## ***Avila Valley Advisory Council***

# San Luis Obispo County, California

***P.O. Box 65***

***Avila Beach, CA 93424*** [***www.avac-avila.org***](http://www.AvilaValley.org)

#### 2025 Officers

**Chair**

Denise Allen

**Vice Chair**

Jim Hartig

**Secretary**

Bob Pusanik

**Treasurer**

Steve Benedict

### *Council Members*

**Avila Beach**

Mary Matakovich

John Janowicz

Judy Katz

Judy Katz(alt)

### Avila Valley

Julia Hartzell

Sheri Robesky

MaryEl Hansen (alt)

San Luis Bay Estates

Carol Hayden

Jim Hartig

Matt Matter

Percy Jones

Steve Benedict

Michael Clayton

Bob Pusanik (alt)

Open (alt)

**See Canyon**

Denise Allen

Bradley Escobar

Mandy George (alt)

**Squire Canyon**

Margaret Greenough

Hillary Bergantz

Tom Rippner (alt)

Date: February 11, 2024

To: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

 Subject: Cannabis Dispensaries in Avila Beach

Honorable Supervisors,

The Avila Valley Advisory Council has become aware of the proposal to allow brick and mortar cannabis dispensaries in the Coastal Zones of San Luis Obispo County that would include Avila Beach. This has raised **many** concerns within our community. We question whether this type of business would be a compatible fit with our family oriented beach town. Other than providing additional revenue for the County it seems like the negative aspects far outweigh any positive ones. We are not even sure there are any positive ones. Maybe you can list them for us. Many questions need to be answered regarding this proposal and community input needs to be taken and seriously considered.

* What are the actual benefits for the Avila Valley area?
* Cannabis dispensaries need to be in hardened secure buildings. Are there any currently in Avila that will meet this requirement or will new structures be required?
* Almost all current dispensaries have armed guards. Will this really be an appropriate look for our beach town?
* We are a tourist and family oriented beach town, why would we want to attract cannabis users and change our community character?
* The beach and promenade are designated non-smoking areas. Won’t having available cannabis in this area put even more strain on that enforcement?
* Avila Valley has one of the highest property tax bases in the County. Will additional revenue from a cannabis dispensary even be relevant or necessary?
* Other areas where these dispensaries already exist are cities with their own police forces. We have very little law enforcement presence at any given time. Will additional law enforcement presence be included with the foreseeable potential increase in crime?
* What will be done to protect youth in our area, the junior lifeguard program alone has over 200 participants for 6 weeks in the summer, from possible exposure, negative influence and the normalization of cannabis use that will come about from any dispensary located in Avila?
* Will the possibility of negative effects on tourism be considered, as many families might not want to visit a beach town with a cannabis dispensary?

 ***Overall, at this time the Avila Valley Advisory Council has significant reservations that a brick and mortar cannabis dispensary would be an appropriate fit for our community.***

Thank you,

Denise Allen

AVAC Chairperson