

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date 4/08/2024

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Denise Allen, for regular meeting at 6:00 PM, via Zoom.
Roll call (present): Denise Allen, Mary El Hansen, Mary Matakovich, Jim Hartig, Carol Hayden, Julia Hartzell, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Bob Pusanik (alt), Michael Clayton, Sheri Robesky, Bill Crewe and Percy Jones.
Quorum was established.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A motion was made by Carol Hayden and seconded by Jim Hartig to approve minutes of the March 11, 2024 AVAC meeting as presented. The motion carried.
3. **Chair's Comments:**
 - Table Avila Barn letter,
 - CAC meeting. Sign up after tonight's AVAC meeting.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - No written or oral comments.
5. **Treasurer's Report: Steve Benedict reports:**
 - Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,297.76.
 - Expenses: \$ 15.99 for Zoom.
6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**
 - A. **Sheriff: Comm. Stuart MacDonald reports:**
 - 78 CFS in March 2024, 27 in Avila proper. Compared to 8227 in 2023.
 - 1 assault and battery, 1 suspicious circumstance, 1 disturbance, 2 vandalisms, 1 phone scam. and 9 enforcement stops.
 - Ken Thompson asks if increased patrols will be in effect for summer season at trailheads to help prevent automobile break ins? Yes, increased surveillance and Sheriffs are aware of problem.
 - B. **Highway Patrol: Lt. Tim Santorio reports:**
 - New Commander, Mike Brown starts May 1, 2024.
 - 1 non-injury automobile accident, 1 DUI arrest.
 - Percy Jones asks for Lt.'s email address for contact: tsantorio@chp.ca.gov.
 - C. **Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee reports: (in absentia)**
 - 49 calls for service 32 were medically related.
 - The SLO Fire Safe Council announced last Friday that the hills surrounding Shell Beach, Pismo Beach and Avila will receive half a million dollars in grant funding this spring and summer. This dollar amount was first reported as \$330,000, additional funds have become available. This funding in partnership with CAL FIRE will reduce vegetation using hand crews

and prescribed burning. The fuel reduction will help better protect our community from a fast-moving wildland fire. We are very appreciative of the Fire Safe Council's investment in our community and the hard work of the Avila Valley FSC working group!!

- Over the next month please watch for your green grass to stop growing and when it does please start your vegetation clearance around your home. Please do not wait for the grass to be cured as reduction activities could start a fire once the grass is brown. Please do all mowing before 11am.

**D. Planning: Nicole Ellis reports in absentia:
The following projects have been updated:**

AVILA COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- **AMEND2023-00006** (previously item 1 on the March Active/In Process list)- This project was removed from the "Active/In Process list" and has been relocated to the "Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects list" due to the application being deemed withdrawn.
- **C-SUB2022-00005** (previously item 2 on the Active/In Process list)- This project was removed from the "Active/In Process list" in April and has been relocated to the "Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects list, due to the application being deemed approved.
- **C-SUB2022-00006** (previously item 3 on the Active/In Process list)- This project was removed from the "Active/In Process list" in April and has been relocated to the "Archive of approved denied withdrawn projects list, due to the application being deemed approved.

AVILA COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- **C-DRC2021-00028** (item 1 on the April Active/In Process list)- This project has been reassigned to County Environmental Planner, Mason Denning, to prepare the Environmental Document and hearing materials. Planner/contact column updated to reflect Mason's name and email address.

AVILA VALLEY COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- **AMEND2023-00007** (item 3 on the April Active/In Process list)- Project status updates include the following: "Tentative Planning Commission date June 13, 2024."

LAND USE COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- **DRC2019-00235 McCarthy project** (item 7 on the April Active/In Process list)- Project status updates include the following: "Materials have been reviewed by the Planning Division who on March 15, 2024 determined the application can be accepted as complete for processing. County will begin its Environmental Review of the project. Project has been reassigned to County Coastal Planner, Andy Knighton, to conduct the Environmental Review and to prepare the future hearing materials. There is not a hearing date scheduled at this time." Planner/contact column updated to reflect Andy's name and email address.
- **DRC2021-00015 Avila Valley Barn** (item 6 on the April Active/In Process list)
April: No status updates to provide. However, Planning correspondence from February 29, 2024 in response to information requests from neighbors, Kristen McKiernan and Kristina Simpson Spearman as well as Planning correspondence from March 20, 2024 in response to information requests from neighbor Kristen McKiernan on behalf of the Avila Valley Preservation Alliance in response to the Land Use Committee's scheduled meeting to discuss this project on March 21, 2024, have been attached below, for the benefit of

the group and members of the public who may have similar inquiries.

Susan Strachan Reports:

Final EIR now slated for end of year instead of spring release.

Offshore wind: Study to be conducted with Port San Luis, Cal Poly, and City of Morro Bay from grant funding the county received for operations and maintenance facility feasibility. Early in process. Will be public outreach programs developed. Currently working on contract documents. Hoping to bring project to BOS in May for consideration.

Ken Thompson asks who is responsible for fiscal responsibilities? BOOEM looks at financial and environmental aspects of the project.

E. Public Works: John Waddell absent, relayed via Denise Allen

- No report.

F. County Parks: Tanya Richardson reports:

- Cave Landing project progressing well with planned ribbon cutting soon.
- The process of “Events” occurring on the Bob Jones Trail was discussed. Requested by engineering firm as fundraiser. A leisurely ride on May 11th. Estimated 100 participants.
- Several events have been requested and County Parks tries to limit impact on pedestrians. Bike events have safety signs etc. in place and volunteers on the trail.
- Farmer’s Market starts the first Friday in May.
- Percy Jones asks about permitted participant estimates? 100 riders.
- Ken Thompson asks how Public Works will respond to 300 participants? Public Works will pivot and respond accordingly.

G. Port San Luis: Suzy Watkins reports:

- Cave Landing looks good.
- Staffing up for summer season, fishing and boating. Hiring lifeguards and additional maintenance.
- Hired Executive Assistant and Business Manager.
- Dredging about trailer boat hoist area.
- Continue to work with County and Cal Poly as to Offshore Wind project.
- Requested emergency permit to continue pile driving on Avila Piar to help stabilize areas damaged in storms.
- New Donor Plaque Program allows donors at various contribution levels to have plaques on poles and light posts throughout the pier.
- Matthew Matters asks when the pier will be open further out to the public? The original plan was to wait for completion of the project. However, the Port is considering this as project moves along but work efficiency will be affected to make ready each weekend.
- Matthew Matters asks if the new Donor Plaque Recognition Program is an augmentation to current program? Yes.
- Percy Jones asks, if in summer months, staffing and hours will be increased? Harbor Patrol has no additional staffing due to qualifications

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

- Tomorrow at BOS meeting bringing forth new noise ordinance for rental properties after 10:00pm. The Planning and Sheriff’s Departments collaborated giving Sheriffs more jurisdiction.

- **Trimmed Trees:** My office recently received a complaint regarding the signs in the pull out along Avila Beach Dr. being covered by overgrown vegetation. Public Works immediately responded and completed the necessary trimming.
- Tree trimming along Avila Beach Dr between San Luis Bay and Ontario, PW will do as much as they can and will request utilities as needed to assist with further trimming.
- **Roundabout Groundbreaking:**
- April 27th Public Works will be having a small groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the highly anticipated roundabout. The ceremony will not be open to the public given the site's limitations and safety. However Public Works would be honored to have a small number of AVAC members attend. Please RSVP to Kelley(kabbas@co.slo.ca.us), space will be limited.
- I am excited to share this as a first step towards the completion of this much needed traffic improvement.
- **Shell Beach Library:**
- We are pleased to announce that effective April 30th, the Shell Beach Library will expand their hours to the following:
- Tuesday and Wednesday: 10-6 (Closed 1-2, lunch). Thursday: 9-5 (Closed 1-2, lunch). Friday 1-5PM
- With the retirement of Vickie Cyr, Shell Beach Library now has a new librarian, Joshua Tyler.
- **Community Advisory Council Training:**
- Training for all CAC members coming up April 26th.
- I encourage all available members to attend. Planning department is requesting that CAC members RSVP by April 12th
- CAC members should have received information via email if not reach out to my office
- Thanks to Bob Pusanik for contribution to Transitions Mental Health.
- Things not looking good for Bob Jones Trail (BJT). grant funding from the state to expand BJT from Cal Poly to Avila Beach.
- Honor Lisa Newton and her contributions to our community.
- Ken Thompson asks about 17-million-dollar budget shortfall and discussions taken up by BOS. Public safety being number one propriety and be fully funded. Awaiting CAO hiring.
- Julia Hartzell asks about the Onterio Road subdivision. Requesting someone from Planning Department to address issues that have come to our committee. Noting that construction will affect Onterio Road traffic flow. Concerns of construction styles not as proposed and not blending in with landscape. How does the County oversee these types of projects to assure compliance. The Supervisor will request an information session from Central Coast Community Builders if possible.
- Mary El Hansen requests oversight of the project and subcommittee presentation.

7. **Old Business:**

- SLO-COG presentation by James Worthley. For specifics visit AVAC or SLO-COG website.
- Denise Allen asks if this proposal has been voted on in the past? Yes, in 2016 this measure J was voted down by 425 votes.
- Jim Hartig asks how and when it will go on the ballot? SLO-COG must vote upon measure and majority of the cities to approve as well. This is a challenge.

8. **New Business:**

- No report

9. Community Liaisons:

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Tribute to Lisa Newton for her service to Avila Beach.
 - April 19, The Civic Association is looking forward to a Bingo & Spaghetti Dinner event. Please attend.
- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Rowe reports:**
 - Foundation Grants each year: This year adding Local Community Impact Grant of up to \$8,500 one time grant. Applications have been available since March 1st on website and will close on May 30th. 1
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels reports:**
 - Outages: No major outages throughout the community.
 - DC reactor #1 at 100% efficiency.
 - Unit #2 is refueling with increased personal employed.
 - Lisa Newton praised by Eric Daniels.

10. AVAC Committees:

- Land Use: LAND USE COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES**
 - No report.
- Diablo Canyon: Ken Thompson reports:**
 - No report.
- Port: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Suzy Watkins did an excellent review of Port activities.
 - Working on a budget workshop on April 11th.
 - Mary introduces Bob Vesely as new president.
- Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Learning experiences. Avila sign being proposed to moved into abandon property, being reclaimed by the developer. The Avila Beach Community Service District signed an agreement in perpetuity to maintain the sign and landscaping around it. Our committee was able to pass this on to Public Works to the Community Services District and sign will have to be moved 2 feet.
- San Luis Bay Estates: Curtis Cole reports:**
 - Townhall meeting with first responders, CHP, Sheriff Department, Highway Patrol was well attended.
- Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell reports:**
 - Praise of Lisa Newton.
 - Thankful for help Supervisor Ortiz-Legg will provide towards understanding issues with 22-home project on Onterio Road.
- See Canyon: Denise Allen reports:**
 - No report.
 - Peacocks available to see at her ranch.
- Squire Canyon: Margaret Greenough reports in abs entia:**
 - No report

11. Next Meeting Date:

- May 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

12. Adjourn: 7:29 PM