

**BIG SUR MULTI-AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2017
PFIEMER BIG SUR LODGE CONFERENCE CENTER
47225 HIGHWAY 1, BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA 93920**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Mary Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call and introductions were made. Agency attendees: Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Toby Uptain-Villa (representing Senator Bill Monning), Assemblymember Anna Caballero, Supervisor Mary Adams, Tim Short (USFS), Sara von Schwind (Caltrans), John DeLuca (State Parks), Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission), Ray Trabucco (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District), Joe Sidor (Monterey County Resource Management Agency), Butch Kronlund (Coast Property Owners Association), Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast), and Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce).

PROCEEDINGS

III. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of October 21, 2016, were approved without change.

IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- **Bill Nye** – Welcomed new members to the BSMAAC. Reminded attendees that the Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery opened in the fall of 2016, and that funding is still needed to complete the cemetery. There have been 381 burials (inurnments) to date, and additional information is available on the back table. Bill also make a recommendation for alternative 55 MPH signs that flash and also painting 55 MPH on Highway 1.
- **Julie Armstrong (representing the Big Sur International Marathon)** – Thanked the Big Sur community for their support during the marathon, and especially the support of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade (BSVFB).
- **Carissa Chappellet (Rancho Rico)** – Thanked the BSVFB and community for their effort in building the trail across Pfeiffer Canyon. Commented that night access across the canyon via the trail, which is not currently available, is necessary due to worker schedules. Also commented on the need for improved infrastructure, specifically parking and restrooms.
- **John Handy (Treebones)** – Commented on the new requirement to pay a fee to use the Mill Creek and Willow Creek access areas and restrooms. These sites are used by locals and tourists for fishing and surfing, and requested the collection of fees be halted, and that beach access sites not be converted into fee areas. Mike Watson, Coastal Commission staff, responded that conversion of sites on federal land to fee areas is handled by the Coastal Commission’s federal consistency group in the San Francisco office.
- **Member of the Public** – Commented about the lack of restrooms along the Big Sur coast.
- **Mike Emmett (Fire Safe Council of Monterey County)** – Asked for an update on the Strategic Fuel-break Project plan and timeline. Tim Short, USFS, responded that the projects’ Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been circulated for public comment.
- **Michael Handy** – Asked about restrooms.
- **Joe Rawitzer (Firesafe Council of Monterey County)** – Commented on the need for increased funding and coordination between state and federal agencies.
- **Heather Chappellet-Lanier** – Commented on the lack of infrastructure along the Big Sur coast, especially along Sycamore Canyon Road, and the need to work on infrastructure improvements now before the level of tourism increases again.

- **Steve Beck** – Announced that Monterey County RMA-Planning had released a draft ordinance for short-term rentals, and encouraged residents to review the draft document and comment. Asked why the Senior Annual Pass to national parks is not accepted by concessionaires at fee areas. Scott Wagner, Regional Manager for Parks Management (concessionaire along the Big Sur coast), and Tim Short, USFS, responded that the Senior and Golden Access passes are not allowed at fee area sites. Scott Wagner was asked to return to the next BSMAAC with more information in response to this question.
- **Mike Linder** – Commented on issues that still need to be addressed.
- **Member of the Public (south coast resident)** – Commented on the installation of gates at fee areas, and that the fees have discouraged use of those sites and thereby increased trash along Highway 1. Commented that the short-term rental ordinance does not address camping.
- **Member of the Public** – Commented on the use of restrooms and fees.
- **Kerry Frangioso** – Commented that there will likely be an increase in Sudden Oak Death Syndrome due to the rain over the winter.
- **Mike Caplin**
 - Asked about the Disaster Service Worker Program (DSWP), and requested assistance from Supervisor Adams. The DSWP provides workers compensation and liability insurance if injured while volunteering during a disaster, but the worker must be registered and performing “authorized” work. Supervisors Adams responded that Monterey County implemented the DSWP this winter.
 - Commented on the Strategic Fuel-break Project and the need to remove the “wilderness” designation from fire-break areas.
 - Asked that the Adler Ranch area, which contains 1.5 miles of fire-break, not be designated as wilderness. The ranch is supposedly to be purchased by the Western Rivers Conservancy, then donated to the USFS and designated as wilderness.
 - Asked Assemblymember Anna Caballero to take action on his proposed California Wildfire Preparation Act, which would eliminate roadblocks to owners to protect property.
- **Marcus Foster** – Commented on dispersed camping and the need for commitment of additional public safety resources upon re-opening of the south coast. Commented on the increased and possibly unauthorized use of drones over the coast and national marine sanctuary.
- **AT&T Representative** – Announced the completion of the installation (on May 11, 2017) of a new microwave reflector on Mount Manuel. The upgrade will increase capacity and reliability.
- **Michael Handy** – Asked that fee area signs be removed until the next BSMAAC.
- **Dave Smiley** – Commented on the Monterey County Planning Commission action to link approval of the short-term rental ordinance with amendment of the Big Sur Coast Land Use Plan (Local Coastal Program).

V. New Business:

Report on Soberanes Fire Fund and CPOA Economic Recovery Fund

Coast Property Owners Association (CPOA) representative Butch Kronlund announced that over \$1M has been received and distributed to date. The funds have been used primarily for repairs to water and septic systems, and shared roads. He also commented that significant road issues remain, especially on Palo Colorado Road. In addition, over \$350K has been raised for support to hospitality industry workers who have lost income due to the winter storms. Lastly, he thanked supporters who have worked to assist the Big Sur community.

Big Sur Economic Recovery Task Force Update

Kate Daniels, Principal Aide to Supervisor Adams, opened with comments regarding immediate and long-term needs.

a. State Parks Report

John DeLuca, State Parks, announced that a temporary parking area has been identified at Andrew Molera State Park, in the fire camp footprint. State Parks staff continues to work on staffing, fees, ingress and egress design, and services such as restrooms.

b. Shuttle Report

Weston Call, Sur Transportation, announced that logistic and cost details are being determined, as well as identification of a funding mechanism.

c. Services at Turnaround

Ric Encarnacion, Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) Assistant Director, commented on the role of EHB regarding provision of trash and recycle services via the Waste Management contract. EHB is not a restroom service provider, yet will participate in providing expertise so a long-term solution can be implemented. Resident Heather Chappellet-Lanier commented about restrooms and infrastructure improvements on Sycamore Canyon Road, and Assemblymember Anna Caballero responded. Supervisor Adams informed the attendees that this issue will be set as an agenda item for the next BSMAAC.

d. Funding

Kate Daniels, Principal Aide to Supervisor Adams, commented that Supervisor Adams office is in communication with the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and the Community Foundation to explore funding possibilities.

VI. Reports from Member Agencies:

California Highway Patrol – Supporting Agency

- Absent

Monterey County Sheriff's Office – Supporting Agency (Commander Keith Wingo, Enforcement Operations Bureau)

- Commented that the Sheriff's Office responded to 4 calls since the last BSMAAC.

Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast)

- Thanked the many organizations involved in supporting the Big Sur community.
- Announced that the unified command (BSVFB and Monterey County OES) remains active.
- Announced the postponement of the BSVFB Annual Muster and fundraiser.
- Reminded attendees that a draft Big Sur Coast Land Use Plan, prepared by the community via Land Use Advisory Committee meetings, has been submitted to Monterey County RMA-Planning.
- Commented on Pfeiffer Beach and the challenges of heavy use of Sycamore Canyon Road
- Recommended legislative adoption of tax incentives for volunteer firefighters.

Betty Withrow (Resident of Big Sur – South Coast)

- Unable to attend due to road conditions. Comments read by Dick Ravich.

- Pacific Valley students have adjusted to home study, but look forward to the re-opening of Highway 1 and the school.
- The threat of wildfire remains a concern.
- Big Sur Kate commented that unauthorized camping remains a problem. Kerry Frangiosi recommended that camp fires be banned.

Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce)

- Thanked the BSMAAC and Big Sur community for support. He also compared how impacts to the community this year are much more significant than previous closures of Highway 1 in 1983-84 and 1998, and commented that continued community spirit is necessary for survival.

Butch Kronlund (CPOA)

- No further comments (see New Business comments above).

Joe Sidor (Monterey County Resource Management Agency)

- Informed attendees of the availability of the Big Sur current project report.
- Informed attendees that the Monterey County Planning Commission, on May 12th, directed staff to continue development of a new ordinance for short-term rentals, but to not include the Big Sur planning area until the community is re-connected and able to fully participate.

Mary Adams (Supervisor, District 5, Monterey County Board of Supervisors)

- Thanked Kate Daniels for her work.
- Thanked the many organizations and individuals who worked on the Pfeiffer Canyon trail.
- Re-introduced Gerry Malais, new Emergency Services Manager for the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services.

Ray Trabucco (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District)

- Announced that the Mill Creek Preserve on Palo Colorado Road would remain closed pending repairs to the road and the preserve.

Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission)

- Commented on a single-family residence near Kasler Point where public land and a pull out existed around the Bay. Comment period for public on project was open.
- Commented on a Caltrans Highway 1 culvert replacement project.

Sara von Schwind (Caltrans)

- Informed attendees of the availability of the Big Sur Project Update report.
- Provided updates on construction, road clearing and associated activities at Mud Creek, Paul's Slide, Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, and Andrew Molera State Park. There not yet an estimated date for the opening of Highway1 at Mud Creek, which involves multiple/complex landslides. Caltrans will use mining technology to determine a long-term solution, with an immediate goal of opening one lane for travel. Paul's Slide has an estimated completion date of mid-June. At Pfeiffer Canyon, the north piers and cages have been set, and Caltrans will begin work on the south end. Slide work at two locations along Andrew Molera State Park has been finished at one location, and will be finished soon at the other location.

John DeLuca (State Parks)

- Commented that State Parks is looking at possible ways to provide beach access at Andrew Molera State Park, and is evaluating trail damage at all parks in the Big Sur area.
- Commented that State Parks is working on a shuttle parking area.
- Announced that limited camping will begin on May 19, 2017.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

- Absent

Tim Short (USFS)

- Impressed by the high level of community cooperation during and after the winter storms.
- Introduced Tom Murphey Los Padres National Forest staff for non-fire issues.
- Informed attendees that there is a Forest Order to restrict camping on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road.
- Commented that overuse of Highway 1 and the Big Sur coast is a multi-jurisdictional issue.
- Announced the completion of slide repairs on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road.
- Commented that repair of Sycamore Canyon Road is being investigated, as well as the possibility of and means for regulating traffic.
- Announced that the USFS is also evaluating possible repair work on Tassajara Road and North Coast Ridge Road.
- Commented that the fees charged at access areas such as Willow Creek and Mill Creek help pay for services.

Anna Caballero (30th District, State Assembly)

- Introduced Aline Reyna, District Director, located in Salinas.
- Offered support to the Big Sur community.

Toby Uptain-Villa (representing Senator Bill Monning, 17th District, State Senate)

- Commented that Sen. Monning's office had assisted 67 applicants for Employment Development Department unemployment benefits
- Recognized Chief Brennan Blue from CalFire.

Jimmy Panetta (20th District, United States Congress)

- Announced that his number one goal is accessibility for his constituents.
- Introduced Kathleen Lee, District Director, located in Salinas.
- Commented on the need for infrastructure investment, and funding for FEMA and USFS.

Wes Morrill (Director, Monterey County Veteran Services)

- Commented on services provided by his office.
- Announced that the new Fort Ord Veterans Clinic would open in mid-August.

Chief Brennan Blue (CalFire) – Supporting Agency

- Commented on fuel reduction activities, and emphasized the need for defensible space around structures.

VII. Reports from Other Agencies: None

VIII. Next meeting: August 11, 2017

IX. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.