

## **Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)**

**San Luis Obispo County , CA**

**PO Box 65**

**Avila Beach, CA 93424**

**Date January 12, 2026**

[www.avac-avila.org](http://www.avac-avila.org)

- 1) Call to Order: Call to order, Denise Allen, Chairperson, 6:00 PM via Zoom  
Roll call (present): Mary Matakovich, Judy Katz, Vicki Book, John Janowicz, Julia Hartzell, Sheri Robesky, MaryEl Hansen, Carol Hayden, Jim Hartig, Steve Benedict, Ken Thompson, Tom Rippner, Matt Matter, Percy Jones, Kristen McKiernan, Michael Clayton, Denise Allen. Quorum was established.
- 2) Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Carol Hayden and seconded by Jim Hartig to accept the minutes. The motion carried.
- 3) Chair's Comments: ) Denise Allen requested a moment of silence recognizing Bob Pusanik's passing and contributions he has made to the community. Ken Thompson made a motion, and Carol Hayden seconded it to approve the 2026 Slate of Officers: Denise Allen – Chair, Jim Hartig – Vice Chair, Steve Benedict – Treasurer, Secretary – to be determined. Motion carried. Welcomed Kristen McKiernan to AVAC as an alternate for Avila Valley. Denise indicated that she will be posting the meeting schedule for the year and noted the meetings will be scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 6PM.
- 4) Public Comment: Ken Thompson wanted to personally congratulate the Post Office Staff for their professionalism over the busy holiday season. Vicki Book shared that our local Avila resident, Betty Woody, is turning 100 on January 17 and wishes her well. Nicole Dorfman representing REACTAlliance indicated that CET terminated its contract with Port San Luis.
- 5) Treasurer's Report: Current balance of \$1109.61 with a December expense of \$16.99 for Zoom.
- 6) County and Local Agency Reports:
  - a) Sheriff: -Commander Hank Abbas: 75 calls for service. 8 enforcement stops. Auxillary Volunteer Patrol has been participating in the Avila Valley area. Increases presence and awareness.
  - b) Highway Patrol- Lt James Ferguson: 2 crashes. One on First Street and one at Cave Landing and Avila Beach Drive. 122 contacts county wide during maximum enforcement over the holidays.
  - c) CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Paul Lee: No report. Denise Allen mentioned multiple chipping events available through Fire Safe Council. Info: Chipperday.com or Firesafeslo.org.
  - d) Planning – Jeremy Freund/Susan Strachan: Jeremy reviewed Water Tank project at Flying Flags and Lot 69 project in SLBE. Susan Strachan announced she is retiring. Diablo Canyon Decommissioning EIR is in the works. County Feasibility Study will be released this spring in two parts, one for Morro Bay and one for Port San Luis.

- e) Public Works – John Waddell: Dawn reported no significant flooding during recent storms however San Luis Bay Drive at Monte Rd. was closed temporarily as the creek ran across the road.
- f) County Parks – Tanya Richardson: Dawn reported that Dairy Creek has made many improvements and people should take advantage.
- g) Port San Luis- Willam Friedman: Underground storage tank removal and replacement above ground is near completion with no contamination issues observed. Currently 2 RFP's, one for legal services, one for future restaurant on the Harford Pier.
- h) County Supervisor – Dawn Ortiz-Legg: Provided updates on Boards letter of support for Diablo Canyon 20-year extension and conservation plan, unitary tax to pre-decommissioning levels, Lopez Lake water level legal situation, Welcome Home village in SLO and the Roundabout dedication and ribbon cutting on February 24, 1:00 PM. Office hours – February 19, 1:30 to 3:30, possibly moving to the ABCSD offices.
- 7) Old Business: James Worthy, SLOCGOG, presented updated information on possibility of ½ cent sale tax proposal for November Ballot. BOS will take action on February 27.
- 8) New Business: Kara Woodruf, Legislative Assistant for State Senator Laird, gave an update on the Diablo Canyon Lands Conservation agreement that was recently reached. There will be many benefits to Avila and the surrounding areas including land conservation and many miles of additional trails with increased public access.
- 9) Community Liaisons
  - a) Avila Beach Civic Association - (Mary Matakovich) January 1 Polar Bear Plunge was once again a big success with T-Shirt sales proceeds going to Friends of the Avila Pier and Prado Homeless Shelter.
  - b) Avila Beach Foundation – (Rick Howe)
  - c) PG&E/Diablo Canyon – (Eric Daniels) Both reactors are running safely.
- 10) AVAC Committees
  - i) LandUse –No Report
  - ii) Diablo – Michael Claton – Diablo Independent Committee meeting on January 18 and 19.
  - iii) Port – Mary Matakovich – No additional report
  - iv) San Luis Bay Estates –Steve Benedict – Presented proposed letter for Lot 69 project which was approved for distribution by the council. SLBE committee is continuing to prepare comments on the Hartford Ridge project with input from the SLBE Master Board
  - v) Avila Valley – Julia Hartzell – Announced MaryEl Hansen is retiring from AVAC. She served for over 20 years and was an essential voice in getting changes at the San Luis Bay Drive and Ontario Rd. intersection, 4 way stop and much improved lighting. Announced Mikey Giugni will take over her position. Kristen McKiernan, Alternate. Provided an update on future projects the committee is preparing for.
  - vi) See Canyon – Denise Allen – Reminded about upcoming chipping events.

vii) Squire Canyon – Tom Rippner – Expressed need for better communication avenues within Squire Canyon. Kelly Abbas expressed that county has recently updated some methods and will reach out. Noland Project goes to Planning Commission on February 26. Planning Department has recommended denial.

viii) Ad Hoc Fire Staffing – Percy Jones – No report

**11)** Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 9, 6:00 PM via Zoom

**12)** Adjourn at 7:39 PM