

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date March 9, 2026

www.avac-avila.org

1. **Call to Order:** by the chair, Denise Allen for a regular meeting at 6:00 PM, via Zoom.

Roll call (present): Mary Matakovich, John Janowicz, Judy Katz, Vicki Book, Julia Hartzell, Mikey Giugni, Kristen McKiernan, Carol Hayden, Jim Hartig, Matt Matter, Steve Benedict, Michael Clayton, Ken Thompson, Denise Allen, Mandi George. Quorum was established.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Carol Hayden and seconded by Ken Thompson to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

3. **Chair's Comments:** Denise Allen spoke of Bob Pusinak's Life Celebration invitation April 11.

4. **Public Comment:** Lisa Wagner inquired about the red phone booth on the promenade. Tanya Richardson, Parks, indicated that it will be removed and the leather-back turtle sculpture will replace it.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance \$1075.63 with a February expense for Zoom of \$16.99.

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

A. **Sheriff: Commander Abbas:** 57 calls for service as compared to 83 in February 2205. Cave Landing had 11 calls for service, three preventive actions, and the rest for disturbances. He will be meeting quarterly in the future.

B. **Highway Patrol: Lt. Ferguson:** No report. He will be meeting quarterly.

C. **Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Provence:** Jurisdiction is: the airport, Shell Beach and Pismo. 45 calls for service were medical. On 2/25 there was a gas leak requiring 32 homes to evacuate. There were no injuries. He reported the Repeater Site is in place to improve communication across the area. Ken T. asked if there will be a recognition event for Chief Lee; if there is one it will be communicated to the council members who are grateful for his service. Also, para- medical services at the Fire House will require additional funding, to be determined.

D. **Planning: Jeremy Freund:** Highlighted the three active projects. See the Planning Dept Spreadsheet.

E. **Public Works: John Waddell reports:** No report

F. **County Parks: Tanya Richardson:** Tables and chairs have been ordered for the promenade and should be in place by April. Cave Landing has a maintenance, grading project. The kiosk is up at the Bob Jones Trail, thanks to Eagle Scout McKiernan. The Parks Master Plan will be presented at the Board of Supervisors' March 24 meeting.

G. **Port San Luis: Will Friedman:** The Port is busy getting ready for summer; lifeguards are hired and the Lifeguard towers are being placed on the beaches. The RFP for Harford Pier restaurant will close on March 14. The RFP for the Harford Fish Market will be posted shortly. The license renewal combining the Boatyard and the Hook is in place. Staff is working with County Planning on fire safety for the Water Tank above Flying Flags. The Underground Tank has been removed and now

there is an above ground tank adjacent to the Harbor District Office. There are a number of small businesses in place, to increase revenue. Avila Pier has a contractor to assist with the work on the pier, which is paid for by grants and the Friends of Avila Pier. This work includes moving the landing. LAFCO has approached the district to expand the district's "sphere of influence," expanding the service area to the County. A question was asked if the pier is going to be shortened; at this time, staff is unsure what it will be.

- H. **Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg:** Highlights were: Avila Beach Beautification Project - looking at bike racks, an Avila Beach grant for landscape improvements, Master Gardeners are making plant recommendations, working on connectivity with businesses in downtown Avila; Radio Tower Upgrade will provide emergency conditions; Project Notification - March 26 meeting - possible extension notification to 1000 ft outside the urban zone; 3/17 - Roundabout Ribbon Cutting; 3/26 - Office Hours at the Avila Beach Community Center Office; Vacation Rental Compliance is in place with staff working on the details; pot holes on the road between Sycamore Springs and Ontario Road; confirmation that San Luis Bay Drive and Ontario Road is zoned for a hotel and a gas station - no project at this time; there are a number of proposals to lower the speed limit on San Luis Bay Drive including a four-way-stop sign.

7. Old Business:

- Citizen Led Transportation Initiative, Citizen Effort for Better SLO County by Becoming a "Self-Help" County presented by Jorge Aguilar. Counties that have passed locally controlled transportation specific with a sales tax measure have benefitted greatly. Measure J in 2016 failed; if it had passed SLO County would have received \$35M a year to fix roads, etc. and created emergency access points. SLOCOG had regional priorities and lost out on this funding solution. ½% sales tax generates \$35M, not including grants. To qualify for the Nov. 3, 2026 ballot, 18,000 signatures need to be collected. Housing, groceries and medical supplies would not be taxed. SLO County has an estimate of 7.5 M visitors per year who will pay. The signature gathering process is now: BetterRoads4AllSLOco.com. Volunteers and donations are needed. There is a petition Drop Off and Pickup Location map available.

8. New Business:

No report

9. Community Liaisons:

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich:** Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo on March 6 at the Avila Beach Civic Association was a big success. Thanks to the community's support of the center.
- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Rowe:** No Report
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels:** **1.** Both units are operating safely at 100%, producing clean, reliable energy for 4 million California customers. **2.** An important step was taken a week ago in support of securing operations at Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) through 2030. This action secured the last state agency authorizations and it sets the stage for the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to finalize renewals to DCPP's reactor operating license. Specifically, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) voted to approve the permits and licensing agreements for once through cooling discharge.

10. AVAC:

a. **Land Use:** No report

b. **Diablo Canyon: Michael Clayton:** Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee met in Avila Beach on Feb. 18-19. The Employee Retention Program was extended through 2028.

Continuing to train Senior Reactor Operators with 11 passing the exams. PG&E Senior Director, Tom Jones, said the CA Water Board is the last state agency approval needed for Extended Operations. At the conclusion of the meeting, a tour of Diablo Canyon Power Plant was undertaken.

- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich:** No additional information. Will provided a comprehension overview of what's happening at the Port.
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich:** No report. The committee is up-to-date on the project reviews.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Steve Benedict:** SLBE development has been very active. When the golf course resort build-out appears, it is hoped that there will be a broader review than just SLBE, possibly by the Land Use Committee. The gas leak, where 32 homes were evacuated, was handled well by the Fire Department. SLBE continues to promote Firewise fire safety.
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell:** We continue work on various ways of providing information to residence in our area.
- g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen:** No report.
- h. **Squire Canyon: Tom Rippner:** No report.
- i. **Ad Hoc Fire Staffing:**

11. Next Meeting Date: April 13, 2026, 6:00 PM. Via Zoom.

12. Adjourn: 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Matakovich, Secretary.