

Billboard

Surfdog Compilation Makes Waves In Movement To Clean Up Beaches

BY CARRIE BORZILLO

LOS ANGELES—Pearl Jam, the Ramones, and the Beastie Boys are some of the rock heavyweights lending a musical hand to "MOM," a surf music compilation benefiting the Surfrider Foundation, due July 2 on Surfdog Records/Interscope.

The album features new recordings of surf songs, both originals and covers, from environmentally conscious artists, many of whom are surfers themselves.

Some of the album's highlights in-



clude Pearl Jam's cover of the Silly Surfers' obscure "Gremmie Out Of Control," a newly recorded version of the Ramones' cover of the Rivas' "California Sun," Gary Hoey with professional surfer Donavon Frankenreiter doing the Surfaris' "Wipe Out," Pennywise's rendition of the Beach Boys' "Surfin' U.S.A.," Silverchair's interpretation of the Trashmen's "Surfin' Bird," and Helmet's cover of Bjork's "Army Of Me."

The album also includes new surf-related songs from Porno For Pyros, Brian Setzer Orchestra, Sprung
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Monkey, Reverend Horton Heat, Everclear, Seven Mary Three, Pato Banton, Jewel, and Primus. More artists may be added.

"This album was essentially conceived by a bunch of impassioned surfers saddened by the beaches and waters here," says Dave Kaplan, one of the driving forces behind "MOM," owner of Surfdog Records, and manager of Brian Setzer. "I lived in Venice Beach, and it took an hour to go some-

Surfrider Foundation does a lot of great work toward cleaning up the coastlines, and when the opportunity arose to become involved with the organization, I was more than happy to do my part."

Dr. Pierce Flynn, executive director of the 11-year-old San Clemente, Calif.-based Surfrider Foundation, was instrumental in helping Kaplan and a committee of others compile the album.



PEARL JAM



EVERCLEAR

where you can surf, and it's getting progressively worse."

Kaplan says he wanted to make sure that "MOM," which loosely stands for "music for our mother ocean," stood out from other benefit albums by ensuring it was an "honest, soulful record that wasn't just slapped together for commercial value."

The participating artists all have ties to the surfing world. Pearl Jam, for instance, has donated money to the Surfrider Foundation in the past, including a \$50,000 donation from its November 1995 San Diego show. Porno For Pyro's Perry Farrell voiced public service announcements for the organization that ran on MTV in 1995.

Setzer says, "I live in Santa Monica [Calif.], and it's very depressing to know that you can't go down to the beach without thinking what a sewer the Santa Monica Bay has become. The

Among the music-industry notables on the Surfrider Foundation board of directors are Kaplan, Farrell, Eddie Vedder, MTV Beach House executive producer Michael Bloom, Midnight Oil's Peter Garrett, Chris Isaak, members of Seven Mary Three, and the Beach Boys' Bruce Johnston.

At press time, Interscope was still mapping out its marketing and promotion plans for the album. "We passionately believe in this cause and look forward to supporting this project," says Steve Berman, head of marketing and sales at the label.

John Artale, purchasing manager of the 143-store National Record Mart chain based in Carnegie, Pa., hasn't heard the album yet but says, "It sounds like it could be lot of fun. It lends itself to nice summer promotion, and there's still a lot of interest in surf music."