

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date 09/11/2023

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Steve Benedict, for regular meeting at 6:00 pm, via Zoom.
Roll call (present): Denise Allen, Mary El Hansen, Mary Matakovich, Jim Hartig, Lisa Newton, Carol Hayden, Julia Hartzell, Kirt Collins, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Curtis Cole, John Janowicz, Bob Pusanik (alt), Michael Clayton.
Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A motion was made by Carol Hayden and seconded by Curtis Cole to approve minutes of the August 14, 2023, AVAC meeting as presented. The motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
 - No report.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - No reports.
5. **Treasurer's Report: Denise Allen reports:**
 - Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,429.68.
 - Expenses: \$ 15.99 for Zoom.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - A. **Sheriff: Sgt. Abbas absent:**
 - 178 calls for service, 40 in Avila Beach proper. CFS were up moderately from 2022, which showed 164 CFS and 36 in Avila proper respectively.
 - B. **Highway Patrol: Captain Greg Klingenberg reports:**
 - 1 collision in August on San Luis Bay Drive. No injuries reported.
 - Out on traffic control on a weekday basis every afternoon for a thirty-day period. This is to assist Diablo Canyon employees leaving in the afternoons.
 - Questions:
 - Ken Thompson inquires where the traffic enforcement for PG&E employees? At the entrance to Diablo Canyon and at Avila Beach Drive and First Avenue at signal light.
 - C. **Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports:**
 - 56 calls for service 27 were medically related.
 - Two calls of significance: First, a fall from a homemade rope at Pirate's Cove injuring his head. Urban Search and Rescue Team went in and put him on a rescue board where he was

transferred to Harford Pier and Sierra Vista Trauma Center. Hats off to Port San Luis for their assistance.

Second, illegal sky lanterns started a fire at Flying Flags. Sky Lanterns require a permit. The individuals responsible were cited and responsible for cost recovery.

- Fire-Safe Council working group in Avila Valley. Nine projects funded. Hats off to Jim Hartig and his working group. Crew work has started first phase up on Onterio Ridge with phase 2 starting shortly.
- Reminder to create a fire-defensible-space around your home. Also make your home address visible from both directions.

D. Planning: Nicole Ellis/Susan Strachan reports:

The September 2023 Active/In Process 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

- C-SUB2021-00001 (item 5 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “September 2023 Update: County is awaiting resubmittal information from the applicant and the project remains on hold. Planning staff will determine whether re-review is necessary by the Avila Committee (and the corresponding re-review deadline, if applicable) once information is resubmitted by the applicant and reviewed by the County.”
- 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 scheduled for Board consideration during the September 26, 2023, Board hearing.”
- SUB2021-00041/CO 21-001 (item 7 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “September 2023 Update: County is awaiting resubmittal information from the applicant and the project remains on hold. Planning staff will determine whether re-review is necessary by the Avila Committee (and the corresponding re-review deadline, if applicable) once information is resubmitted by the applicant and reviewed by the County.”

AVILA VALLEY PROJECT UPDATES

- N-DRC2023-00016 and AMEND2023-00007 (item 8 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “County has provided the 2nd (V.2.) Information Hold letter to the applicants, sent August 18, 2023, for the AMEND2023-00007 (Amendment) case. County is awaiting additional application resubmittal materials.”

DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- DRC2021-00092 (item 10 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “It is anticipated that the Final EIR will be issued in early 2024. The schedule depends on how many DEIR comments are received. A Planning Commission Final EIR study session and hearings will be held after the Final EIR is released.”

LAND USE COMMITTEE PROJECT(S)

- DRC2021-00015- Avila Valley Barn (Item 11 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “The County is continuing to prepare 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. Public comment letters both in support and opposed are being recorded to the public comment file and are available on the Permit SLO portal for this case. Continued meetings are being held between County staff and the applicant and owner team.”
- DRC2019-00235- McCarthy (Item 12 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “September 2023 Update: The project status remains on information hold, and it has not gone to hearing and has not gone before the Coastal Commission for an appeal hearing. There was, however, a recent Court of Appeals decision regarding the original McCarthy application and the California Coastal Commission related to the public trail dispute.”

SQUIRE CANYON COMMITTEE PROJECT(S)

- LRP2021-00005 (Item 18 on the Active/In Process list)- Revised Project Updates to reflect “Scheduled for BOS Approval Hearing on October 26, 2023.”

Susan Strachan for Diablo Canyon:

- Draft EIR from July 28, 2023, up for 60-day public comment period until September 25, 2023.

E. Public Works: John Waddell reports:

- No report.

F. County Parks: Tanya Richardson reports:

- No report

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

- Thanks to Cal Fire for successful joint rescue with Port San Luis.
- Recently issued a contract to start engineering for the beach stairs on Avila Beach. This is to engineer a design and cost estimate. Once completed, PSL can seek funding.
- Installed a new swing set frame. Waiting for additional parts to arrive and be installed.
- Between seasons, end of summer and pulling back Life Guard towers and starting winter maintenance.
- Questions:
 - Denise Allen asks about the breakwater rebuilding project taking rocks back to Morro Bay. That is correct in that the Army Corp of Engineers are adding new, larger rocks to the breakwater, and removing smaller rocks and returning them to Moro Bay.
 - Ken Thompson asked for a projected date for Avila Beach Pier repairs completion. Projected to be the end of 2024.
 - Parking areas for staging working well.

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

- Parks Update:
 - Cave Landing project awaiting design changes due to erosion from winter rains Should be done in next couple of weeks and construction to be completed this fall.

- The Bob Jones Trail between San Luis Bay Drive and Blue Heron has new 5 MPH signage for electric bikers. This will be monitored and communicated back to the Supervisor.
- The sidewalk/ramp project will start next month.
- Pass Thru Fees were presented. Pass Thru Fees is being established for concerts and shows for 2024. Each ticket will have an assessment of \$1.00-2.00 to go directly for a variety of community benefits.
- \$12,000 was granted from Avila Beach Resorts to the Avila Beach Civic Association for downtown beautification.
- **The Supervisor's Issue and Answers Committee** was discussed extensively. It is suggested that a subcommittee of AVAC members be established to identify and work on issues of interest to community members. This committee should also include a business community member and work directly with the district 3 Office.
- The Avila Beach Community Plan was discussed. The 2017 draft was disappointing, despite thousands of hours of community input. Top 5 areas of focus are:
 - Evacuation Processes.
 - Special Events through conditional use permits.
 - Vacation rentals
 - Open Space Designations.
 - Tourism Impacts of traffic congestion, parking, and Bob Jones Trail.
- At the Board of Supervisors, they have received \$1.7 million from the state for offshore wind feasibility. One million for what kind of port infrastructure can we do, if any, and what would that look like. Other aspects of what it means to be a host community, like we will be, as established by the federal government that we have areas outside of Morro Bay. The 700 K is to be sure we have staff available to do the work for the county. Issues such as impact, as well as benefits will be reviewed.
- Questions:
 - Curtis Cole: Pass Thru Fees will be paid by attendees. Yes.
 - Sharon Suits: On San Luis Bay Drive heading east, there is a stop sign at Onterio Road. People are confused and drive through. The Supervisor will pass that thru for evaluation.
 - Denise Allen applauds pass-thru fees for county.
 - Jim Hartig applauds 5 MPH signage on Bob Jones Trail but points out some older 15 MPH signs persist. This will be addressed quickly.
 - Denise Allen brings up issues from Shell Beach residents, about parking for Pirate's Cove on their streets. Perhaps the Sheriff can figure this out between Pismo Beach and Cave Landing.
 - Mary Matakovich congratulated Supervisor Ortiz-Legg on the Welcome Home Village Project. \$13.4 million has been injected into our community for our most needy population.
 - Suzy Watkins notices that homeless are spread out since closure on encampments and asks if any measures are being undertaken about this? A new Housing Management Information System (3.2 Million dollars) will be implemented and should address these issues more completely in the future.
- Supervisor Ortiz-Legg gives kudos to Cal Fire and their actions with the Fire Safe Council and everyone working together to reduce fire loads.

7. **Old Business:**

- No Report.

8. **New Business:**

- Discussions were undertaken with Jim Hartig, Steve Benedict, and Supervisor Ortiz-Legg about establishing an Issues & Answers committee with as many as 5 AVAC members.
- **Questions & Comments:**
 - Mary Matakovich: reiterated the 5 major issues from that meeting. (See above in Supervisor's report for Issues & Answers (I&A) and 2017 Avila Beach Plan).
 - Denise Allen: thanks, I & A proposal to address Sea Canyon issues.
 - Curtis Cole: specific issues really focus on specific parts of the larger community. A single representative may not represent each area.
 - Ad hoc subcommittee to be added onto Old Business for October AVAC meeting.

9. **Community Liaisons:**

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - October 20th bingo night and spaghetti dinner.
- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Cohen reports:**
 - Gap occurring in bridge over San Luis Creek at intersection of SLBD and ABR and it has been addressed.
 - The deadline for grants application is September 15th.
 - On October 14th a Business Fair Event is happening at the community center.
 - Rick announced that he is retiring at the end of this year. He will be replaced by Rick Rowe, who will be acting as grants manager and learning to be the director starting January 1st.
 - Questions & Comments:
 - Denise Allen thanks Rick for a job well done.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels reports:**
 - Thanks for Susan Strachan's update.
 - September 13th NRC will conduct a public meeting on line regarding pre-application for standard operations.
 - The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Commission (DCISC) will meet in Avila on both September 12th and 14th.
 - Next meeting of the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel will meet in the Supervisor's Chambers on September 20th at 6:00 pm regarding Diablo Canyon land.
 - **Questions & Comments:**
 - Ken Thompon asks if the September 15th meeting is open to the public: Yes, can be seen on line at the Diablo Canyon extended operations website.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

a. **Land Use:**

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

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

- Thanks to AVAC Council Members for input to the 2-page letter to be sent to Susan and staff addressing 7 areas of concern. (Please see letter itself for specifics).

- A motion to approve the letter was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Curtis Cole. The motion carried.
- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Thanks to Suzy for overview of Port activities.
 - 9/12/2023 special event reported by John Janovicz. Celebrating the new Membrane Bio Reactor (MBR) portion of our plant that is now operational. Open house and dedication Tuesday at 2:00 pm, with a tour of the plant at 3:00 pm. This is the first big change since 1997 to our treatment facility at 2850 Avila Beach Drive Sewer Plant.
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Two projects on the waiting list awaiting resubmission of the projects.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Curtis Cole reports:**
 - No report.
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell reports:**
 - No report.
- g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen reports:**
 - Apple season has begun. No other report.
- h. **Squire Canyon: Kirt Collins reports:**
 - No report
- i. **Ad Hoc APU (Avila Plan update: Jim Hartig absent reports:**
 - No report.

11. Next Meeting Date:

- October 2, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

12. Adjourn:

- 7:39 pm.