

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date 6/10/2024

www.avac-avila.org

- **Call to Order:** by the chair, Jim Hartig, in absentee of Denise Allen for regular meeting at 6:02 PM, via Zoom.

Roll call (present): Mary Matakovich, Jim Hartig, Carol Hayden, Julia Hartzell, Ken Thompson, Steve Benedict, Bob Pusanik (alt), Michael Clayton, Mandi George, Sheri Robesky, John Janowicz, Judy Kaatz, Margaret Greenough, Allegra Shea, Bill Crewe and Rick Rowe.

Quorum was established.

- **Approval of Minutes:**
- A motion was made by Carol Hayden and seconded by Jim Hartig to approve minutes of the May 13, 2024 AVAC meeting as presented. The motion carried.

- **Chair's Comments:**

- No comments .

- **Public Comment:**

- **Oral Comment:**

- Katie Sturtevant from Avila Beach Golf Resort noted that on 6/16/024 a Country Concert from 4:00 pm p 10:00 pm will occur at the golf course.

- **Written reports:**

- **Freya Simpson letter:**

6/10/2024

Dear AVAC Members,

Thank you for volunteering your time to represent our community. In the meeting this evening you will be discussing and voting on the Avila Barn Project. My name is Freya Simpson and I am their neighbor and although I am friendly with the family that leases the property, I would ask that you please deny the project.

When Avila Barn has events with music I can hear the music inside my living room. If the window is open it is even louder. I can't have a conversation with someone outside my house when the music is playing. This is my lived experience and sadly this has been a nuisance but to be a good neighbor I have dealt with it. Their calendar for this summer is 20 music events running from noon until 3 pm from May until June. This is what is occurring now and the schedule of events is posted at the barn.

Now, through this project, they are asking for more events, more areas to have the events, events that last from morning until into the night, and events that last throughout the year. This is not being a good neighbor. This is taking advantage and trying to get everything you can out of a property you lease, while the neighborhood pays the price in safety, traffic, and the inability to enjoy their own homes. How will that impact our nature walks on the Bob Jones Trail for all of us and those that visit? Why are we allowing this? Please think about the

unintended consequences of this project and please do not allow amplified music for this project.

Avila Beach Resident

- **Kristen McKiernan**

Subject: Appreciation for Local Efforts in Enhancing Public Safety

Dear Community Members,

I would like to extend my gratitude to the local Cal Trans office and the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works for their outstanding response and dedication to improving safety in our area.

Recently, I reached out to both departments to report overgrown weeds encroaching on the already narrow bike lanes along Avila Beach Drive, as well as high-growing weeds at the intersection of Avila Beach Drive and the 101 South Off-ramp. Both organizations responded within hours and took swift action to address these concerns.

The Department of Public Works diligently cleared and scraped the bike lanes along Avila Beach Drive, from the Avila Valley Barn to San Luis Bay Drive.

Meanwhile, Cal Trans promptly trimmed the weeds, significantly enhancing visibility at the 101 South exit crossing over Monte Road near Avila Beach Drive.

These actions have greatly contributed to the safety and accessibility of our community. Both agencies demonstrated genuine concern for public safety and provided personal, attentive responses to our requests.

I would like to acknowledge and thank these organizations and their dedicated staff for their commitment to our community's well-being.

Avila Valley Resident

- **Treasurer's Report: Steve Benedict reports:**

- Balance of Checking Account: \$ 1,281.77

- Expenses: \$ 15.99 in May for Zoom.

- **County and Local Agency Reports:**

- A. Sheriff: Comm. Stuart MacDonald reports in absentia:**

- 95 CFS in 2024, 32 in Avila proper. Compared to 130/41 in 2023. 2 suspicious circumstances, 7 disturbances and 5 enforcement stops, 4 thefts, 1 vandalism, 5 preventive patrol activities, 1 assault and battery.

- B. Highway Patrol: Leut. Mike Brown reports:**

No report.

- C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Lee absent:**

- Jim Hartig reports that The Firesafe Council grant for the Avila Valley has started, using the \$500,000 grant in the canyons. A manager has been appointed. Crews will be coming in and multiple subdivisions will be affected.

- No Report.

D. Planning: Jeremy Freund reports:

Nicole Elles writes: I'm very happy that Jeremy has been assigned as the new AVAC liaison and I trust that you will enjoy working with him very much.

The following projects have been updated:

AVILA VALLEY COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- AMEND2023-00007 (item 3 on the June Active/In Process list)- "On April 18, 2024, the applicant revised the application to include a new 71 SF balcony on the tower design feature. The County initiated a revised project re-referral on May 29, 2024 seeking new review and comments as applicable. Project tentative Planning Commission Hearing date to be determined. Additional staff review determined the Amendment case to be accompanied by a new Minor Use Permit case"

DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- C-DRC2024-00023 (Item 6 on the June Active/In Process list)- Project status updates include the following: "Project accepted for processing, June 6, 2024".

SQUIRE CANYON COMMITTEE PROJECT(S)

- N-SUB2022-00034- (item 13 on the June Active/In Process list)- "Applicant submitted new Botanical Report. We can accept for processing and environmental review will begin."

The June 2024 Approved/ Denied/ Withdrawn 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 that are on extended long-term hold and which have remained inactive for at least a year have been temporarily relocated to the Approved/ Denied/ Withdrawn Project Spreadsheet:

SAN LUIS BAY ESTATES COMMITTEE PROJECT UPDATES

- DRC2018-00033 (previously item 9 on the April Active/In Process list)- for the Somera Capital Management project, Project status updates include the following: "June 2024 Update: Project has been formally withdrawn."

Susan Strachan reports;

- No update on Diablo Canyon.
- Off-Shore Wind study to be prepared for maintenance and support feasibility.
- Ken Thompson asks about the lifespan of proposed study. Susan will get back to Ken on specifics.
- Mary Matakovich stated that the County is holder of the grant money. Money will be divided amongst Cal Poly, Morro Bay and Port San Luis. Report will be sent to each entity before reporting to BOS.

E. Public Works: John Waddell absent:

- No report.

F. County Parks: Tanya Richardson absent:

- New swings in Avila Beach.
- Farmer's Market is open and doing well. .
- Parking an issue at Cave Landing and looking for solutions.

G. Port San Luis: Mary Matakovich reports for Suzy Watkins

- The contractor who will be working on dredging the Diablo Canyon intake area is using temporary space at the Harbor District to stage their equipment and mobilize for the project. Their HDPE pipe and flotation were delivered on land last week and the work barges have begun arriving this week. The contractor will assemble the dredge pipe in the harbor and take it to the Diablo intake area over water. They plan to work with a total of five barges in the dredge area. We will see the same activity in reverse once the project is complete and may see the barges back in our area in the case of inclement weather or ocean conditions.
- The Avila Pier work is ongoing in the area of Bent 38. The pier has 111 bents in total, and the current phase of work goes to Bent 89. Bent 38 is in the splash zone for waves, so work is slower due to increased damage and more components needing replacement. Work will progress more quickly once the crew transitions further out over the water.
- District staff has been busy working to finalize the budget for the coming year. The FY2024-25 budget will be on the June 25 agenda for Harbor Commission Board discussion and adoption.

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

- Thanks Susan Strachan for report. Reiterates the process is a long one. Operations and management proposals will be for long term, 25 years, the lifespan of wind farm issues.
- Passed budget of nearly 1 billion dollars. Sheriff's department's human resources expensive due to retirements. Need more workshops going forward on budget issues.
- Airport expansion needed due to increased passengers, flights etc. ADA parking lot spaces at a premium, at other area locations.
- Anniversary of Shell Beach Library.
- Hours Thursday at 1:30.
- Questions: Kem Thompson comments on budget. Vacation rental permits too low. Build in COL allowance from Tax assessors office. Needs to cover code enforcement.
- Carol Hayden asks if airport will bring in additional carriers to handle increased airport activity? Landing strips would need to be widened with expansion. Las Vegas flight will come back to SLO. Also asking for Chicago and Salt Lake City options.
- Margaret Greenough asks about reporting code enforcement violations. Call Supervisor's office.
- **Old Business:**

- No report.
- **New Business:**
 - No report.
- **Community Liaisons:**
 - **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Encourage membership.
 - July 4, 2024 Pancake Breakfast and dog parade event. Please attend.
 - **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Rowe reports:**
 - The Community Impact Grant was awarded to Cal Fire to purchase power roller to allow firefighters to quickly move from one fire to where needed.
 - **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels reports:**
 - Unit #1 and Unit #2 operating at 100%.
 - Report on 2 outages, one last week unsure of cause, other larger outage caused by bird into the line. No damage to systems.
- **AVAC Committees:**
 - **Land Use: Jim Hartig reports:**
 - Letter drafted on Avila Barn Project, copied for review. Motion made by Jim Hartig and seconded by Carol Hayden to approve. Motion carried.
 - **Diablo Canyon: Ken Thompson reports:**
 - Demolition of 50 square foot visitors structure without asbestos or lead concerns. A motion for a Letter stating no exceptions to demolition was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Jim Hartig. Motion carried.
 - On 6/20-21/2024 the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee will be back for presentations from executive members. Agendas will be sent out to Council members tomorrow.
 - **Port: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - Avila Committee has discussed and reviewed the proposal to allow portable butane fire pits on Avila beach and possible Old Port Beach. History of wood burning fires for several decades. However, safety concerns and clean-up have become issues. Therefore a proposal for propane firepits is suggested to begin in July and report back to AVAC in August.
 - Questions: **Jim Hartig** asks if Cal Fire approved? Not yet. What's to stop someone using wood in additional. Will monitor.
 - **Julia Hartzell** asks about numbers of people who would be able to participate.
 - **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich reports:**
 - No report.
 - **San Luis Bay Estates: Percy Jones absent:**
 - No report.
 - **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell reports:**
 - NO report
 - **See Canyon: Denise Allen absent:**
 - No report.

- **Squire Canyon: Margaret Greenough absent:**
No report.

- **Next Meeting Date:**
July 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM

- **Adjourn: 7:04 PM**