

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date 07/10/2023

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Steve Benedict, for regular meeting at 6:02 pm, via Zoom.
Roll call (present): Mary Matakovich, John Janowicz, Judy Kaatz, Julia Hartzell, Mary El Hansen, Jim Hartig, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Bob Pusanik, Denise Allen, Kirt Collins, and Michael Clayton.
Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A motion was made by Mary Matakovich and seconded by Jim Hartig to approve minutes of the June 12, 2023, AVAC meeting, as presented. The motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
 - The chair presented slides discussing presentation protocols for public oral and written comments during AVAC meetings.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - **Written comments: Kristen McKiernan** read her letter. (Abbreviated here with full copy available through AVAC website).
 - **Concerns for the Avila Barn Project were outlined and requests for further action made regarding:**
 - A permit for 132 events with 200 people.
 - Traffic, noise, safety, and lack of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
 - Oversights on this project including impact on neighboring properties.
 - Studies provided were exclusionary and incomplete.
 - **Requests:**
 - This project be elevated to Planning Commission level. The tentative August 4th Planning Department Hearing be cancelled and removed from Agenda.
 - AVAC reconsider this project to the AVAC body's operating procedures. That AVAC re-agendaize this project including materials not previously available to its subcommittee.
 - **Written Comments: Kristina Spearman** read her letter voicing concerns to Nicole Ellis dated July 5, 2023. (Abbreviated here with full copy available through AVAC).
 - Exempt CEQA status for Minor Use Permit Determination and 23.02.035.
 - Project conflicts with surrounding rural and agriculture uses; and its compliance to 23.07.120. Local Coastal Program Area (LPA) and surrounding SRA/ESHA.
 - Analyze the impact of noise.
 - Impact on traffic.
 - Water/Highest Fire Risk/Safety and Security.
 - **Oral comments:**
Katie Sturtevant, representing the Avila Beach Golf Resort stated that events are planned for multiple dates in August operating from 4:00PM to 10:00 PM

5. Treasurer's Report: Denise Allen reports:

- Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,543.66
- Expenses: \$ 15.99 for Zoom.
- Refund of \$ 32.32 from Zoom.

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

A. Sheriff: Sgt. Abbas reports in absentia:

- 37 calls for service in Avila and 14 at Cave Landing in June 2023 compared to 42 and 15 respectively in 2022.

B. Highway Patrol: Captain Greg Klingenberg reports:

- No collisions to report in June.
- Golf carts issues were discussed: License plates requirements. Rules as to proximity from golf facility without license plates discussed. Needs further clarification.
- Kirt Collins asked about issues with Cave Landing over 4th. Went well. No issues.

C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports:

- 40 calls for service 28 were medically related.
- No calls at Cave Landing over fourth of July.
- 3 Calls of note:
 - Squire Canyon vegetation fire of about a quarter acre was quickly extinguished.
 - Call to assist Port San Luis with rescue of a Kayaker with fatality of kayaker.
 - Cliff rescue in Pirates Cove Fall with fatality of individual.
- Peak fire season and all staff, aircraft, dozers available.
- Thousand Hills DNP a few weeks ago went well with 1/3 done. Looking to do more in coming months with notification forthcoming.
- See Canyon fuel reduction project went well with almost 100% participation. It is now tied to Perfume Canyon fuel break and have a safe route in See Canyon to get Cal Fire in or people out.
- Refuge area signs permitting in progress.
- Firesafe Council funds again becoming available and hopeful for additional funds in the next month.
- Vegetation management should be done before 10:00 AM.

D. Planning: Nicole Ellis/Susan Strachan reports:

Update 1: The May 2023 Project Spreadsheet has been updated to reflect project status updates. Where updates were made, the various spreadsheet cells have been highlighted in yellow. The following projects have been updated:

AVILA COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- AMEND2023-00006- (Item 1 on the Active/In Process list)- Revised Project Updates to reflect "Project resubmittal (7-6-23) is currently being reviewed by Planning."
- C-SUB2021-00001 (Item 5 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect "7/5/2023 3 applicants requested to revised project to a 4-lot parcel map with a density bonus which includes using the two existing homes (converting one into duplex and ADU unit) and 3 new home sites."

- C-SUB2022-00001 (previously case # C-DRC2021-00029) Gardner Mixed Use Project- (item 6 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates
To reflect “Project has been appealed APPL2023-00007 which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors.”
- SUB2021-00041/CO 21-001 (Item 7 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “7/5/2023 applicant to submit revised package to process the ADU and then process parcel map after ADU is complete.”
- DRC2021-00041 (Item 8 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Proposed Modification (MOD2023-00030) submitted by applicant and approved, and the appeal was withdrawn. Coastal appeal period in process.”

AVILA VALLEY COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATE

- N-DRC2023-00016 and AMEND2023-00007(item 9 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Authorized Agent Name and Email to “Jeff Bague Pegasus Architecture Business Phone 805-595-1962, Email jbage@pegasus-architecture.com.”

LAND USE COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATE

- DRC2021-00015- Avila Valley Barn (Item 12 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “The County is preparing the item for a future Hearing date. The project was previously tentatively scheduled for August 4, 2023 Planning Department Hearing. The applicant met with surrounding neighbors on June 28th to discuss the proposed project. The County has since received high community interest in this project as well as written comments of opposition from numerous neighbors. Therefore, the County is working with the applicant and agent team and neighbors to review comments received and is considering a potential elevation of the project from the Planning Department Hearing level to a future Planning Commission hearing.”

DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT COMMITTEE PROJECT(S)

- DRC2021-00092 (Item 11 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “NEW: Revised project information provided by PG&E for development of the DCPD Project Draft EIR has been added to CSS (DRC2021-00092). Use the File Index found in the CSS case attachments to identify new content and updated information. More information is available on the County website:
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Grid-Items/Community-Engagement/Active-Planning-Projects/Diablo-Canyon-Nuclear-Power-Plant-Decommissioning.aspx>.
Currently, County staff continue to work with PG&E on both extended operations and decommissioning. The Decommissioning Project Draft Environmental Impact “Report is set for release on July 28, 2023, for public review. Public comments on the document will be received until September 25, 2023. Watch for the Notice of Availability and information regarding access to the draft EIR on the County’s website at the link above.”

SAN LUIS BAY ESTATES COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATE

- No report.

SEE CANYON COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATE

- LRP2021-00005 (Item 19 on the Active/In Process list)- added Authorized Agent Name and Email “Jamie Jones, Jamie@kirk-consulting.net” and revised Project Updates to reflect “MND Comment period ended 7/3/23. Project is scheduled for Planning Commission Hearing 7/27/2023

DIABLO CANYON: Susan Strachan Reports:

- PG&E is pursuing extended operations and decommissioning. Working to complete the Diablo Decommissioning Draft EIR (DCDEIR) will be released at the end of this month on July 28, 2023, followed by a 60-day review period through September 25th. Copies can be found on the County website, at libraries, and at the front desk of the Planning Department.
- Presentation to the Diablo Canyon Engagement Panel in early August and Planning Commission will be holding a study session of the DCDEIR on September 5th at 9:00 AM in Board of Supervisor chambers.
- After a 60-day comment period, PG&E will respond to comments received and developing the final EIR to be issued at beginning of 2024. Once final EIR is issued, PG&E will move into another study session with Planning Commission followed by hearings for certification of decommissioning contract.
- **Questions:**
 - Ken Thompson asked for the agenda item number at tomorrow’s BOS meeting? Item 42 right after lunch. September 5th study session of EIR. One can see on line.

E. Public Works: John Waddell reports:

- No report.

F. County Parks: Shaun Cooper reports:

- Bob Jones pathway counter for pedestrians and bicyclist was installed.
- 15 MPH signs posted at both ends pf the Bob Jones Trail (BJT).
- Working through documents for repairs on BJT from Octagon Barn to Ontario Road. 65% complete and completed appraisals for trail easement acquisitions.
- Got Active Transportation Grant of 18.25 million dollars funding extended for about twenty months allowing time to complete property negotiations. Will start construction work in 2025.
- Cave Landing parking lot improvements to be completed in about 8 weeks. Mild delay due to winter storm erosion changing some of the grades.
- **Questions:**
 - Jim Hartig asked if counter will be available on same website as old counter? Yes.
 - Steve Benedict asked about branches hanging over BJT making difficult to pass. Shaun will notify field staff to investigate.

G. Port San Luis: Suzy Watkins-Harbor Director reports:

- Busy season is upon us. Still catching up on long list of repairs from winter storms, which has placed teams behind in off-season maintenance cycles.
- Contractor for Army Corp of Engineers is back repairing the breakwater project, remaining on site till end of October.

- Avila Pier repair work is progressing well and efficiently. It is a two-year project and half way completed.

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

- **Scott Jalbert: SLOCo OES**

- Presented update on North Access Route for Avila in case of an emergency. In late 1980s and early 90s an informal understanding, but no formal agreement was in place between the County and PG&E for the use of this emergency egress road. This last year a plan was reached and approved by Diablo Canyon and responding agencies including Sheriffs Department, Cal Fire, Parts, Port San Luis Harbor District and OES. The intent of the utilization of this road is if Avila Road id compromised. Then the plan can be activated.
- This road is not considered secondary access, due to the fact that it is not unimpeded. Certain conditions and limitations to use this road must be met such as a Plant emergency, or a refueling operation.
- In case of a Tsunami, using that road is a challenge due to Scooner’s Cove being less than 50 feet.
- Fire considerations, that impact the Plant would cause concern and be assessed.
- Should the road be needed, appropriate watch commanders and emergency personnel would be activated through command to coordinate evacuation.
- Large vehicles such as trucks, large RVs, and fifth-wheel trailers would be parked at the Port and rideshare arrangements made,
- Security for Plant would be heightened and monitored closely with traffic control points. Evacuation centers would also be set up.

- **Questions:**

Jim Hartig: This is emergency access not secondary access? Correct, as not unimpeded. Ken Thompson stated that a previous Estimated Evacuation Times Report for Avila Beach residents which was completed around 2016 appears to be inaccurate. Scott reported that a new estimate was done last year, and Ken will contact Scott to obtain the updated information and review.

Bob Pusanik: Does NRC have any problems with emergency route considering renewing license? This was reviewed and determined that it is fine.

Tom Jones reinforced this and noted that evacuation would not go through protected zone of the plant.

- **Supervisor Ortiz-Legg:**

- Thanks to all agencies for work achieving evacuation plan.
- Looking into asphalt damage to roads from winter storms.
- Signage on BJT and motorized bikes safety concerns.
- Cave Landing holiday closure went well, reducing potential problems.
- BJT homeless population may be voted 13.6 million dollars to house them on Higuera Project. The vote will be made July 11th. 40 temporary and 45 permanent housing units will be constructed thanks to homeless division’s efforts. Infrastructure and staff are achieving results in Grover Beach, Morro Bay and other sites to address homelessness.

- Advisory group recommendations are being formalized. These are not formal and binding decisions; those are only at Planning and BOS. Will be clarified in findings and final recommendations.

Questions:

Mary Matakovich: Clarified that the Avila Community Plan Committee is meeting.

Ken Thompson: Pleased to see in budget review of increase in funds for Sheriff’s Department, but disappointed on only two new officers on limited basis and 10 administrative positions. Ken had hoped for greater presence during summer season for Avila. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will look into it and report back.

Bob Pusanik: Questions on CSA 12? This will be looked into as well and reported.

7. Old Business:

- No Report.

8. New Business:

- No report.

9. Community Liaisons:

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Successful 4th of July pancake breakfast and 137 dogs in the doggie parade.
- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Cohen reports:**
 - Grant applications for 2024 still coming and anyone or organization wishing to apply can get the application on from their website at: ***avilabeachfoundation.org***.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels reports:**
 - Thanked Avila Beach for granting him position of judge at the 4th of July festivities.
 - Following up on Susan Strachan’s report stating that she will be providing a quarterly report to the Supervisors tomorrow. PG&E will not be presenting at the meeting, It is a staff-driven update.
 - The draft report will come out on July 28th and we will be holding the DCPD Decommissioning Engagement Panel meeting on August 9th at 6:00 PM in Supervisor’s chambers. It will be available via Zoom.
 - There will be a delay in the DCEP decision till sometime at the end of this year.
 - PG&E had very successful hiring fair and next refueling date is this fall.
 - Thanks to Scott Elbert for a fine presentation.

10. AVAC Committees:

a. Land Use:

- Need a chairperson for this committee. Interested individuals to contact Steve Benedict directly.
- Mary Matakovich: Addressing Avila Barn proposition. In light of concerns expressed, the project should be reevaluated after full discovery of issues raised. (See written

public comments agenda item 3). Mary feels uncomfortable not having all the details.

- Denise Allen also expressed concerns about not having all information from neighbor input on the project.
- Supervisor Ortiz-Legg was surprised and concerned that this project went through a hearing officer, considering the scope of the project, instead of Planning Commission, allowing everyone to weigh in. This project requires more community input.
- Jim Hartig: Committee reviewed the information before them, and don't have any further information before them at this time. He feels this should go before the Planning Commission, which is open to the public, allowing for concerns to be voiced. (Please refer to distributed letter from Land Use Committee).
- Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will report back about moving project from hearing officer to Planning Commission, after BOS meeting tomorrow.

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

- DCISC returned last month for public meetings in Avila Beach. Items presented by PG&E executives included refueling and maintenance outage in October and run for 55 days and bring in 1000 temporary workers.
- Due to ongoing operations, there will be more NRC inspections.

c. **Port: Mary Matakovich reports:**

- Going through master plan looking at possible changes.
- Suzy talked about breakwater construction.
- Friends of Avila Pier are having fundraiser at Yacht Club on July 20th at 6:00 PM. They raise funds for maintenance of the pier and they have already donated \$250,000 for electrical system on the pier and being currently installed. Pete Kelley will be presenting on Avila Pier History.
- Now electing a Port president by division. Our district is five divisions and rotate the president position each year to insure that each division is represented in that role. Mary is representing district three right now.

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

- No Report.

e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Curtis Cole reports:**

- No report.

f. **Avila Valley: Mary El Hansen reports:**

- Reporting for Avila Valley Subcommittee on 710 Bassi Drive. The report states that after additional research the Avila Valley Subcommittee will be pursuing no additional action for the building permit for 710 Bassi Drive. The initial case # NDRC2023-00013. A new case number AMED 2023-0007, reflecting an amendment.

g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen reports:**

- No report

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

- Thanks to Supervisor Ortiz-Legg for great news about the possible housing situation for the homeless, both temporary and permanent.
- Shout out to Cal Fire for rapid response to a fire in Squire Canyon.

i. **Ad Hoc APU (Avila Plan update: Jim Hartig absent reports:**

- No report this month. Do have a meeting scheduled on Friday and should have a report next month.

11. Next Meeting Date:

- August 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

12. Adjourn:

- 7:30 PM.