

**BIG SUR MULTI-AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 11, 2017  
PFIEFFER 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 10:06 am.

**II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Roll call and introductions were made. Agency attendees: Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Senator Bill Monning, Assemblymember Anna Caballero, Supervisor Mary Adams, Merv George (USFS), Karen Grimmer (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary), Sara von Schwind (Caltrans), Brent Marshall (State Parks), Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission), Caine Camarillo (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District), Joe Sidor (Monterey County Resource Management Agency), Butch Kronlund (Coast Property Owners Association), Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce), and Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast). Supervisor Adams also introduced Dwayne Woods (Monterey County Deputy CAO/Budget Director), Gerry Malais (Monterey County Emergency Services Manager), Carl Holm (Monterey County Resource Management Agency Director), and Wes Morrill (Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Officer).

**PROCEEDINGS**

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of May 12, 2017, were approved with changes recommended by Mike Caplin regarding workers' compensation and liability insurance for the Disaster Service Worker Program (DSWP).

**IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

- **Peter Colby (Adler Ranch)** – Commented on proposed sale of Adler Ranch to the USFS.
- **Michael Wisner** – Asked the BSMAAC to assume responsibility for Highway 1 beautification, including the undergrounding of existing utilities and extension of utilities south to Mal Paso.
- **Rich Larson** – Announced the formation of a task force to address utility undergrounding, and requested the BSMAAC agendaize the topic for the next meeting.
- **Michael Emmett (President, Mal Paso Creek HOA and Monterey County Fire Safe Council)** – Opposes the acquisition or purchase of Adler Ranch by the USFS due to fire break concerns.
- **Mike Caplin** – Commented that there has never before been a time limit on public comment at BSMAAC meetings, and he hopes it does not become a habit. Asked the USFS representative if Adler Ranch had been placed on the list for priority purchase. Merv George, USFS, responded that it had not. He then asked Congressman Panetta to initiate a Congressional Review of the Adler Ranch purchase.
- **Sean Shadwell (Big Sur First)** – Read comments regarding amplified music events at Fernwood Resort in the Big Sur Valley, and asked for preservation of the quiet environment.
- **Patricia Domingo** – Commented on Highway 1 traffic safety concerns and overuse of septic capacity. Asked about making Highway 1 a toll road to preserve the integrity of the coast. Also commented that she is encouraged by the recent enforcement activities along Highway 1.
- **Pam Peck** – Commented on the impacts the Soberanes wildfire has had on private roads, specifically upper Rocky Creek Road, and that raising the funds needed to make road repairs has been challenging. The residents along upper Rocky Creek Road need and are asking for help from the Big Sur community.

- **Lawrence Miracle (Property owner on Palo Colorado Road)** – Commented on the possible USFS purchase of Adler Ranch, and suggested a reservation system and signage to ensure sensitivity to and protection of cultural and biological resources.
- **Steve Culver (Veterans group)** – Commented on the need for Phase 2 implementation funding for the Central Coast Veteran’s Cemetery on the former Fort Ord. Senator Monning announced the approval of \$1.5M in state funds for Phase 2.
- **Joel** (South Coast resident) - Commented about conflicting signage on Highway 1.
- **Marcus Foster** – Expressed concerns about overuse of the Big Sur coast. Commented that the continued growth is not sustainable, and is interfering with the quality of life.
- **Richard Garza (Central Coast Veteran’s Cemetery)** – Thanked everyone for support provided to the cemetery.
- **Cliff Guinn (FORTHM)** – Commented on an effort to save historical buildings on the former Fort Ord to use as a museum, and asked for support.

#### **V. Reports from Member Agencies:**

##### **Jimmy Panetta (20<sup>th</sup> District, United States Congress)**

- Commented on the need for coordination with and among federal agencies to address the needs of Big Sur.
- Commented on the difficulty in balancing between fire suppression and fire prevention.
- Commented that infrastructure needs must be met.

##### **Bill Monning (17<sup>th</sup> District, State Senate)**

- Acknowledged the work of the Big Sur community to help the area recover from the impacts of the Soberanes wildfire and the winter landslides.
- Introduced Captain Kelly Cardoza, the new CHP Commander for the Monterey Area, and mentioned increased enforcement along Nacimiento-Ferguson Road.
- Commented on SB1 and the funding it would make available for road improvements throughout Monterey County.
- Commented on the Mud Creek landslide, and acknowledged the work of Toby Uptain-Villa and Nicole Charles with/for the Big Sur community.
- Commented on district staff’s efforts to facilitate unemployment benefits for Big Sur employees impacted by road closures caused by winter storms.
- Mike Caplin thanked Senator Monning for his support of the Coastal Trail working group.

##### **Anna Caballero (30<sup>th</sup> District, State Assembly)**

- Announced that she will help to identify resources for the Big Sur community.
- Acknowledged the high use of the Big Sur coast and the need to address impacts.
- Commented that the state legislature is focused this session on workforce housing and water conservation.

**New Business topics were discussed next. See Agenda Item VII below for main points.**

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

- Commented on the shuttle idea for access to Pfeiffer Beach via Sycamore Canyon Road.
- Introduced Dwayne Woods (Monterey County Deputy CAO/Budget Director), who proceeded to discuss the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and how funds derived from the TOT are disbursed. The

County receives approximately \$20M - \$22M in TOT per annum. The Big Sur community generates approximately \$4M per annum in TOT. TOT-derived funds are discretionary, and the demand exceeds the available funds. Various uses of TOT include the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCCVB), Arts Bureau, Film Commission, and road maintenance. Kirk Gafill commented on the mission of the MCCVB. Marth Diehl commented on the need to preserve the visitor experience to Big Sur. Mike Caplin commented on the need to balance the TOT dollars going out of Big Sur versus the TOT dollars coming in to Big Sur. Dick Ravich asked if the County tracks how much of the TOT generated in Big Sur comes back to Big Sur. Barbara Woyt mentioned the importance of understanding the needs of the Big Sur community so the TOT dollars are better invested.

**Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast)**

- Thanked Jimmy Panetta for supporting legislative efforts to provide tax incentives to recruit more volunteer firefighters.
- Commented on high-speed broadband support.
- Thanked Caltrans for maintenance efforts along Highway 1.
- Commented that the Big Sur Land Use Plan update appears to be in limbo.
- Announced the results of a traffic count on Sycamore Canyon Road.

**Betty Withrow (Resident of Big Sur – South Coast)**

- Absent (travel limitations due to the Mud Creek landslide)
- Written Statement was provided for attendees.

**Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce)**

- Commented that many businesses in Big Sur remain closed due to the economic downturn caused by road closures from the Soberanes wildfire and winter landslides, primarily Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge and Mud Creek. There has been an approximate 30% reduction in business activity.
- Mentioned that the Pfeiffer Canyon trail and shuttle service from Andrew Molera State Park have helped businesses. The trail has over 400 users per day.
- Announced that the Big Sur Fire Relief Fund had raised \$350K to address the needs of displaced workers, and that the support is extremely important. Butch Kronlund updated the amount distributed to over \$490K.
- Asked about the CHP housing scheduled to be constructed at the Multi-Agency Facility (MAF). Currently, the MAF site is unavailable due to reconstruction of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge. The housing project will move forward after completion of the bridge.

**Butch Kronlund (CPOA)**

- Announced that the Soberanes Fire Fund had distributed approximately 1,000 grant checks in various amounts totaling over \$1M. The grants were focused primarily to help repair shared roads, water systems, and wastewater systems. There are 10 pending claims, and approximately \$100K remains to be distributed.
- Commented that the CPOA opposes the Adler Ranch sale to the USFS. Merv George, USFS, outlined the nomination process for USFS purchases of private land.
- Asked that the Pfeiffer Canyon trail remain open after completion of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge.
- Asked that Pfeiffer Beach remain closed until a solution to address public health and safety is addressed.

**Joe Sidor (Monterey County Resource Management Agency)**

- Informed attendees of the availability of the Big Sur current project report.

**Caine Camarillo (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District)**

- Announced that the Mill Creek Redwoods Preserve remains closed. MPRPD continues to work with FEMA to address needed repairs after the Soberanes wildfire and the winter landslides.

**Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission)**

- Commented that the Coastal Commission will address issues raised by the Big Sur community.

**Sara von Schwind (Caltrans)**

- Informed attendees of the availability of the Big Sur Project Update report, and specifically identified a paving project along Highway 1.
- Provided updates on construction associated activities at Mud Creek.
- Announced that a State Resources Grant has been approved, and will help Caltrans study issues related to the overuse of Highway 1 and the Big Sur coast.

**Brent Marshall (State Parks)**

- Thanked the Big Sur community for input on various issues.

**Karen Grimmer (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary)**

- Departed before comments.
- Kathleen Lee announced the availability of information about the sanctuary's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Merv George (USFS)**

- No further comments.

**VI. Reports from Other Agencies: None**

**VII. New Business:**

Update on Kirk Creek and Willow Creek Day Use Fee

Mike Linder commented that the day use fee at these two locations was implemented without following the correct process, and that both federal and state law were violated. Federal law requires an opportunity for public comment, and a review of the need for the fee, neither of which occurred. The gates are now open, but the fee stations are still in place.

Mike Handy discussed potential funding solutions, including potential County support.

Mike Watson informed the BSMAAC that the Coastal Commission has sent a letter to the USFS asking the USFS to submit a request for a federal consistency determination.

Sean Corrales, Parks Management, commented on the USFS permit issued to his company, and alternative funding sources.

Law Enforcement Update

Martha Karstens commented on Pfeiffer Beach and dispersed camping, and the need for enforcement and signage. She also commented that in addition to a closure order for Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, the USFS would usually issue closures orders for Plaskett and Willow Creek as well. In addition, she read a statement from the Board of Directors of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade regarding Pfeiffer Beach.

Other points raised included the protocol to follow for reporting an illegal campfire, and various agencies involved in enforcement. Rick Aldinger asked about the plans for increased enforcement and if volunteers could assist.

Merv George, acting Forest Supervisor for the Los Padres National Forest, commented on the difficulty in reconciling national standards with local needs. He also commented that the correct process had been followed in the establishment of the day use fees (see above). In addition, he announced that a road closure order for Nacimiento-Ferguson Road would go into effect today (i.e., August 11, 2017), and that Pfeiffer Beach is closed due to safety concerns on Highway 1 and a washout on Sycamore Canyon Road. Regarding Pfeiffer Beach, Butch Kronlund suggested it remain closed until a shuttle system is in place to address the health and safety issue of heavy traffic on Sycamore Canyon Road.

Regarding dispersed camping, several residents commented on the lack of response from law enforcement. According to Kelly Cardoza, local CHP Commander, one officer is assigned to address issues on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road. Marcus Foster commented that the CHP and other law enforcement staff need to enforce the County ordinance that prohibits camping on Highway 1. Another Big Sur south coast resident commented that eliminating dispersed camping is not fair for individuals who want to visit Big Sur but who don't have the necessary resources.

#### Bathrooms on the Coast Update

Anna Caballero introduced this topic and presented maps showing restroom locations along the Big Sur coast. She commented that although locations and gaps have been identified, additional information is needed such as hours and seasons of operation. She also asked the community to help identify where more are needed. Ryan, south coast resident, commented on the need for signage. Other residents suggested visitor centers at the north and south ends of the Big Sur coast, and commented on the need for locals and representatives from San Luis Obispo County to be involved in future discussions. Martha Diehl commented on the importance of identifying locational needs versus availability.

**VIII.** Next meeting: November 3, 2017

**IX.** The meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm.