

## Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date June 13, 2022

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

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Steve Benedict, for regular meeting at 18:00 hrs., via Zoom  
Role call (present): Denise Allen, Mary El Hansen, Mary Matakovich, Julia Hartzell, Sherri Danoff, Ken Thompson, Curtis Cole, Steve Benedict, Michael Clayton, Kirt Collins, Jim Hartig, John Janowicz.  
Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made and seconded to approve the May 9, 2022; meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**  
No report
4. **Public Comment:**
  - A. Katie Sturtevant reported on ABR events in May and noted that no concert events are planned for June. There will be a mac-and-cheese event in June.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Denise Allen reports.  
Balance of Checking Account: \$ 2,055.40  
Expenses: \$ 14.99 Zoom
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
  - A. **Sheriff:** Sergeant Hank Abba No report
  - B. **Highway Patrol:** Lieutenant Len Grimm reports.  
4 significant incidents to report. May 8 vehicle collision with a light pole. May 26 and 29 DUI citations. May 29 DUI non-injury collision involving three vehicles.
  - C. **Cal Fire:** Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports
    - a. 53 calls for service, 29 medical related.
    - b. significant event at Pirates Cove involving a fall from the cliff, resulting in a fatality, others rescued by Port San Luis boat.
    - c. Peak fire season is upon us, caution advised
    - d. Prevention burn planned behind Pismo Beach
  - D. **Planning:** Nicole Ellis reports: Please refer to distributed and AVAC posted written report which includes a Planning historical update on Avila Beach Resort events.
    - a. The following projects have been updated:

- C-DRC2021-00010 (item 1 on the Active/In Process list)- appended Project Updates to reflect “5/18/22 Application deemed Accepted for Processing.”
  - C-DRC2021-00029 (was previously converted to new case C-SUB2022-00001 on the May spreadsheet)- (item 4 on the Active/In Process list)- appended Project Updates to reflect “Application materials resubmitted 4/7/22 in response to information hold letter. Resubmittal was partially/conceptually reviewed (outstanding fees and parking in-lieu and parking waiver request needed to be addressed). Application resubmitted 5/23/22 addressing all information hold items and outstanding fees were paid. Deemed Accepted for Processing 5/26/22.”
  - DRC2021-00126 & AMEND2022-00002 (item 7 on the Active/In Process list)- appended Project Updates to reflect “Project was scheduled for consideration at the continued Planning Commission hearing of May 26, 2022, for the revised/reduced scope of work. During May 26, 2022, hearing, all items on the agenda were continued to June 9, 2022, due to notice of a minor COVID outbreak in the Department.”
  - DRC2020-00212 ((item 11 on the Active/In Process list)- appended Project Updates to reflect “6/3/22 Application deemed Accepted for Processing.”
- b. Susan Strachan reports plans for clean-up of sand and debris at Avila Beach Public Park.

**E. Public Works:** John Waddell reports

- On June 7, the Board of Supervisors approved an update to the Traffic Regulations Code to reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH on Avila Beach Drive from First Street to Port San Luis. We have already posted the new speed limit signs.
- In anticipation of increased traffic during the summer, Public Works made improvements to the traffic signal timing at Avila Beach Drive and San Luis Bay Drive in order to reduce congestion at this intersection, especially at the end of the day as visitors are leaving.
- In response to concerns about accessible access to the Community Center along San Miguel Street, Public Works is planning to install an asphalt curb and path in front of the vacant lot between the Community Center and the La Fonda hotel. This will allow pedestrians, and those in wheelchairs, to travel the Community Center without being required to venture into the roadway. Parallel parking along this segment will be allowed.

**F. County Parks:** Nick Franco / Shaun Cooper No report

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

- New Business manager starts employment this month.
- Four new maintenance workers hired, two to support pier project.
- Avila Pier Project funding received.
- Storage area for Avila Pier Project to be located in the Avila parking lot. Discussions as to other/additional storage locations were voiced.

**H. County Supervisor:** Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg reports

- Traffic speed has been reduced on Avila Beach Drive to 35 mph.
- Planning for safety continues
- Budget passed, allowing new hires to the third district.
- Redistricting map vote coming up in mid-July

- I. **County Office of Emergency Services:** Scott Jalbert reports
  - Avila evacuation process is available for presentation
  - Emergency exit via Diablo Canyon Power Plant has been established in case where SLBD and ABRs are blocked.
  - Ken Thompson voiced concern as to evacuation times and impact of decommissioning traffic, with travel, trucking, and timetables.

7. **Old Business:** No report

8. **New Business:** No report

9. **Community Liaisons:**

A. **Avila Beach Civic Association:** Mary Matakovich reports

- Mary reminded AVAC and community members of the upcoming pancake breakfast on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. followed by a doggie parade at 11:00 a.m.
- A boat parade will be presented in the harbor.
- For registration and more information visit [www.avilabeachcc.com](http://www.avilabeachcc.com).

B. **Avila Beach Foundation:** Rick Cohen reports

1. The Foundation is returning to its usual competitive grant-making process this year, and proposals from eligible agencies/organizations will be accepted between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup> for programs, projects, or events to take place in 2023. Grant applications in Word format can be acquired by logging onto our website – [www.avilabeachfoundation.org](http://www.avilabeachfoundation.org). or you can email Rick Cohen at [avilafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:avilafoundation@gmail.com) .
2. You may recall the “Foundation’s” recent Community Impact Fund Initiative, whereby we were seeking proposals for projects that could greatly impact Avila Beach. Rick is delighted to report that the *I Must be a Mermaid Project* was chosen for its creative approach to a growing problem. Local artist Patricia Martin developed the project to promote public awareness of our beach and the ocean through a community participation art installation that showcases the volume of plastic children’s toys left behind on our beach each week. Having started the week before Memorial Day and ending the week of Labor Day, selected groups and individuals are invited to create a mermaid purse inspired by swell-shark egg sacks. This project showcases material ecology and everything that can be re-used in another way. If you would like to participate, stop by the Friday night Avila Farmers’ Market. You can also view the project display on the fence along San Francisco Street in Avila Beach. Our thanks again to the *Rossi Foundation* for generously making this project possible.
3. Mr. Cohen publicly thanks Chevron and PG&E, both of whom recently awarded grants to the “Foundation” to help cover the costs of our *PathPoint* summer beach area clean-up project. They join SLO County District 3 Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, who previously contributed to the project. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning through October 4<sup>th</sup>, a crew from *PathPoint* will be working to remove sand and debris from designated sidewalks, gutters, and planters along the beach front, making the areas safer and cleaner. The concentration is on areas not maintained

by the County or Harbor District. The amount of sand and hazardous debris transferred from those departing the beach is immense and builds up as the prevailing winds blow.

**C. PG&E / Diablo Canyon:** Eric Daniels reports

- Both reactors are running at 100%.
- PG&E has completed the pre-license renewal application inspections of the dry cask storage system. The results concluded that the system is in overall good condition, no cracks were identified, and there are no challenges to safety or intended functions prior to the next inspection to be implemented by an aging management plan. PG&E will be providing an overview for the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC) at some point soon. After that, we would be happy to offer AVAC a presentation that includes some of the video from the inspection. In addition, please know the video will also be posted to our website so the greater public will also have an opportunity to view it there. I will work with you at the appropriate time to schedule a presentation at AVAC.
- DCISC will have a presentation at Avila Lighthouse Suites on June 22 and 23.
- A letter to AVAC members from the DCDEP was sent June 2, 2022, concerning an Ex-Officio Member from AVAC:  
“Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2022, asking the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel (DCDEP) to consider adding an Ex-Officio member from AVAC to the DCDEP. The DCDEP did not reach consensus regarding adding an Ex-Officio member from AVAC; therefore, there is no change that will occur at this time. The DCDEP recognizes the importance of keeping the Avila Beach community informed about the on-going decommissioning efforts underway at Diablo Canyon Power Plant. DCDEP member Dr. Timothy Auran, who is a resident of Squire Canyon, has agreed to act as a liaison between AVAC and the DCDEP this coming year. The DCDEP and PG&E evaluate the addition of ex officio positions annually as part of their new Panel member selection process. We encourage members of AVAC and the community of Avila Beach to apply for membership on the DCDEP in future recruitments. We have been informed that PG&E routinely briefs AVAC about decommissioning activities and PG&E receives feedback directly from you organization. We look forward to continuing to coordinate with AVAC and bring the Avila community’s concerns regarding decommissioning to PG&E and regulatory agencies.”

**10. AVAC Committees:**

**A. Land Use:** Sherri Danoff reports

- A one-page letter was presented to AVAC addressing commendable Avila Pier Rehabilitation Project items and remaining concerns. Major concerns involve minimizing lost parking spaces in the Avila Beach Parking Lot, with alternative storage areas on county areas were proposed.
- Reducing disturbance to residents and beach goers by limiting times of transportation of materials to the pier project were mentioned.
- A motion to approve the letter was voted and passed unanimously to send this Avila Pier Rehabilitation Project letter.

**B. Diablo Canyon:** Ken Thompson reports

- DCIS presentation will take place at the Avila Lighthouse Suits on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- DCDEP providing a video on the Diablo Canyon website.

**C. Port:** Mary Matakovich No further report.

**D. Avila Beach:** Mary Matakovich reports

- Several projects on information hold.
- Gardner project will come back with revisions.

**E. San Luis Bay Estates:** Curtis Cole No report

**F. Avila Valley:** Julia Hartzell No report

**G. Sea Canyon:** Denise Allen reports

- Thanks to the Sheriff's Department for watching mail boxes
- Praised DC and PG&E for excellent explanations of regional power outages

**H. Squire Canyon:** Kirt Collins reports

- Thanks to PG&E quick and professional response to tree trimming.

**I. Ad Hoc APU (Avila Plan update):** Jim Hartig reports

- The Committee met with County Planning staff to review drafted coastal standards and another meeting is scheduled to review drafted inland standards.

**11. Next Meeting Date:**

- July 11, 2022, at 6:00 PM

**12. Adjourn:**

- 7:04 PM