

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

Date July 13, 2026

www.avac-avila.org

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

Roll call (present): Mary Matakovich, Judy Kaatz, John Janowicz, Vicki Book, Julia Hartzell, Mikey Giugni, Kristen McKiernan, Sheri Robesky, Carol Hayden, Percy Jones, Steve Benedict, Matt Matters, Michael Clayton, Ken Thompson, Denise Allen, Tom Rippner. Quorum was established.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

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

3. **Chair's Comments:** Denise Allen encouraged the Council members and the public to attend the ECOSLO Clean the Coast event on September 19.

4. **Public Comment:** Steve Rossi indicated that he has a new team ready for the July 23 Truck event. Baxter Boyington, Focus Group Coordinator for the SLO County Fire Safe Council, which is holding grant reviews on 7/24-26. Tara Woodruff, Senator Laird's Legislative Assistant, gave an update on SB 931, which the Senate and on its way to the governor.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Benedict reported on the current June balance, \$1,024.66, with an expense for Zoom of \$16.99. Also, the July balance, \$2,673.67 with an expense for Zoom of \$16.99. He deposited a check for \$1,066 from the County grant.

6. **County and Local Agency Reports:**

A. **Sheriff: Commander Abbas** – Noted 91 calls for service whereas last year it was 104. They have five cadets who have graduated from the academy and are now on duty.

B. **Highway Patrol: Lt. Ferguson** – Three collisions (two minor and one DUI) and 22 citations.

C. **Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Provence** – Fifty-five calls for service and alert to fires picking up throughout the state.

D.

E. **Planning: Jeremy Freud** presented a Long Range Update: State laws regarding housing are frequently updated. Sometimes, these laws require The County land use ordinances to be updated to reflect these new requirements and remain compliant. In 2022, a new State law (Senate Bill 9) was signed which provided a pathway for individual property owners to split their lot (urban lot splits) and to establish a second primary dwelling unit (urban dwelling) on eligible parcels. In 2025, the pathway for urban lot splits and urban dwellings was approved and is now effective within the inland portion of the County. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently conducted a compliance review of the County's Housing Element and requested that the County implement urban lot splits and urban dwellings within the Coastal Zone. In an effort to further the County's housing goals and meet state mandates, County Planning staff drafted the proposed ordinance and

will be presented to the Planning Commission on September 10, 2026 and the Board of Supervisors on November 3, 2026.

He also gave an overview of the County's Current Planning Projects. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg introduced Jennifer Love, the new Vacation Rental Program Manager, (805) 781-5617 or jelove@co.slo.ca.us.

- F. **Public Works: John Waddell:** No report. Kristen McKiernan complimented staff on handling potholes and offered a suggestion. Also, graffiti is to be reported to Code Enforcement.
- G. **County Parks: Tanya Richardson:** Shared a video by Upwell, who funded the project of the Sea Turtle sculpture, replacing the phone booth in the Avila Park. Signage is being developed. There will be a public celebration on Oct. 15. Hunter McKiernan, Eagle Scout, is completing his project on the entrance to the Bob Jones Trail with a kiosk explaining the trail. Betty Hartig was recognized for her leadership with the Trail Keepers to keep the trails safe with signs and their presence.
- H. **Port San Luis Harbor District: Will Friedman:** Dustin Barth was introduced as the new Facilities Manager. He thanked the community for their participation with the July 11 Beach Cleanup; 25 volunteers made a big difference. As well, the Port is grateful for the volunteer support it receives in several areas.
- I. **Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg:** Highlights were:
 - Bob Jones Trail Project has received the Souza Engineer Award. Work will begin from the Octagon Barn to Cloveridge with a ground breaking event on July 17 at 3pm. The CA Transportation Department has committed \$1.7 million to this project.
 - Avila Business Group/Alliance has met and discussion include networking, improvements, activities, enhancing downtown and info for locals and tourists.
 - Budget - \$1.2 Billion in Government Funded Expenditures: necessary work, financial rebalancing and resiliency initiatives and fighting for CAL Fire expansion
 - Ken Kelly, Upwell rep, is contributing funds for the turtle sculpture and to extend funding of the Farmers' Market.
 - August 13 – Office hours 1:30 – 3:30.

7. **Community Liaisons:**

- **Avila Beach Civic Association:** Mary Matakovich thanked the members for supporting the July 4th Pancake Breakfast at the Civic Association Building followed by the Dog Parade in the promenade, funds support the building fund. Boat Parade was provided by the San Luis Yacht Club.
- **Avila Beach Foundation:** The Foundation is 2027 grant cycle is open and access to the grant application is on the website.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon:** Eric Daniels reports that on June 29, PG&E submitted confirmatory testing results of a reactor vessel Capsule B to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). They are currently reviewing the results and are expected to issue a concurrence in the coming weeks. These results confirm that Diablo Canyon's Unit 1 reactor vessel continues to remain safe for at least 60 years of operation. Extensive prior analyses of the reactor vessel for Unit 1 and 2 combined with this new independent analysis for Unit 1, consistently demonstrate through at least 2045. In addition, the undergrounding project along San Luis Bay Drive will commence by the end of the month. PG&E crews will be using a process known as potholding and boring rather than trenching. Associated with this project will be the removal of overhead lines along a portion of the Bob Jones Trail from the Buddhist Temple west to where San Luis Bay Drive crosses the creek at Avila Beach Drive. Various phases of the project will perform

different parts of the ultimate task. Completion is expected in November. We anticipate minimal traffic interference and minimal impacts to those enjoying the Blob Jones Trail.

8. AVAC Committes:

- a. **Land Use:** No reportat bothat both units meet the rigorous standards required for safe operation through
- b. **Diablo Canyon: Michael Clayton:** The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee held their Public Meeting last month. Three PG&E Directors made presentations dealing with the Organizational, Future Plant Activities, Equipment and Human Performance Issues. Also, a presentation on the Aging Management Inspections of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility. A PG&E Senior VP talked about Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment and the DCP's Long-Term Seismic Program. In addition, the NRC Inspector General talked about the oversight that his organization is responsible for conducting. It was identified that the NRC would be attending the Emergency Planning Exercise starting on August 31 through September 4th. The SLO County Office of Emergency Services is key in coordinating activities with Diablo Canyon management plus our local and county offices. It is anticipated that FEMA will also attend and evaluate the Santa Barbara and Monterey counties and State agencies performance. This Diablo Committee has contacted the SLO Office of Emergency Services and a representative will attend the September AVAC meeting to report on the NRC's preliminary performance assessment.
- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich:** Highlights: Staff has met with Senator Laird on the SB931, PG&E to discuss the Pecho Trail, ABCSD to discuss a desalinization project, Cal Poly regarding the CEC grant, Strategic Planning and Visioning workshops, Flying Flag's lease.
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich:** Met with Code Enforcement to handle an issue, easily resolved.
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Steve Benedict** – no report
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell** - no report
- g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen** – It's apple season.
- h. **Squire Canyon: Tom Rippner** – There still is no secondary access for the homeowners and it's fire season; so, they need to be prepared, as do all of us.
- i. **Ad Hoc Fire Staffing: Percy Jones** stated the need for a 3rd staff member to be assigned to the local station.

9. Next Meeting Date: August 10, 2026, 6:00 PM. Via Zoom

10. Adjourn: 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mary Matakovich, Secretary.