

## Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date 12/11/2023

[www.avac-avila.org](http://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, Lisa Newton, Carol Hayden, Julia Hartzell, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Curtis Cole, John Janowicz, Bob Pusanik (alt), Sheri Roebesky (alt), Bill Crewe, 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 November 13, 2023 AVAC meeting as presented. The motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
  - Last meeting of 2023.
4. **Public Comment:**
  - Saro Rizzo spoke to the economic concerns of the off shore wind proposal. An organization has been formed called React Alliance. He encouraged members to visit this website to learn about affected areas and concerns.
  - Amanda Davis, a Morro Bay resident, also spoke to the environmental concerns of the project and reiterated the library of valuable information on the website React Alliance. She also notified members of a meeting scheduled for 12/12/2023 at 2:00 PM.
5. **Treasurer's Report: Denise Allen reports:**
  - Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,361.72
  - Expenses: \$ 15.99 for Zoom and \$ 19.99 for website fees.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
  - A. **Sheriff: Commander Stuart Mc Donald reports:**
    - 76 calls for service, 26 in Avila Beach proper as compared to 87/29 last year.
    - No assault or battery reports, 1 theft from an auto, 5 disturbance calls, 0 burglary report, 1 vandalism report, 3 suspicious circumstances, 17 enforcement stops and 6 preventative patrol activities.
    - Questions:
      - Ken Thompson noted statistical differences in listed events compared to total numbers and it was explained that not all events are of significance to warrant listing.
  - B. **Highway Patrol: Lt. Tim Santoro reports:**
    - Two accidents in Avila Beach; a solo bicycle crash and another 2-vehicle crash. One DUI on Avila Beach Drive.

**C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports:**

- 61 calls for service, 31 were medically related.
- Calls of significance were several vegetation fires on the Central Coast.
- Fire Safety Council (FSC) has funded \$ 320,000 in grants for a fire shed project, like a community fire protection plan, looking at areas that need brush management.
- A controlled burn is scheduled for the lighthouse burn #2, winds allowing.
- Keep vegetation away from curb markers to assist Cal Fire responding to calls.

**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 December 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 was scheduled for the November 9, 2023, Planning Commission hearing. Project was tentatively approved by the Planning Commission with a 2:1 vote (Motion by Shah to approve staff recommendation for (Zimmerman C-SUB2022-00005), with a Second to the Motion by Campbell, Vote: Shah (Yes), Campbell (Yes), and Simpson-Spearman (No). Motion carried to approve the project. Appeal request has since been received by Ms. Matakovich (APPL2023-00011). Planning staff will identify an available Board of Supervisors hearing date and will coordinate with the appellant and applicant and will notify AVAC once an appeal hearing date is selected.”
- **C-SUB2022-00006 (item 3 on the Active/In Process list)**- revised Project Updates to reflect “Project was scheduled for the November 9, 2023, Planning Commission hearing. Project was tentatively approved by the Planning Commission with a 2:1 vote (Motion by Shah to approve staff recommendation for (Gambriel C-SUB2022-00006) with revision to Condition of Approval 1.a. (Exhibit B), with a Second to the Motion by Campbell, Vote: Shah (Yes), Campbell (Yes), and Simpson-Spearman (No). Motion carried to approve the project. Appeal request has since been received by Ms. Matakovich (APPL2023-00012). Planning staff will identify an available Board of Supervisors hearing date and will coordinate with the appellant and applicant and will notify AVAC once an appeal hearing date is selected.”
- **C-SUB2021-00001-** (previously item 5 on the November Active/In Process list)- removed from Active/In Process list and relocated to Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects list with status updated to reflect “December 2023 Update: Applicant Mr. Rourke has withdrawn the application.”

**DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT COM**

- DRC2021-00092 (item 8 on the Active/In Process list)- revised Project Updates to reflect removal of sentence regarding the schedule being developed, and which now reads: “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](http://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.”

**December AVAC Project Spreadsheet 2023 Archive of approved denied withdrawn Projects.**

**AVILA COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES**

- C-SUB2021-00001- (previously item 5 on the November Active/In Process list)- removed from Active/In Process list and relocated to Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects list with status updated to reflect “December 2023 Update: Applicant Mr. Rourke has withdrawn the application.”

**Susan Strachan for Diablo Canyon:**

- No report.

**E. Public Works: in absentia John Waddell reports in abstention:**

- Request was voiced by Dr. Clayton to evaluate and clean the Front Street parking lot as it is unsightly.

**F. County Parks: Tanya Richardson reports:**

- Cave Landing resuming work 12-11-2023 and expect work to be completed in February. There will be temporary road closures to accommodate materials.
- PG&E conducted tree clearing on portions of the Bob Jones Trail.
- County Parks conducted a hike with Cal Poly students on Onterio Ridge exhibiting the difficulty managing county trails.
- Questions:
  - Kirt Collins asked for the name and domicile of the Cave Landing project contractor? J.D. Construction from SLO.

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

- Slow time of year for the port. Working on storm damage from last spring thru funding from FEMA. Also working on beach access stairs.
- Avila Pier repairs continue and currently at vent 35 (of 89 vent sections out toward water). Moving out of “wave action zone”, where a lot of ware occurred. Targeting completion of this phase of work in 2024. Awaiting funding for the last phase of the pier project.

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

- **Bob Jones Trail update:**

- BOS addressed the urgent Bob Jones Pathway Gap Closure Project.
- Significant right-of-way issues, especially at Burnell property, may result in losing an \$ 18.25 million dollar grant if the February 2025 construction deadline is not met.
- BOS voted to explore alternatives with Caltrans, proposing a two phase project avoiding the Burnell property, complying with grant provisions.
- County must swiftly apply for a scope change with CTC at February meeting, preventing loss of \$ 18.25 million grant.

- **Avila Roundabout Update:**

- SLOCOG 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Allocation of Funds - December 6, 2024
- Project costs had exceeded original estimates
- Additional investment was granted to the Avila Beach Rd Intersection – Roundabout making it now fully funded
- Anticipate construction start in early spring
- Winning contractor already selected by needed this funding.

- **Water Update:**

December 12, 2023 Agenda Item 16:

Public Works will add engineering staff

- related to water resiliency by developing a water management program for whole water allocations
- To maintain effective utilities water service delivery and storm resiliency by continuously planning for flood management and drought resiliency
- Support the management of Fed & State funds, applications and programs to obtain reimbursement

- **Projected Budget Deficit:**

- Early projections show a \$25 - \$30 Million deficit for 24-25 budget
- Discussions to start reductions immediately
- No hiring freeze yet, due to number of current openings
- Most new hires are funded through programs
- February will have a better idea on budget situation

- **Community Advisory Council Handbook:**

- On December 5, 2023 BOS approved the Handbook as a recommendation for Advisory Councils on roles between CACs and County
- Recommendation of By-Laws
- Provided suggestions for member orientation
- Code of Civility
- Engagement with County staff
- Rules of Procedure
- Best Practices
- Annual Orientation in February 2024

- **Supervisor's Committee & Office Hours at the Civic Center:**

**Supervisors Committee & Office  
Hours at the Civic Center**

- Selection of Supervisors Committee will be notified this week, will meet after the office hours at 3:00 on the 18<sup>th</sup> .
- December 13<sup>th</sup> (This Wednesday!) 11am – 12:40 pm
- January 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Happiest Holidays for All:**
  - Thank you Avila for your continual engagement, support and understanding in working with the County of San Luis Obispo and District 3 office
  - Your input is valued and important to keep Avila as the uniquely beautiful and special place here in SLO County
  - Health, happiness and safety are what we wish for you this coming year

**7. Old Business:**

- No report.

**8. New Business:**

- **2024 New Officer Nominations:** To be voted upon in January AVAC Mtg.
  - Denise Allen chair
  - Jim Hartig Vice chair
  - Steve Benedict treasurer
  - Michael Clayton secretary

**9. Community Liaisons:**

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**
  - A fun evening of great food and community spirit was celebrated on Friday, December 8, at the Community Center.
  - December 9<sup>th</sup> Doggie Parade.
- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Cohen reports:**
  - Foundation Board of Trustees appointed 14 grant requests for 2024 for assisting on many community projects.
  - This is Rick's last presentation as chair of the Avila Beach Foundation. Thank you, Rick for 15 years of service. Rick Rowe will assume leadership duties.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels reports:**
  - The Bob Jones Trail was closed for liability, rebuilding and vegetation work improving reliability of service.
  - CCDEP will meet on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at County Government Center focusing on spent fuel storage.
  - On Thursday a controlled burn is scheduled near the Light House area in conjunction with Cal Fire.
  - Planned maintenance outage for Unit #1, It will be offline.

**10. AVAC Committees:**

**a. Land Use:**

- **No report.**

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

- Kelly Van Buren, OES Manager had responded about Evacuation Times Estimates and reported that allowing traffic to bypass stoplights, stop signs, limiting ingress, and ensuring feeder streets can evacuate onto thoroughfares – all greatly increase the efficiency we see in evacuations. Our emergency plans call for the cancellation of special events, as well as precautionary closures of the beaches, parks, golf courses to alleviate traffic concerns should evacuations become necessary. With a closure of the port, the golf course, any concerts, and the beaches, that would take population and traffic down in Avila considerably.

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

- Participating in a series of workshops put on by California State Grants Community Public Education Program having to do with offshore wind energy. Workshops designed to increase knowledge. Board remains open to possibilities of this project and desire to learn more.

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

- Supported Avila Committee more than a year ago on to projects on the Beach Colony on Avila Beach Drive and with our recommendations both projects moved on to the Planning Commission, which we attended, and we were very surprised at the Planning Commission's vote to approve both projects. Approval of development plan and conditional use permit. This has been a community effort and much time was spent. As a result, of both projects passing, we have huge concerns about vacation rentals in Avila Beach. Both projects went from 1 lot to three and from two lots to four. All are vacation rentals. We feel this needs to be contested.
- We have an appeal date of February 24<sup>th</sup> and plan to appeal the decision of the Planning Department. We receive notices from the County about projects ongoing in our neighborhood. We received a notice about an accessory dwelling unit at 200 San Antonio Street. The project has merit but we have concerns. Parking is an issue." **A committee was formed to review the project and prepare comments, which are to be filed at the County's Planning Department. ADUs are considered ministerial, on the part of the Planning Department, given the State mandate. They are approved if they meet the construction standards. No public hearing is necessary; however, an appeal can be made to the Coastal Commission.**
- A committee has been formed to evaluate the scope of the project. This is a state mandate and needs to be brought before the Coastal Commission.

**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.

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

- County clean up on Avila beach Drive.

**11. Next Meeting Date:**

- January 08, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

**12. Adjourn:**

- 7:20 PM.