

Avila Valley Advisory Council (AVAC)

San Luis Obispo, CA

PO Box 65

Avila Beach, CA 93424

September 14, 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, Sheri Robesky, Kristen McKiernan, Jim Hartig, Percy Jones, Steve Benedict, Matt Matter, Michael Clayton, Ken Thompson, Denise Allen, Tom Rippner. Quorum was established.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Jim Hartig and seconded by Michael Clayton to accept the minutes. The Motion carried.

3. **Chair's Comments:** Denise Allen reminded the Council of the BreakaWave Rodeo September 25 and 26; the ECOSLO Clean-Up on September 19 and the You Pick Flowers event in Squire Canyon.

4. **Public Comment:** Jim Hartig shared photos of Betty Hartig, Julia Hartzell and Tom Johnstone removing graffiti from the wall under the bridge by the Bob Jones Trail.

Steve Rossi talked about the upcoming events at the Golf Resort: Mac 'n Cheese, BreakaWave Rodeo parking and evening concerts Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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.

Kara Woodruff contact info: kara.woodruff@sen.ca.gov - Major legislation passed during this year's legislative session of local importance includes the successful resolution of PG&E funding to the County, the Cities, Port San Luis, local schools, and other local governments related to Diablo Canyon Power Plant's extension from 2025-2030. SB931 was amended to establish September 25th annually as Dolly Parton Day.

The governor signed several bills authored by Senator Laird: SB963 (establishing clearer timeframes for resolutions of Coastal Commission appeals to provide greater certainty on projects pending before the Commission) and SJR 12 (a resolution to oppose new California offshore oil and gas leases).

Senator Laird looks forward to the governor's final action on budget trailer bills: Pacific Wildlife Care's new regional wildlife rehabilitation facility and to begin planning and permitting activities for a multi-purpose trail stretching from Avila Beach to Harford Pier, which would be the last segment of the Bob Jones Trail.

If things go well this week, Wild Cherry Canyon will be in perpetuity. Coastal Conservancy is considering a grant to the Wildlands Conservancy for acquisition of long-term leases. Any questions, contact Kara.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Benedict reported on the current August balance, \$2,489.69, with an expense for Zoom of \$16.99.

6. County and Local Agency Reports:

- A. Sheriff: Commander Abbas** – Noted 114 calls for service whereas last year it was 127, mostly medical issues. There were 18 - prevention calls. They are monitoring fire status in the county and State. Be aware of your evacuation routes. Go to Ready.SLO.org for more information. Commander Abbas complimented Chief Ashton for the Harbor Patrol's support over the years. Kristen McKiernan inquired as to the need to have a noise metric; there is no device. Using reasonableness, file a Penal Code form, if the noise is a nuisance.
- B. Highway Patrol: Lt. Ferguson** – A CHP helicopter will be on-duty training in the area through November.
- C. Cal Fire: Battalion Chief Paul Provence** – There were 53 calls for service, mainly medical aid. One local fire team is on duty in Santa Maria as well as other areas. A fire vehicle will be present for the Rodeo schedule, supporting the community.
- D. Planning: Jeremy Freud**: Written report submitted, no new projects. Steve stated that the SLBE developed a letter in response to the Planning Commission's position.
- E. Public Works: John Waddell**: No report.
- F. County Parks: Interim Parks Director John Diadati**: Working on a leadership transition
- G. Port San Luis Harbor District: Will Friedman**: Officers who carry firearms must be certified by Peace Officers Standards of Training (POST) which requires 4 months of training under SB2. The Harbor Patrol will no longer carry firearms. They will serve the district property which covers the water and the sand to the seawall. The sheriff will need to cover the rest. They will also wear blue uniforms.
- H. Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg**: Highlights were:
- Scott Jalbert with the Operations for Emergency Services (OES) summarized the September 2 exercise involving PG&E, the governmental agencies, the Port and local schools. A report summarizing what they learned from this exercise will be available in 90 days.
 - Vacation Rental compliance is now in place with the hiring of Jennifer Love, and purchasing new software in-place. If there is a violation observed, contact code enforcement along with pictures.
 - Break a Wave Preparation is under way with the Supervisor's Coordination Meeting. Cal Fire will stage an extra engine at the site. Ride-On: Park 'n Ride in place. Mainly the discussion centered on safety and traffic control.
 - El Nino Storm Prep - Go to ReadySLO.org for updates, preparedness resources, sandbag info, etc.
 - Multi Model Transportation Updates: Bike Locker. Request help for crosswalks, BJT Octagon Barn Celebration, 9/17 @3pm
 - Avila Websites for Business/Play - AvilaBusinessAlliance.com and WelcometoAvilaBeach.com and a Reference Guide is being developed.
 - ECO SLO Creeks to Coast Cleanup - Come and join in: Saturday, September 19, 9-noon - Cave Landing is still open, contact Aidan Wells.
 - Diablo Canyon Land Conservation Kick-off Workshop - September 23, 4-7pm at the County Library
 - Diablo Lands -Wild Cherry Canyon lands to be protected, restored and enhance natural and cultural Resources. The Wildlands Conservancy acquired the fee title and leasehold interest.
 - Supervisor's Office Hours: Oct. 8, 1:30 - 3:30pm
- Contact info: district3@co.slo.ca.us or call 805-781-4336

7. **Old Business**

8. **New Business** -

Kristen McKiernan shared a Sand Distribution Location flyer indicating locations to pick-up Sand across the area. Bring your own bags.

Kristen and Sheri Robesky are offering the council members to be a part of the one-time mass County email invitation; please respond by Monday, 9/21, to Sheri, sherijuney@gmail.com. This will provide each area in the District to communicate separately with their population.

7. **Community Liaisons:**

- **Avila Beach Civic Association: Mary Matakovich** - Save the date: October 23 Bingo/Spaghetti Dinner!
- **Avila Beach Foundation: Rick Rowe**: The Foundation 2027 grant cycle is open until 9/18/26.
- **Avila Beach Tourism Alliance: Kenderick Kelly**: There are several events: PalKai Outrigger event, Farmers' Market continuing to Oct. 16, the Leatherback Turtle Ribbon-cutting at 5PM on October 15, the City to Sea - October 8.
- **PG&E / Diablo Canyon: Eric Daniels** - DCPD is operating at 100% this evening. The next refueling campaign will begin in early October. Temporary employees are already arriving and getting ready for the event. The undergrounding project along San Luis Bay Drive is going well. A few more days of that activity. Removal of the overhead along the Bob Jones Trail from the Buddhist Temple to San Luis Bay Drive will commence shortly afterwards.

8. **AVAC Committes:**

- a. **Land Use:**
- b. **Diablo Canyon: Michael Clayton**: The State Conservancy's Diablo Canyon Lands Conservation Planning Project will hold a community workshop on Wednesday, September 23 at the San Luis Obispo Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street from 4:00-7:00pm. The Planning Project will focus on the future conservation, Tribal access, stewardship and future public use of approximately 12,000 acres surrounding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.
For additional project updates, please see DiabloCanyonLandsPlanning.com.
- c. **Port: Mary Matakovich**: No report
- d. **Avila Beach: Mary Matakovich**: No report
- e. **San Luis Bay Estates: Steve Benedict** - Presented the committee's response to the County's Planning Department's response to their AVAC approved letter. Motion was made and seconded (Hartig/Thompson) to approve the letter. Motion carried.
- f. **Avila Valley: Julia Hartzell** - The committee is proud to have developed a viable communication tool that is being shared with the Council. Congrats to Sheri and Kristen!
- g. **See Canyon: Denise Allen** – Best apple cider is available now in See Canyon. She will be sending out an email shortly inviting all to come pick their apples.
- h. **Squire Canyon: Tom Rippner** – Grateful to hear about the communication project created by Avila Valley, as it will hopefully increase communication across their area. There still is no secondary access for the homeowners and its fire season; so, they need to be prepared. The issue is: where can Baron Canyon residents exit?

- i. **Ad Hoc Fire Staffing: Percy Jones** - No report. Shared the success of his son in professional football, proud Dad!

9. **Next Meeting Date:** October 12, 2026, 6:00 PM. Via Zoom

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

Respectfully submitted by Mary Matakovich, Secretary.