

## Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, California

P.O. Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

**February 14, 2022**

[www.avac-avila.org](http://www.avac-avila.org)

1. **Call to Order:** by the Chair, Steve Benedict, for regular meeting at 7:02 PM, via Zoom

Roll call (present): Steve Benedict, Curtis Cole, Kirt Collins, Bill Crewe, Sherri Danoff, Julia Hartzell, Mary El Hansen, Jim Hartig, John Janowicz, Mary Matakovich, Ken Thompson, Carol Hayden. A quorum was established.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made and seconded (Danoff/Collins) to approve the AVAC January 10, 2022, meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

3. **Chair's Comments:** Steve Benedict thanked the Council members for attending the meeting on Valentine's Day, as the meetings are scheduled the second Monday of each month.

4. **Public Comment:**

- A. Betty Hartig wrote a statement of thanks to the Public Works Department for the improvements made on the Bob Jones Trail.
- B. Jim Miers posed a development moratorium question for Supervisor Ortiz-Legg to be addressed during her report.
- C. Bill Wesnousky shared that he has a project proposal for Chevron's Avila Point, and he plans to formally present it, though he has been advised that the developer has already been selected.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** No report

6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**

- A. **Sheriff:** Sargent Hank Abbas reported that there were 121 calls for service. Nine of which were prevention stops. He answered questions about mailboxes being emptied. Staff is providing services as necessary. He was complimented on the supervision of Cave Landing. There will be supplemental patrols assigned to the upcoming concerts.
- B. **Highway Patrol:** Lt. Jason Grimm reported that there were two incidents: one on Avila Beach Drive and one at Harford Pier.
- C. **Cal Fire:** Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports  
45 calls for service. 22 medically- related.  
Prevention activities are scheduled for: Fern Canyon, Squire Canyon, San Luis Bay Estates. See Canyon is developing a proposal to push-back the bush and they have engaged the whole canyon in the process.  
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) from Cal Poly has chosen the Avila Valley and Pismo Beach this year. Dr. Dicus' class has been working hard on this project the past seven weeks. On Feb. 28 from noon to 3PM three groups will present their CWPP'S. Invitations are extended to the community, limited seating. Arrive at 11:45 to be briefed on the ground rules. At the end of each presentation there will be a brief question/answer session. Please contact Chief Lee, 805-773-7031, if you would like to attend.

**D. Planning:** Nicole Ellis / Susan Strachan report:

**a. Written planning updates**

The February 2022 project list has been updated to reflect project status updated for: #4 (Avila Beach Dreams, LLC.), 6 (Diablo Canyon Decommissioning), 13 (Cool Properties), and 17 (ABR Properties).

b. County Planning Department memo highlighted two questions with answers. This is a living document which will be enhanced over time.

c. Ani Garibyan was introduced by Airlin Singewald as a new member to the Avila Community Plan Team.

d. Susan Strachen addressed the progress of the County's work with PG&E document for decommissioning. This includes the work on the EIR and the impact statement. They are on-schedule with this process.

**E. Public Works: No report**

**F. County Parks: No report**

**G. Port San Luis: Suzy Watkins reports**

She comes to the Port from the Ventura/ Channel Islands District. She joined the Port staff on February 1, 2022 and has focused on the facilities, operations, and staff.

Projects in-progress are Trailer Boat Hoist, the Breakwater Repair working with the Army Corps of Engineers, and the repair plan for Avila Pier. The Avila Pier Committee will be meeting on Wednesday at 1pm to discuss the plan. She encouraged the Council to go to the Port's website Zoom instructions.

**G. County Supervisor: Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg gave a presentation on the Unhoused Issue, Board of Supervisors' Hearing 2/15/22 – Presentation on Diablo Canyon Decommissioning, Fee Waiver for PSLHD for short-term Laydown Yard, and Limited order for "Charter" County on November ballot. Planner Nicole Ellis presented an "active" document entitled "Regulations for Land Use Applications – The Quick User Guide." She presented an Overview of the Layers of Plans with the Levels of Applications (i.e., application, overview, purpose, purview/confines, and Links to Resources). This document will be made available to the community. Staff was complimented for their work. On other topic, Dawn reported that a Moratorium only prevents for a while. The problem is now and will continue. Issues noted: Evacuation Plan, Wildfire Preparedness, Santa Lucia winds, Climate Change, Secondary Access Road, Reducing the fuel load – all are ongoing challenges. Thus, merging with the Avila Fire Focus Group, the County can begin a dialogue and collaborate over solutions like funding, identifying obstacles, establishing a Safe Harbor. Findings must be established. Dawn addressed the "what's your vote question: yes, or no?" by saying how important it is to not have a bias created in advance of a decision and that evidence of "pre-judgment" demonstrates a prejudice. That's why all the facts need to be gathered, discussed, analyzed, evaluated and then, a decision can be made, not before.**

**7. Old Business:**

2022 Meeting Dates were confirmed.

8. **New Business:**

None

9. **Community Liaisons:**

- A. **Avila Beach Civic Association:** Mary Matakovich reports that the center is open and available for reservations following the Covid guidelines. No events are scheduled at this time.
- B. **Avila Beach Foundation:** Rick Cohen reports  
The Foundation awards grants to local organizations each year in November. This year it is launching a local Community Impact Challenge and have allocated \$5,000 from the discretionary funds account for a one-time grant through a competitive process. Eligible non-profit organizations, public agencies, businesses, and individuals wishing to conduct a project, program, service, or event to benefit the greater Avila Beach area are welcome to apply. The deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Interested parties should request an application by sending an email request to [avilafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:avilafoundation@gmail.com).
- C. **PG&E / Diablo Canyon:** Eric Daniels reports  
Unit 1 and 2 are operating at 100% capacity. There will be a refueling outage during March and April. Tom Jones stated that the license renewal of the dry cast storage will be filed on March 22, as it is to be submitted two years in advance which will include the Public Comment period. It will take four years to realize a “dry” dry cast, with regulatory review. Eric indicated that the Independent Safety Committee will be meeting this week. Eric mentioned that with the mask-lifting directive, the Center will be available for AVAC Meetings. (Later in the meeting, this was discussed, and the Chair will decide as to whether and when the Council will move to in-person meetings.)

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- A. **Land Use:** Sherri Danoff reports  
The committee will meet Friday to review the Avila Barn proposal. She requested that an Avila Valley Rep attend the meeting. Also, concerning SLOCOGS’ circulation planning responsibilities that there be an EIR evaluation of trial weekend bus service from SLO: Motion was made and seconded (Danoff/Thompson) to recommend to SLOCOG that the EIR it is preparing contain evaluation of the trial weekend bus service. Motion carried.
- B. **Diablo Canyon:** Ken Thompson reports  
The Independent Safety Committee will hold its public meetings on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Ken has distributed the agenda along with a Zoom invite so members can watch the meeting via zoom. Also, the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel has openings. A discussion ensued about the expectations and members were encouraged to think about it as Avila Beach needs to be represented. Applications are due March 8.
- C. **Port:** Mary Matakovich reports  
The Commission welcomes Suzy Watkins.
- D. **Avila Beach:** Mary Matakovich reports  
The Avila Committee asked that the 2/4/22 memo submitted to the Council regarding the implementation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Community of Avila Beach be sent to County Planning. The memo addressed water, parking, building requirements,

vacation rentals. Motion was made and seconded (Danoff/Collins) to send the memo to County Planning. Motion carried.

- E. **San Luis Bay Estates:** Curtis Cole reports  
How important it is to plan well. He complimented Dawn on her presentation.
  
- F. **Avila Valley:** Julia Hartzell reports  
No report
  
- G. **See Canyon:** Denise Allen reports  
No report
  
- H. **Squire Canyon:** Kirt Collins reports  
He appreciates PG&E offer to have the Council meet at the Center.
  
- I. **Ad Hoc APU (Avila Plan Update):** Jim Hartig reports  
The Committee met with County Staff and has agreed to meet regularly with Staff to provide feedback as the Plan develops.

11. **Next Meeting Date:** March 14, 2022, 7:00 PM

12. **Adjourn:** 8:52 PM