

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA
PO Box 65
Avila Beach, CA 93424
Date 11/13/2023
www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Steve Benedict, for regular meeting at 6:01 pm, via Zoom.
Roll call (present): Denise Allen, Mary El Hansen, Mary Matakovich, Jim Hartig, Carol Hayden, Julia Hartzell, Kirt Collins, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Curtis Cole, John Janowicz, Bob Pusanik (alt), Bill Crewe, Michael Clayton, Mandi George, Bradley Escobar, Sheri Robesky.
Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A motion was made by Carol Hayden and seconded by Mary Matakovich to approve minutes of the October 02, 2023 AVAC meeting as presented. The motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
 - New alternate board member, Allegra Shea has been elected by the Avila Beach Civic Association. She has been very active in Avila Beach. Welcome Allegra.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - Written reports: Betty Hartig writes - An unsightly mattress has been on Avila Beach Drive leaning against the chain link fence on the north side of the street directly across from the aquarium. It has been there for at least 2 months. Whatever public agency has authority over removal should take care of it as soon as possible. If it becomes saturated from rain it will be even more difficult to remove.
 - Forwarded to Public Works and the Supervisor has also been alerted.
 - No oral comments.
5. **Treasurer's Report: Denise Allen reports:**
 - Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,397.70
 - Expenses: \$ 15.99 for Zoom
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - A. **Sheriff: Commander Stuart Mc Donald reports:**
 - 110 calls for service, 33 in Avila Beach proper as compared to 126/33 last year.
 - 2 assault battery reports, 3 disturbance calls, 1 burglary report, 1 vandalism report, 1 email scam, 8 suspicious circumstances 9 enforcement stops and 3 preventative patrol activities.
 - Burglaries at Bob Jones Trail head have gone down substantially; however 3 burglaries occurred this past weekend.
 - 91% chance of rainy season ahead and flood waters could rise quickly due to full reservoirs and ground saturation. County has been divided into evacuation zones and residents are encouraged to find their evacuation zone at readyslo.org. Click **prepare** then click **your zones**.

- Earlier this month, the Sheriff's Office put out press release that there is a scam in the area where they are issuing San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Department phone numbers and calling claiming to be a sheriff telling them they can clear a warrant with a gift card.
- Questions:
 - Ken Thompson and Curtis Cole asked about emergencies within Avila Beach and resultant San Luis Bay Estates evacuation plans. Route alerting would be utilized and traffic control monitored.

B. Highway Patrol: Lt. Tim Santoro reports:

- No accidents.
- 1 DUI arrest coming out of Cave Landing.

C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports:

- 45 calls for service, 27 were medically related.
- Calls of significance were several vegetation fires on the coast.
- Fire Safety Council (FSC) has funded a fire shed project, like a community fire protection plan, looking at areas that need brush management. Some crews unallocated at this time, and they will working after the rains.
- Diablo Canyon has offered hazardous materials training.
- Use the phone app **Genisis** website for information in emergencies.
- Questions & comments:
 - Julia Hartzell thanks Chief Lee and crew for helping with high ceiling smoke detector. Also asked if Fire Safe information could be posted in Avila Life with app designations to better disseminate this important information.
 - Rick Cohen asks fall on Bob Jones Trail. Ground-level fall requiring transportation.
 - Mary Chui compliments Cal Fire for multiple medical calls. Daughter of deceased individual very thankful.
 - Kati Christensen asks about fire shed. Done by third party vendor with input from Cal Fire. Searching for tax revenues, and grants, to keep here within the community.

D. Planning: Nicole Ellis/Susan Strachan report:

- Please be advised that there are no substantive updates to provide the Avila Valley Advisory Council for November for the Avila Valley Barn project (Land Use Committee review authority) DRC2021-00015 as well as the Avila Beach Resort EIR project DRC2018-00067 (San Luis Bay Estates review authority). However, it is anticipated that for the **January 2024** AVAC meeting; County Planning staff will be in virtual attendance, as well as project agents, to provide updates on these two projects and to assist with questions as they are of high community interest.

The November 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-SUB2022-00005 (item 2 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Project is scheduled for the November 9, 2023, Planning Commission hearing.”
- C-SUB2022-00006 (item 3 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Project is scheduled for the November 9, 2023, Planning Commission hearing.”

AVILA VALLEY PROJECT UPDATES

- N-DRC2023-00016 and AMEND2023-00007 (item 7 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “County staff has reviewed resubmittal materials received from applicant on September 13, 2023. The project has been accepted for processing 10-12-23.”

DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- DRC2021-00092 (item 9 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. The comment period ended on September 25, 2023. County Staff and Aspen Environmental Group are in the process of responding to the comments and make any necessary edits to the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR and comment letters received can be found at: www.slocounty.ca.gov/DCPPDecom. The schedule for issuance of the Final EIR is still being developed; However, it is anticipated that the Final EIR will be issued in mid-2024. A Planning Commission Final EIR study session and hearings will be held after the Final EIR is released.”

SQUIRE CANYON PROJECT UPDATES

- LRP2021-00005- (previously item 18 on the October Active/In Process list)- removed from Active/In Process list and relocated to Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects list with stats updated to reflect “Approved at BOS Hearing on October 26, 2023, by a vote of 5-0.

November AVAC Project Spreadsheet 2023 Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects.

AVILA COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- C-SUB2022-00001 (previously case # C-DRC2021-00029) Gardner Mixed Use Project- (previously item 6 on the October Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect“
- Project has cleared the local and coastal appeal periods.”

SQUIRE CANYON PROJECT UPDATES

- LRP2021-00005- (previously item 18 on the October Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect “Approved at BOS Hearing on October 26, 2023 by a vote of 5-0.” That concludes County Current Planning

Susan Strachan for Diablo Canyon:

- Draft EIR from July 28, 2023 closed off 60-day public comment period until September 25, 2023. 38 letters/responses were received with 398 comments. These are being processed and we will respond to every one. Once this is done, Susan will get back to us with EIR information.
- Questions:
 - Ken Thompson: Going back to DEIR there were a few class 1 significant and unavoidable issues. How is that mitigated? For instance, black abalone, Biology agencies told them

there is not good evidence on relocation of black abalone. Another concern was tribal & culture resources. Multiple mitigation measures identified.

- Concern for humpback whales was discussed, not locally but example of New Jersey whales on beach.

E. Public Works: in absentia John Waddell reports:

- I am not planning to attend the meeting tomorrow, but have an update on the Avila Beach Drive at US 101 roundabout project. We opened construction bids last week and plan to recommend award of the contract to the Board of Supervisors in a few weeks. The contractor will have to time start prep work this winter and begin major work as soon as we are out of the rainy season.

F. County Parks: in absentia Tanya Richardson reports:

- Parks has no update this month. The cave landing project is starting up again and the contractor is moving fill dirt into the area. The project is still on target to be completed by the end of the year.

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

- Suzy Watkins supplied AVAC with Harbor board comments relative to **Decommissioning Project Draft EIR impact report** as well as the **Chumas Heritage Natural Marine Sanctuary**. Mary wanted AVAC to have them.

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

- I am sorry to note at this last moment that I will not be able to attend tonight due to my attendance at the annual California State Association of Counties Conference in Oakland.
- District 3 Planning Commissioner Kristina Simpson-Spearman will be on tonight to talk a bit about last week's approval of two homes in Avila / that passed the planning commission and the potential for appeal.
- The Supervisor's Committee is not yet finalized and so by December we will offer up the schedule and members, however, people can still apply – and not sure if we will get someone from each region, as initially intended.
- Please wish all a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Day and I send blessings of good health to all.

7. Old Business:

- No report.

8. New Business:

- 2024 new officers: Ken Thompson will chair nomination committee.

9. Community Liaisons:

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - I hope that you will join us for a fun evening of great food and community spirit on Friday, December 8, from 6-8 pm at the Community Center. Cheryl Stepaniak will be cooking delicious turkeys and we will provide mashed potatoes and gravy. Just bring a side dish to share and have a good time with your neighbors and family and friends.
 - Looking forward to seeing all of you!
 - December 9th Doggie Parade.

- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Cohen reports:**
 - Assisting Harbor District on 2 projects;
 - Replace drinking fountains at restrooms at the foot of the pier. Thanks to generous donor.
 - A \$5,000 contribution to The Friends of Avila Pier to secure funding to complete repair work.

- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels reports:**
 - Unit 1 refueling ongoing and maintenance continue.
 - Unit 2 reduced power to perform other maintenance on condenser and cleaning.
 - Last week PG&E had an announcement that PG&E filed a renewal license for DC extended applications.
 - October 3rd electrical outage has been solved. Power is shut off if dangerous conditions occur.

10. **AVAC Committees:**

- a. **Land Use:**
 - Need a chairperson for this committee. Interested individuals to contact Steve Benedict directly.
 - No report.
- b. **Diablo Canyon: Ken Thompson reports:**
 - Acquired from Scott Jalbert, the manager of the Office of Emergency Services, a copy of evacuation times estimates, prepared by contractor for PG&E with copy to Office of Emergency Services. The report is about 500 pages. Ken will report to us over the next few months.
- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - No report.
 - Introduced Bob Vessely, our new president.
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Avila Committee attended the Planning Commission hearing on the 2 parcels, concerned of moving forward on these projects. We would like to make an appeal to the Board of Supervisors. These projects are in the Beach Colony line. We have met with the two times with concerns of density, parking, landscaping etc. Many changes have been proposed that are concerning to our committee. We wish to file appeal at SOS, and pay fee as required.
 - Jim Hartig asks if appeal should be from AVAC, from AVAC committee or an individual on AVAV committee? Funding must not come from county funds. Have 1 week to submit and fund.
 - Vicki states that we may not have to pay.
 - Bob Pusanik states he will cover the costs of the appeal (if any).
 - There was consensus to move forward with appeal.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Curtis Cole reports:**
 - No report.
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell reports:**
 - No report.
- g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen reports:**

- No other report.
 - New representative Bradley Escobar.
- h. **Squire Canyon: Kirt Collins reports:**
- Creek needs clearing and support to reduce flooding and damage.

11. Next Meeting Date:

- December 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

12. Adjourn:

- 7:08 PM.