each food vendor at the event must also have a Temporary Food Permit. Different permits, policies and procedures depend on the classification and the number of days of the event. As part of the food handling requirements, applicants or event organizers are required to include public safety features in the event plans such as hand-washing sinks. The County of Los Angeles Department of Environmental Health issues food permits. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all vendors have current permits.

If the sale of alcohol is included in a special event application (requests for alcohol on the beach will not be approved), approval from the City Council is required and the applicant must request authorization from the State of California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). A copy of the ABC License must be provided to the Community Resources Department prior to the issuance of a permit. City departments may place restrictions on the way in which alcohol is managed at a proposed event. Additional information about Alcohol Beverage Control licensing and permit requirements can be found at <http://www.abc.ca.gov/Forms/PDFSp.html>.

Professional Filming

A Film Permit Application is required for any event utilizing professional filming equipment or recording activities resulting in commercial use. Information about professional filming permits can be obtained at:

<http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=250>

Security

City staff or law enforcement may deem an activity warrants the presence of one or more Police Officers or security personnel and the cost of such service shall be borne by the applicant. Security personnel must be licensed, in uniform and are subject to approval by the City. Proof of obtaining the required security personnel must be provided to the Community Resources Manager at least two (2) weeks prior to the event.

Insurance Requirements

At least ten (10) days prior to the event, applicants will provide the City with a certificate of insurance providing liability insurance naming the **“City, its officers, employees, and agents as additional insured”** (exact verbiage is required) with a minimum coverage of \$2 million combined single limit coverage.

The policy shall also contain the statement that the City will be notified thirty (30) calendar days prior to termination, reduction, cancellation, suspension, or expiration of the policy. Applicants and Event Organizers must agree to hold the City harmless and to indemnify the City. Approved events will require the authorized applicant or event organizer to sign a Hold Harmless Statement on the permit itself. Events with vendors or active participants require a vendor and or participant waiver that indemnifies the City. Please include a copy of the waiver for City review and approval.

6. Compliance

Environmental Requirements

All events will be required to submit an environmental protection plan showing proposed compliance to reduce environmental impacts as part of the application form. Such measures may include, but shall not be limited to:

- Waste recycling and reduction
- Energy efficiency
- Protection of the marine environment
- Community education opportunities
- Monitoring and reporting compliance with the environmental protection plan

Applicable Codes and Regulations

The City of Hermosa Beach Municipal Code governs the approval, review, and enforcement of Special Events. The Special Event Policy rules and regulations must be strictly adhered to and all pertinent City Ordinances shall be enforced. The sections of the Hermosa Beach Municipal Code relevant to Special Events include:

Title 8 – Health and Safety

8.24 Noise Control -

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach08/HermosaBeach0824.html>

8.64 Ban on Polystyrene Food Service Ware –

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach08/HermosaBeach0864.html#8.64>

Title 9 – Public Peace Morals and Welfare

9.28 Parties, Events and Gatherings on Private Property

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach09/HermosaBeach0928.html#9.28>

Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic

10.28 Loading and Unloading

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach10/HermosaBeach1028.html#10.28>

10.32 Stopping, Standing and Parking

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach10/HermosaBeach1032.html#10.32>

Title 12 Street, Sidewalks and Public Places

12.20 Beach and Strand Regulations

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach12/HermosaBeach1220.html#12.20>

12.24 Municipal Pier

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach12/HermosaBeach1224.html#12.24>

12.28 Parks, Playgrounds and Other Public Areas

<http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/HermosaBeach/#!/HermosaBeach12/HermosaBeach1228.html#12.28>

Enforcement and Fines

The above policy will be strictly enforced by Community Resources Department Staff, Code Enforcement Officers and the Police Department. Events, either permitted or unpermitted, found to be violating the City's rules or failing to comply with any of the requirements of the Hermosa Beach Municipal Code will be shut down and may be subject to penalties or fines.

Special events, and any of its participants, vendors, or spectators, found to have caused damage or be in violation of any City rules may be subject to greater deposits, regulation, or restrictions when submitting special events applications in the future.