

AVILA VALLEY ADVISORY COUNCIL (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo County, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

August 12, 2019

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by Chair, Jim Hartig for regular meeting at 7:00pm, at the PG&E Energy Education Center.

Roll Call (present): Mary Matakovich, Lisa Newton, Anne Brown, Julia Hartzell, MaryEl Hansen, Marti Brand (alt), Sherri Danoff, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Martin Suits, Steve Benedict, Saul Goldberg, Lynn Walter (alt), Carol Hayden (alt), Denise Allen, and Kirt Collins. Margaret Greenough, Mike Casola, and Liz Guho-Johnson (alt) were not present. Quorum established.

2. **Approve Minutes:** A motion was made by Danoff and seconded by Benedict to approve the July 8, 2019 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Chair's Comments:** Jim Hartig: Prior to public comments, the Chair reminded the council and the public that the purpose of public comment is to make statements without questions, answers or comments other than that of the person commenting. The Chair asked that everyone respect that process and to limit public comments to three minutes.
4. **Public Comments:** There were four public comments. (1) Katy Surtevant of the Avila Resort commented that the Buddy Guy concert held last Friday was without any traffic or safety issues. She said it was well attended including by some of the locals in the community. Coming event dates for the Resort include August 11, August 31 (Pops Festival returns to Avila!), and September 14 (Octoberfest). Also, the Resort is allowing patrons who will be attending the Aquarium's Fundraiser to park on the 10th fairway from the hours of 5pm till 10pm. (2) Mary Chiu of Friends of Avila Pier announced that the group was meeting on August 13th and 26th to discuss fundraising ideas. Anyone interested in joining in with their good ideas is welcome to attend. The meetings will be held at the Yacht Club. (3) Larry Bittner is concerned about the number of signs proliferating along the Avila Beach Drive and San Luis Bay Drive roads from the freeway to Avila Beach. He counted 30 signs after getting off the freeway and navigating through the two new closely placed stop signs at the 101/San Luis Bay Drive interchange. He mentioned the 2-3 "flooded" signs, the "25 mph sign when children are present" near the charter school, the flashing sign about an expired event, the water conservation sign which requires so much reading that you have to stop your car to read, and many others. He highlighted that the more signs there are, the more diluted the message – so all those signs seem counter-productive as well as an eye assault. He implored Public Works take a look at all the signs in aggregate and decide which ones are the important ones. (4) Rick Cohen offered sad news regarding the former member of AVAC and the first Avila Foundation Director and supporter, Boyd Horne. Boyd passed away on July 28th. He was a long term resident of Bassi Ranch but had moved with his wife to Northern California to be close to family. He will be missed but well remembered.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julia Hartzell: There was one expense (annual PO Box fee of \$56.00) in July 2019. The checking balance is now \$1,695.63.

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

- a) **Sheriff** – Commander Justin Nelson (Senior Deputy Slaughter filling in): During the month of July there were 189 calls for service and 21 reports in the Avila area. There were three calls for domestic violence issues, fourteen calls for disturbance of the peace, four calls for burglary (vehicles), and seven calls for thefts (three from vehicles and one for plants in front of a business).
- b) **Highway Patrol** – Captain Michael Bueno/Sgt. Heiderbrink: Sgt Heiderbrink provided the July statistics; three property damage only collisions and of those, two were DUI's. There were also two non-DUI arrests.
- c) **CAL Fire** - Batt. Chief Paul Lee: There were 64 calls for service of which 37 were medical related. Fortunately this time of year the non-drought situation is resulting in high soil and live foliage humidity. The governor also approved 4 firefighters in the stations every day. The new C130 plane is available and will allow more fire retardant to be spread than in the older airplanes. The department has been very busy with vegetation management. Fifty thousand dollars has been spent at the Pismo Preserve, also fifty thousand dollars has been spent clearing a fire escape route for Heron Crest. There are two more grants for the SLBE totaling \$330K and the Chief expects to do a lot more work in SLBE in the coming months. Also, they are working in Baron Canyon and Monte Road to clear vegetation. Regarding power outages, Chief Lee recommends if you have critical medical needs that you have two solid plans to withstand that outage, which could be lengthy. Some of the critical needs could be cooling, at-home dialysis and oxygen production. Ken Thompson asked what level of medical help an EMT could provide. Chief Lee replied that paramedics provide the most range of medical response but EMT's could provide first aid and immediate lifesaving techniques. Anne Brown mentioned that some fire insurance companies are not renewing policies. Chief Lee said that he had notices a rash of these incidents and recommended that if you are in that situation to call the insurance company and discuss the situation and what they can offer. Sometimes it is just a misunderstanding. Chief Lee reminded everyone to always have a go-bag in the house and in the car. Karly Bittner commended Chief Lee on his work to make our neighborhood safer from fire danger.
- d) **Planning** - Sara Sanders: There was no County Planning liaison present. With Sara leaving the Planning department, there still has been no successor named.
- e) **Public Works** - Dave Flynn: Public Works has been doing trimming along roads in Avila. The willow trees will remain until after bird nesting season. Saul Goldberg again brought up the signal for all pedestrian walk at the corner of First Street and Avila Bay Drive where the Bob Jones trail ends, should turn green also for the bicycles diagonal cross at that intersection. Dave mentioned that he sent a signal expert out to check last month already but that he would follow up again. Anne asked if the bicycle business on First Street had an encroachment permit to display its bikes on the street. The answer is that they do not and for those who notice this infraction, they can call the CHP to enforce. Julia asked about the advertisement for this same bicycle business at the corner of See Canyon and San Luis Bay Drive. Dave will check it out – there should be no signs in the right of way. MaryEl said that she appreciated the new stop signs and that they are working very well. Everyone is driving in a manner of civility she hadn't seen before. Kirt asked about removal of vegetation from Monte Road and Dave answered that it had begun on the West side of the road and will continue until it is done. Also apparently there are bolts sticking out of the deck on the wooden bridge at Squire Canyon which Public Works is aware and will be addressing. Larry

Bittner asked if he could get a ride-along opportunity to review the signage along the roads to Avila. Dave will provide him the contact name and number for this opportunity. Larry also asked about the nature of the message signs – are they permanent and by the way they have information about an event in the past. Dave said that the signs are a trial for the summer and in the future he wants to get smarter signs that people can change the message from their desk using better technology. The signs were paid for out of the Diablo Canyon Steam Generator funds.

- f) **County Parks** - Nick Franco: The Cave Landing proposal is undergoing design of the storm water control plan with the contractor. This is expected to be ready in the next few weeks. Nick hopes that the plan will be something that all parties will accept and be satisfied with. The interpretive panels that are in bad shape and mentioned last month will be replaced by the rangers in the Fall.
- g) **Port San Luis** - Andrea Lueker:
1. Harbor Terrace Project – Red Tail Acquisitions is in the process of submitting their second set of responses to the County’s comments for their grading permit. The documents also need to go to the California Department of Housing and Development, which hopefully can be somewhat concurrent.
 2. Avila Pier – Moffat and Nichol, who are doing the next phase of evaluating the Avila Pier, are in town today and hoping to dive on Avila Pier beginning tomorrow to begin their assessment of the condition as well as doing an above water inspection (stringers, caps, decking).
 3. Safety Reminder – Please use lifejackets when using kayaks, stand up paddle boards, or boats. For example a sailboat capsized when the wind came up fast and strong. The sailors were not wearing lifejackets but fortunately were able to survive.
 4. The sea trains temporarily located in the parking lot downtown will remain in place until grading and below ground work is complete at Harbor Terrace. This could take 4-5 months once the grading permit is received. There is no forecast on when the grading permit will be received.
- h) **County Supervisor** - Adam Hill: Adam and Jim met last week where Adam had explained that there was no funding for the Community Plan update. However, good news: they found the funding! So the \$347K for the consultant is available and now there just needs to be a project manager named. Adam talked to the planning director today to ask about the project manager but that name is still to be determined. The Avila Resort application for events will be submitted back through the tax collector’s office and will be heard at the Board of Supervisors meeting. The permit issue regarding events at the Avila Beach Resort has been handled by County Counsel’s office and the Tax Collector Treasurer Assessor’s Office. Adam clarified that he has not been involved so as to avoid any inference of interference from the Supervisor’s office. The application will be submitted through the County Counsel and referred to AVAC as soon as next month. On another topic, Adam had the opportunity to ride along with the gang task force. They rode by Pirates’ Cove, the beach and parking lots, and the promenade. The gang task force is very skilled and knows what to look for and does daily sweeps to keep gang issues at bay. Sherri Danoff asked if Adam could ask the Board of Supervisors to approve the contract with the consultant for the Community Plan

Update ahead of naming the project manager. Adam said he would look into that and probably it would be just a matter of consent.

7. **Old Business:** None.

8. **New Business:** Avila Circulation Study Update (Todd Tergenza from GHD):

A copy of the presentation is available on the County Public Works Website as well as the AVAC website. The permanently installed count station on Avila Beach Drive has provided a more granular and accurate characterization of travel for the ingress and egress to Avila Beach. Instead of a “second week in May” baseline, this permanent count station has collected data to best describe and provide a basis for new Level of Service impact fees. The new measurement that is proposed is the 100th highest hour (K100) of all the data collected. Some interesting results include that summer time is more of an impact than special events. This would imply that if events could be moved to off-summer high beach traffic times, the overall impact to Avila congestion would be improved. Also interesting is that concerts increase traffic by 28% and festivals increase traffic by 15%. The study has come up with some common-sense ideas for traffic improvement; including the price of parking in the event tickets, providing enhanced bus service, having a secondary access to golf course special event parking, move larger events to off-summer times or after 4:00pm where the number of beach goers declines, using remotely changeable signs to manage parking capacity, shuttle bus service, parking structure, interchange improvements, signal installation, and road widening. There will be further discussion with the AVAC Land Use Committee before taking the study to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The goal is to do this in the fall of 2019 (this year). There will be a draft negative declaration on the Public Works website for comment starting next week. The bottom line is that the impact fees for residential, retail, and “other” have been almost tripled from the last study.

There were many questions from the public. Jim Hartig asked about the timetable. The next step is that Public Works will discuss with the Land Use Committee their comments. Then they will take it to the Board of Supervisors. Anne Brown asked what the residential standard was. Dave Flynn answered that it was single family dwelling – no matter what size. Impact fees for multi-family dwellings are reduced to about 2/3 of the fees. Martin Suits asked if the single family residence includes vacation rentals. The answer is that the impact fee makes no distinction between vacation rentals and non-vacation rentals. Martin then asked about access to the data for the circulation study. Dave replied that the data can be found in the 300+ page appendices of the report which is located on the Public Works website. Martin then asked if impact fees would be applied to events. The answer was no. Lisa Newton liked the idea of widening the Avila Beach Road; this would allow better access for emergencies. Then Lisa asked about future buildouts such as the Chevron property development. Dave answer was that each project proposed would stand alone with their project specific proposal and be assessed in accordance with the Circulation Study in effect. Also, Dave stated that the parking survey from the community revealed that there was no “energy” around increasing the number of parking spaces or implementing one-way streets. Steve Benedict asked about the planned resort units and whether they would be assessed impact fees per number of trips created by the new units. Dave responded that the County is working with the Resort on their application and the board can always act on specifics of the project only. Bob Pusanik asked how the county could assess impact fees without requiring permits for events at the Resort. Larry Bittner added that the full build out model of 100 new units would greatly impact the traffic/number of trips. Dave answered that impact fees are proposed for what is currently measured and known by

current applications. So any new applications will be assessed per the Circulation Study in place at the time of the application.

9. Community Liaisons:

- a) **Avila Beach Civic Association** – Anne Brown: Anne again touted the upcoming August 24th Civic Association Birthday bash. The party will begin at the Yacht Club and last from 3:30 to 7:00 pm. Buy your tickets now!
- b) **Avila Beach Foundation** - Rick Cohen: Rick reminded us that it is grant application time. The applications are due September 16th and the application form can be easily downloaded from the Foundation's website. Rick again sincerely offered his personal help for anyone needing advice on how to fill out the application. On another topic, Rick advised that the Community Survey data is now available for anyone to review on the Foundation's website.
- c) **PG&E/Diablo Canyon** – Eric Daniels (Tom Jones in for Eric): The Planning Commission hearing regarding the improvement of the North Access Road from Diablo Canyon will be held on September 27th. He noted that the public should be interested that this road is in the County's Emergency Planning for use in public evacuations should the need arise. On another topic, there is a pending Conservation Easement for 1200 acres on the PG&E property south of Diablo Canyon near the San Luis Harbor and lighthouse. This will preserve this land and keep it free from development. There are some Chumash sacred antiquities there and they will be arranging for safe transfer and preservation. The Diablo Canyon Plant will have another refueling outage starting at the end of September and will be longer in length due to capital improvements being made. There were two public participation meetings with the CPUC on August 7th and 8th related to decommissioning. On September 23rd through the 27th PG&E will be going before the Administrative Law Judge to hear a determination on the requested decommissioning funding. Also, there will be another Engagement Panel meeting on October 17th relating to the economic impacts of Diablo Canyon ceasing operation and decommissioning. Tom was asked questions about the expected duration of transportation (trucks) hauling away decommissioned material. Tom answered that he expected it to last 14 years from the start of decommissioning. They intend to begin the decommissioning efforts immediately after shutting down the plant. They are looking at barging some of the material to save the travel on the roads through Avila. Another question was on the use of the North Access Road to remove materials. Tom explained that routing trucks routinely through the North Access Road would add 15-20 miles per trip which is environmentally insensitive. Also, the road is not supportive of the constant heavy transport nor is the route through Montana de Oro adequate due to public recreation and windiness.

10. AVAC Committees:

- a. **Land Use** - Sherri Danoff: The Land Use Committee met with Public Works on June 24th to discuss the Avila Circulation Study. Since then, the LUC has generated many comments and will discuss those detailed comments in a future meeting with Public Works towards the end of August.
- b. **Diablo** - Ken Thompson: The NRC is coming to town on August 27th and will hold a public meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chambers. The main topic will be decommissioning policies and Supervisor Hill and US Representative Carbajal will be present to make statements to the NRC. Ken will email AVAC with the details in about two days.

- c. **Port** – Mary Matakovich: Nothing to add.
- d. **Avila Beach** - Anne Brown: Nothing to report.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates** - Jim Hartig: Nothing to report.
- f. **Avila Valley**: - Julia Hartzell: Nothing to report.
- g. **See Canyon** - Denise Allen: Apple season is soon here and she brought a basket full of organic nectarines to share. .
- h. **Squire Canyon** – Kirt Collins: The Squire Canyon committee reviewed and “Mazzone Project” application. This is a fairly simple lot split from 16.73 acres into two lots. The proposed lot split falls within the allowable dictates of their rural residential zoning. Kirt made a motion that we prepare and send a simple letter from AVAC to County Planning stating that we have “no comment” on the proposal. Danoff seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- i. **Ad Hoc Committees** - Jim Hartig: No meetings in the last month, nothing to report.

11. **Next meeting date**: Monday, September 9, 2019

12. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Lynn Walter
Secretary