

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA
PO Box 65
Avila Beach, CA 93424
Date 08/14/2023
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): Denise Allen, Mary Matakovich, Carol Hayden, Julia Hartzell, Kirt Collins, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Curtis Cole, Margaret Greenough, Bob Pusanik, Jim Hartig, John Janowicz, 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 July 10, 2023, AVAC meeting, as presented. The motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
 - Presented slides defining written and oral comment procedures.
 - Also expressed concern that lessons learned from the Maui fires be evaluated and placed into our disaster evacuation plans.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - **Written comments:**

Letter from Vicki Book: This letter was abbreviated for size and content.
Why weren't the residents of Avila Beach notified of the events occurring in Avila Beach on Saturday, August 5, 2023? I saw the electronic road sign stating that there was an event and to expect delays. I went to the Internet and searched "Events in Avila Beach" (I even went to the Avila Golf Resort website. Expect delays was a gross understatement. Expect standstill would have been more appropriate.
I exited San Luis St. in Avila Beach to a wall of pickup trucks and occasional other vehicles parked in the westbound lane on Avila Dr. as far as my eyes could see in both directions.
When I returned from caring for the horses via San Luis Bay Dr. at approximately 8:45am the cars were still bumper to bumper, but they were moving slowly.
If I had known this event was starting so early, I could have packed for the day and not worried about trying to return to Avila Beach.
This experience made me very much aware that we have ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT.
We need to learn from this experience before something catastrophic happens. Certainly, AVAC should be made aware of planned events in the area so that the community can be advised.
 - **Oral comments:**

Katie Sturtevant, representing the Avila Beach Golf Resort stated dates for September 2nd, SLO Symphony, September 23rd and 24th concert events. weekend.
Percy: Asked that Sheriff and Cal Fire put into plan the insights learned from the Maui event.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Denise Allen reports:

- Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,445.67.
- Expenses: \$ 15.99 for Zoom. \$ 82.00 for P.O. BOX

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

A. Sheriff: Antonio Mara reports for Sgt. Hank Abbas:

- Calls for service 44 in Avila Beach proper. Cave Landing had 8 calls for service. CFS were down from 2022, 39/17 respectively.
- Jennie Brucknick explained to Ken Thompson the lack of new sheriff hiring positions for the field, and large administrative hiring.
- Questions:
 - Kem Thompson asks if venues at the golf resort should be reported to the sheriff's Department prior to the event to mitigate possible traffic concerns. Yes.
 - Percy Jones asks when there is a permitted event, is it required to have an officer present? It is not., however if event size is greater than three thousand participants, then vendor must contact agency and arrange traffic control.

B. Highway Patrol: Captain Greg Klingenberg reports:

- There was one collision during the month of July. It was a minor damage/non-injury collision. There were no other items to report. Questions arose regarding the Avila Beach Golf Resort and associated events that take place there.

C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports:

- On temporary assignment and unavailable - No report.

D. Planning: Nicole Ellis/Susan Strachan reports:

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

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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) has been reviewed and accepted for processing on 7/24/23."
- 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 "The appeal APPL2023-00007 hearing is tentatively scheduled for Board consideration during the September 26, 2023, Board hearing."
- DRC2021-00041 (item 8 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect "Coastal appeal period in process was completed and project is approved."

AVILA VALLEY PROJECT UPDATES

- N-DRC2023-00016 and AMEND2023-00007 (item 9 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect "Applicant has resubmitted revised application materials 7-6-23,

following an in-person meeting with staff on 5/23/23, to discuss the requirements of the Information Hold Letter provided to the applicant on 5/05/23 for the Minor Use Permit and to account for the newly required Amendment case. Planner is awaiting additional application resubmittal materials anticipated to be received by August 4, 2023.”

DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- DRC2021-00092 (item 11 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant was released on July 28, 2023, for a 60-day public review period. Written comments must be received by September 25, 2023. The Draft EIR will be discussed at the Diablo Canyon Engagement Panel (DCEP) meeting scheduled for August 9th. The County Planning Commission will also hold a study session on the Draft EIR on September 5, 2023. Information on the DCEP meeting and Planning Commission study session and access to the Draft EIR can be found at: www.slocounty.ca.gov/DCPPDecom”

LAND USE COMMITTEE PROJECT(S)

- DRC2021-00015- Avila Valley Barn (Item 12 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Update as of 7/21/23: The Director of the Planning and Building Department has agreed to refer/elevate the application from the Planning Department Hearing Officer to the Planning Commission for review and decision to best facilitate, deliberation between the applicant, agent, members of the public and the Commissioners. Please be advised that this project has been removed from the Planning Department Hearing and is not scheduled for an upcoming hearing date at this time. The project status and materials (attachment tab) may be monitored at PermitSLO. The County has been working diligently with Management and County Department staff and the Board of Supervisor’s Office to review public comments received. The County is preparing a Summary Response Letter to address public comments and will respond to AVAC review and recommendation (process and procedure), hearing body consideration and County CEQA analysis.”

SQUIRE CANYON COMMITTEE PROJECT(S)

- LRP2021-00005 (Item 19 on the Active/In Process list)- Revised Project Updates to reflect “Planning Commission recommended approval on 7/27/23 by a vote of 4-0, 1 absent.”

- **Susan Strachan reports:**

- Draft EIR report issued on July 28th and available for 60 days for public review. Multiple access sites available for viewing: Planning and Building web page by Googling San Luis Obispo Planning and Building: hard copy available outside Planning and Building Office: At all SLO County libraries.
- Comments should be in writing and can be emailed to Planning at diablo@co.slo.ca.us.
- A Study Session, before Planning Commission, will be held on September 5th at 9:00 a.m. in the board chambers.
- **Questions:**
 - Ken Thompson asks if zoom set up for Study Session with Planning commission. Yes, can watch virtually. County channel 2.
 - Thanks, expressed to Susan and staff for a job well done on the DEIR.
 - The final EIR report is expected to become finalized in early 2024.

- Denise Allen asked if after presentation if panel received public comments. Yes, 30 minutes of public comment followed by panel questions.

E. Public Works: John Waddell reports in absence:

- Unable to attend. Please let me know if there are any Public Works questions from the meeting that I need to follow up on.

F. County Parks: Tom Cooper reports:

- The speed limit on Bob Jones trail to be decreased from 15 mph to maybe 5 mph.
- The Cave Landing project is working through survey discrepancies with contractor and should be completed September/October.
- Swings at Avila Park parts being replaced.
- Bob Jones trail gap-closure project between Octagon Barn and existing Onterio staging area working through construction documents and negotiating with property owners.

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

- Continuing work backlog, deferred maintenance as well as ongoing routine projects.
- Working through Draft EIR looking for any issues.
- **Questions:**
 - Celia Zarate asks if recycling cans at entry to beach and restrooms. Suzy will check.

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

- **Fire reduction update:** Received \$ 2.8 million grant from Fire Safe Council for fuel reduction in SLO County for 17 urban fire-threat regions.
- **Stonehaven** to have pre-established evacuation zones for all areas of the county. Intent is to improve command coordination messaging for large scale evacuations. Go to: readyslo.org/evaczones to find your evacuation plan.
- **Avila Beach Drive Update:** Contracts bids in by fall with construction to begin in the spring, with completion date 2026.
- **Small Projects:** Sidewalk construction on San Miguel Street for Avila Beach Mail Center to begin next week, with one week timeline.
- **Community Plan:** Vision was set in 2017 to address the future of Avila. Release of the draft was disappointing. It laid out stark reality that time and money were not going to fix the issues and that issues could be addressed in a timely manner. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg suggested that an Issues and Answer Committee, a subcommittee of AVAC members, be formed who would identify and work on issues on interest to community members. This committee would work directly with District 3 office and results would be tracked.
- **5 New Areas Discussed:**
 - Evacuation processes-a continual effort.
 - Special Events-through the Conditional Use Permit process.
 - Vacation rentals-undergoing review in tax collector office
 - Open space designations-working with planning department.
 - Tourism Impacts-Traffic congestion, parking, and Bob Jones Trail bike path.
- Suggested is "Issues & Answers Committee" be established to address local issues.
- Cannabis officers added to Sheriff's Department plus increased fees to offset some costs.

- **Questions:**

- Denise Allen: How do community plans work? Generally needed where communities have undeveloped land, like Nipomo and Los Osos. Avila is built out except for large projects.
- Bob Pusanik: Evacuation plan work appreciated.
- Carol Hayden: New secondary egress roads? No new specific plans.
- Percy Jones: Does Cal Fire and Supervisor's office have siren warnings, as does Diablo Canyon? Yes, sirens are for all hazards. Call the County Sheriff's office on 911 to report.
- Mandy George: We have aircraft nearby for support.

I. Old Business: James Worthley SLOCOG reports:

- Projects currently in Avila area are bike lanes on Avila Beach Drive and San Luis Bay Drive, 101 truck climbing lane, and Bob Jones Trail improvements.
- There is a roadblock to delivering more improvements to the 7 cities. Expecting 40,000 more residents in the coming decades. Funds are chiefly through gas taxes, state, and Federal Funds. Form an RPT (Regional Transportation Plan) to receive state and federal funds. 3.1 billion for transportation through 2035, 1.5 billion just to maintain transportation services in current operating conditions, with 3.9 billion requested or identified, leaving a shortfall of 2.3 billion dollars. The simple fact is that gas tax revenues are declining due to 20% EVs.
- Slides were shown of possible outcomes if taxes and funds are not increased. Please refer to SLOCOG web site for presentation.

J. New Business:

- No report.

K. Community Liaisons:

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**

- No report.

- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Cohen unavailable:**

- No report.

- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Dylan George reports:**

- Release Draft EIR for Diablo Canyon Decommissioning presented by Susan Strachan earlier.
- Looking to hire a tour coordinator and restart tours.
- Ken Thompson asks about relicensing of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). Tom Jones explained that a license renewal reapplication was submitted about 18 months ago, now in review with the NRC.

L. AVAC Committees:

- **Land Use:**

Need a chairperson for this committee. Interested individuals to contact Steve Benedict directly.

- In addressing the Avila Valley Barn Project, the Planning Commission has agreed to encourage more input and comment.

- **Diablo: Ken Thompson reports:**
 - For AVAC to submit comments within the 60 days comment period for the DRAFT EIR which ends on Sept. 25th. I will need to receive your comments by September 5th to have an AVAC document ready for your review and approval at our September 11th AVAC meeting.
 - The complete DRAFT EIR can be found on the Planning Dept Website at – www.slocounty.ca.gov/DCPPDecom
- **Port: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - No report.
- **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - The Avila Committee met with applicant/owner and Authorized Agent about project located at 148 San Luis Street on Tuesday August 2nd. A letter was drafted to the Planning Commission expressing concerns and recommendations for the project. Letter available on AVAC web site for detailed specifics. Ken Thompson moves to approve the letter as written and Mary Matakovich seconds it. The motion passes.
- **San Luis Bay Estates: Curtis Cole reports:**
 - No report.
- **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell reports:**
 - No report.
- **See Canyon: Denise Allen reports:**
 - No report.
- **Squire Canyon: Kirt Collins reports:**
 - No report.
 - Kirt did voice concerns about mobile billboards along roads and suitability for Avila. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will investigate the issue.
- **Ad Hoc APU (Avila Plan update): Jim Hartig absent reports:**
 - The Avila Plan is dead, it will not go forward.
 - Should AVAC establish a new Issues and Concerns Committee or utilize the currently established Committees? Discussions for September AVAC meeting under New Business.

M. Next Meeting Date:

- September 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

N. Adjourn:

- 8:04 PM.