Intangible Barriers to the California Coast

Maya Yamato
Who is a California surfer to you?
Meet 3 time Paralympic gold medalist and adaptive surfer Alana Nicols
Types of Barriers to Coastal Access

- Physical
- Logistical
- Financial
- Cultural
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- Physical
- Logistical
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- Cultural
Logistical / financial barriers

- Distance to the coast
- Public transportation
- Traffic
- Parking
- Gas prices
- Accommodations
- Equipment, lessons
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Cultural barriers: Who is a “surfer”?
Cultural barriers: Societal standards of beauty
Cultural barriers: Who belongs at the beach?
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Cultural barriers: Localism
Cultural barriers: Harassment
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All disproportionately exclude:
- Low income communities
- People of color - esp. women of color
Brown Girl Surf
Changing surf culture
Indigenous Origins of Surfing

A drawing by Charles Victor Crosnier De Varigny during his travels through the Hawaiian islands in 1855. From El Mundo En La Mano, published in 1878. | Universal History Archive/UIG via Getty Images