

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

August 10, 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, Carol Hayden, Jim Hartig, Percy Jones, Steve Benedict, Matt Matter, Michael Clayton, 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 welcomed Kenderick Kelly who will be representing the Avila Beach Tourism Alliance on the Council. She mentioned the Coastal Business Improvement Process which Dawn later explained.

4. **Public Comment:** Vicki Book expressed her concerns about the Truck Show which was a big problem in the community due to the vehicles parked all over the community, the noise and the inability to drive in and out of Avila.

Baxter Boyington, SLO Fire Safety Council, invited the council members and the community to attend their next meeting, September 15 at 3:30pm at the Avila Valley Fire Station to talk about relegated issues. Bring a chair.

Tom Rippner indicated that cars were backed-up coming and going from Avila and recommended there needs to be a scheduling plan in place to work with the traffic issues.

Percy Jones indicated that in order for such an event to be successful, there needs to be a large plan coordinated by the Sheriff, CA Highway Patrol and Cal Fire. He asked for a definition of overcrowding and asked, "who is responsible to address this issue?" Yes, there is an evacuation plan in place, too. The application process should address this issue.

Steve Rossi said that the same traffic occurred all throughout the area, in Pismo Beach, Shell Beach, etc. He indicated that he appreciated the comments made. He announced that there will be a concert on Thursday at the Golf Resort.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Benedict reported on the current July balance, \$2,507.68, with an expense for Zoom of \$16.99.

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

A. **Sheriff: Commander Abbas** – Noted 134 calls for service whereas last year it was 142. They were mostly medical issues. He addressed the graffiti issues, indicating that their volunteer support staff have been out on leave. He recommended that individuals who have been tagged, notify his office. Steve Benedict asked about the graffiti on the Bob Jones Trail and was asked to follow up with the Sheriff's Office.

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

- C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Provence** – It's fire season. The Fire Stations are fully staffed. They had 75 calls, mostly for medical reasons. There will be a new sign at the station: SLO County Fire Department. He attended the Truck Show and appreciated the feedback from this meeting's discussion. They are now preparing for the Rodeo at the end of September.
- D. Planning: Jeremy Freud**: Focused on the two SLBE project #6 and #8 are in progress; noted on the spreadsheet. Mary Matakovich, on behalf of the Avila Committee, thanked Jeremy for following up with the three outstanding projects for Avila. All frustrating because of the changes made to each project after the committee's review.
- E. Public Works: John Waddell**: No report.
- F. County Parks: Tanya Richardson**: No report.
- G. Port San Luis Harbor District: Will Friedman**: Talked about: Avila Pier repairs will begin with equipment arriving in late August estimated at 60-90 days schedule. This will move the gate out about 20 bents/sections. Harbor Terrace's water tank is now permitted by the County with its 30-45 day project. The Cal Poly Rodeo, Sept. 25-26, is working through their negotiations with the Port. It's a ticketed event and expects 2500 people, lots to work through yet. Tickets are on sale now.
- Matt Matter asked a question about the pier repairs to which Will indicated that the repairs will be the next 20 bents/sections with pilings involving removing and replacing them, up to the gate and hopefully, will be completed before the storms. Michael Clayton asked about the boat launch which Will said he would look into.
- H. Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg**: Highlights were:
- Coastal Business Improved District (CBID) was formed and on 7/28 the BOS requested that 1% of the funds go toward beautification, infrastructure, and improvements to physical areas. Avila Business Tourism is the local business/nonprofit handling this task. CBID approved funds for the Bob Jones Trail signage and expanded Farmers' Market into mid-October.
 - REACH Contract: Community Briefs is an economics partner with the County. It will provide a concise profile outlining base economic data. An Economic Housing Relationship Analysis Package will be presented to Avila Beach in a mid-year report.
 - Vacation Rental findings through the Planning Commission indicate standards may be modified because they have discretion Visitor serving uses apply to most ADUs. Community members are encouraged to report any code issues to Jennifer Love at (805) 781-5617 or jelove@co.slo.ca.us. Vacation rental policy applies to all vacation rentals unless they were permitted prior to 2020. Dawn has asked Legal Counsel to review the Avila Beach Vacation Rental Policy, considering the 50 ft rule has not been applied consistently and has had an effect on the number of long-term residents in Avila Beach.
 - Bike Lockers have been approved for Avila beach. There will be four locations providing 15 lockers. They will be rented at a low cost.
 - Diablo Lands Project has been given \$5M from SB846 and the California Coastal Conservancy has responsibility for it. They will conduct a multi-partner input study. On Sept. 23, from 4-7pm at the SLO Library Community Room there will be a public information event. Possible question to be answered: What's Avila's impact?
 - Diablo Canyon 2045 - A presentation was made on July 30. Go to daibloplanning.com to view it.
 - County Personnel Changes: New Public Health Director-Suzy Jedd; New Behavioral Health Director, Dana Mckewen, Parks Director (Interim) John Diodati.
 - ATSU - A new school is open offering a Physician's Assistant Program.
 - BOS Meeting - August 18 - Affordable Housing and Urban Water Management Plan for Zone 3, DESAL Plan Feasibility Study

- Office hours - August 13 -1:30 – 3:30pm. Sept 10 - 1:30-3:30pm

7. **Old Business**

8. **New Business** - City to the Sea ½ Marathon - Brian Locher shared the success of last year's event and he is looking forward to another successful event, October 18, Sunday, with parking at the Avila Beach Resort.

Kristen McKiernan and Kelly Abba - New Sub Committee was tabled for a future meeting,

7. **Community Liaisons:**

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich** - No report
- **Avila Beach Foundation:** The Foundation 2027 grant cycle is open and access to the grant application is on the website. The deadline is September 9th for applications to be received. Rick Rowe thanked PG&E for the \$2500 donation for the continued support of the Work Force Assistance around Avila Beach.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels** - No report

8. **AVAC Committes:**

- a. **Land Use:**
- b. **Diablo Canyon: Michael Clayton:** No report
- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich:** No report
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich:** The Avila Committee surfaced three project issues with Planning and was given explanations for changes/exceptions. The Committee requested the Supervisor review the Vacation Rental Policy relative to Avila Beach as there are guidelines which are not being followed, and/ or exceptions are made later on in the processes. This goes too for ADU/JDU including parking,
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Steve Benedict**
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell** - The committee is working on a viable communication process for their immediate community.
- 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** - No report

9. **Next Meeting Date:** September 14, 2026, 6:00 PM. Via Zoom

10. **Adjourn:** 7:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mary Matakovich, Secretary.