

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date May 11, 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, Judy Kaatz, John Janowicz, Vicki Book, Julia Hartzell, Kristen McKiernan, Sheri Robesky, Jim Hartig, Steve Benedict, Ken Thompson, Percy Jones, Denise Allen, Tom Rippner. Quorum was established.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Jim Hartig and seconded by Sheri Robesky to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

3. **Chair's Comments:** Denise Allen shared her very positive experience at a concert on the golf course; she was impressed by the organized parking. Denise also invited the Council members to come to her home and pick apricots, specifics to follow.

Motion was made and seconded (Allen/Hartig) to take a summer break and cancel the June meeting. Motion carried.

4. **Public Comment:** Katie Sturtevant appreciated the positive feedback on the concert. There will be a concert on June 28 from 4-10pm.

Kate Gillespie, Director of the Central Coast Aquarium, invited everyone to attend the Children's Business Fair this year in May 30 from 10-1pm. There are 50 children's businesses participating. Admission is free to the participants. The aquarium will be open. The public is encouraged to support this event.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Benedict reported the current balance, \$1041.65, with an April expense for Zoom of \$16.99. Submitted a grant request for future funds to the County on April 20th.

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

A. **Sheriff: Commander Abbas** – Report was presented. Avila's stats showed 29 incidents, whereas there were 21 last year. The Council asked that the Sheriff provide a perspective on this increase at the next meeting.

B. **Highway Patrol: Lt. Ferguson** – No report

C. **Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Provence** – No report

D. **Planning: Jeremy Freund** provided a summary of updated projects, and the Avila Committee had two concerns (Amend 2025-00010 and Sub 2021-00041). Jeremy indicated that if these two projects are recommended for further action, the Avila Committee will be notified.

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

F. **County Parks: Tanya Richardson**: No report

G. **Port San Luis: Will Friedman**: Report under Port Committee Report

H. **Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg**: Highlights were:

- Project Notification Boundaries – In-and-Out of URL will be 1,000ft notification confirmed by the Planning Director.

- County Budget to be discussed at next Tuesday's meeting. Focus has been on improvements in the Sheriff's Department. The economy has not matched the services' needs. CAL Fire's local staff was increased, no solution at this time.
- Supervisor and President of AVAC look forward to having a face-to-face meeting with a potluck proceeding the next AVAC meeting.
- June 8 – Welcome Home Village (54 units) Ribbon-cutting, at which Dawn will attend.
- Senior Advocacy Access reference will be provided to the Council.
- Office hours: To be determined

7. Old Business:

- No report

8. New Business:

David Watson – Presented an overview of the Ontario Project, providing details of the two parcels under consideration for zoning issues involving zoning status (i.e., commercial/retail. multiple family and single unit housing development) and possible new standards. This will be a long process working with the County Planning Department. Their plan is to submit paperwork in June asking for authorization to submit an application this summer. The Avila Valley Sub-Committee will be involved in this process.

Also, Sycamore Mineral Springs Project (22 hotel rooms) is moving along. They are dealing with wastewater issues and are working with San

Miguelito Wastewater District's possible wastewater treatment plant.

Ben Londo – presented Break a Wave, a Cal Poly Rodeo on Avila Beach, September 25-26, 6-8pm with a concert to follow at the golf course.

This is a high-energy, holistic event. Details are being worked-out. Parking will be on the golf course. Fundraising event for the Cal Poly Rodeo

Club and for non-profits, like the Friends of Avila Pier. The Port has given its OK to have staff work with Ben on the details. The Council gave him feedback on: parking, public safety, agencies which need to be noticed, general public access, boardwalk, businesses notification, etc. There will be updates provided as this event gets processed.

Motion was made and seconded (Allen/Robesky) to send a letter of support to the Port recognizing this a positive collaborative event for Avila Beach. Motion carried

9. Community Liaisons:

- **Avila Beach Civic Association:** Mary Matakovich encouraged members to mark their calendars for the July 4th Pancake Breakfast at the Civic Association Building followed by the Dog Parade in the promenade.
- **Avila Beach Foundation:** Rick Rowe stated that the Foundation is opening its grant process online on June 1. Go to their website for more information.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon:** Eric Daniels reports:
 - 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 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 colling discharge.

- 3) Between now and January, the underground cables will be put in-place along San Luis Bay Drive, the Bob Jones Trail, etc. There will be heavy equipment along the route and there will be minimal interruption.

10. AVAC:

- a. **Land Use:** No report
- b. **Diablo Canyon: Michael Clayton:** Report was given by Ken Thompson, as Michael was off celebrating his 75th birthday! The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee will hold an Open Meetings on June 16 & 17 with top management from Diablo Canyon presenting current status about the Power Plant Operations. These meetings can be viewed on ZOOM. The Meeting Agenda will be sent to the AVAC Council members when available in early June.
- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich:** Will's report to the Board of Commissioners' April Meeting covered: Multiple budget sessions have been held with a May 14 meeting this week. A Strategic Planning/Visioning session was held and the follow-up will be in tandem with the Budgeting process. A Special Information Meeting was held to receive the County's Feasibility Study on the Off Shore Wind Project; there will be a follow-up on this study shortly. Then, the Commission will make a determination as to the \$3M Grant available; that Action Item will be agendized, and the public will be notified. Staff is working with PG&E on permitting issues. Federal earmark request for the Avila Pier did not make the short list; staff is working with the remaining funds to secure the pier to Bent 75-80 along with a replacement landing.
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich** -No report
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Steve Benedict-** No report
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell** – No report
- g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen** reminded the Council that she will send a notice for the Apricot Picking Day.
- h. **Squire Canyon: Tom Rippner** reported that Nolan's Monte Road Project has now filed a lawsuit against the County.
- i. **Ad Hoc Fire Staffing:** No report.

11. Next Meeting Date: July 13, 2026, 6:00 PM. Avila Beach Community Center. Pot Luck before at 5:00 PM

12. Adjourn: 7:18 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mary Matakovich, Secretary.