

**BIG SUR MULTI-AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 23, 2018
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 10:10 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call and introductions were made. Agency attendees: Kathleen Lee (District Director for Congressman Jimmy Panetta), Nicole Hollingsworth (District Director for Senator Bill Monning), Aline Reyna (District Director for Assembly member Anna Caballero), Supervisor Mary Adams, Teresa Benson (USFS), Karen Grimmer (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary), Sara von Schwind (Caltrans), Brent Marshall (State Parks), Tim Short (US Forest Service) Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission), Caine Camarillo (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District), Jacqueline R. Onciano (Monterey County Resource Management Agency), Butch Kronlund (Coast Property Owners Association), Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce), Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast). After Public Comment, Supervisor Adams also introduced Sheriff Bernal and Commander Wingo (Monterey County Sheriff's Office).

PROCEEDINGS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of November 3, 2017, were approved with no changes.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Mike Caplin** – Thanked Congressman Jimmy Panetta for not supporting the acquisition of the Adler Ranch property by USFS. Mike asked Kathleen Lee for the written copy of statement of what was read at the Coast Property Owners Meeting.
- **Marcus Foster (Big Sur Resident)** –Commented on the need for more signage along Highway One regarding no overnight camping and should include the county code so law enforcement can write tickets. Mr. Foster discussed sanitation and fire issues. He stated the need for more enforcement and more signs. He noted pedestrians should not be allowed on Bixby Bridge and asked if there was a way (fencing, boulders, etc.) to contain visitors to prevent erosion of the cliffs.
- **Weston Call (Sur Transportation)** -Thank you for the shuttle on Section 4 Big Sur LUP.
- **Pam Silkwood** – Commented on the Coastal Trail and extended an invitation to join a work group for the Coastal Trail.
- **Doug Thurston (Big Sur Marathon)** – Gave an overview of the April 2018 Big Sur Marathon regarding the runners drop off and overall update of the event.

- **Mary Trotter** – Requested that a future agenda item on the use of the Navy Base be added to the Agenda to receive an update from State Parks and or the County of Monterey on the use/status of the Navy Base. What is happening with the property?
- **Karen Norstrand (Monterey County Film Commission)** – Gave an update on the services that Monterey Film Commission offers and shared that there is a desire to film in Monterey County and Big Sur; Highway One is highly desired. Monterey Film Commission works to make sure all permits are secured. \$106 million economic impact to Monterey County over last 30 years, \$5 million last year.
- **Tim Green** – Commented and questioned Monterey County Resource Management Agency (RMA) and California Coastal Commission (CCC) on the packet of information that was submitted to the Historic Resources Review Board (HRRB) on the Post Ranch wall construction, what was proposed does not match what was constructed. Jacqueline Onciano (RMA) and Mike Watson (CCC) responded to his comments that they would look in to the inquiry of the wall construction in relation to the information submitted. CCC staff stated that, if needed, they would send out an inspector. Supervisor Adams commented that if there were additional request they could be sent to the District 5 office.
- **Joel Depola** – South Coast resident, commented about parking and walking to Kirk Creek restrooms. He stated that the 90 miles of Highway has no facilities that the Public use and signage is confusing. Tim Short (US Forest Service) responded that Camping Grounds are not rest stops, however, restrooms can be used. He requested that garbage cans be added at the vista points at MM 12, 27 and 34 to help control trash.
- **Kevin Harvey** – Commented on the human waste and trash left behind by illegal camping on South Coast Road.
- **Gene Andersen** - Commented on the use of Las Padres National Forest and Ventana Wilderness. He was disappointed in not having support from Congressman Panetta to acquire Adler Ranch. Requested that the Forest Service speak to the Little Sur Trailhead being blocked by a private property owner. Tim Short (US Forest Service) and Mike Watson (CCC) responded that access is a concern if it is a permanent trail closure as that would require a CDP. Closures are driven by trail conditions.

Supervisor Adams introduced Sherriff Steven Bernal

V. OLD BUSINESS:

2017 Transportation Award was presented to Heather Lanier and Carissa Chappellet for the construction a trail when the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge went out.

1. Sycamore Canyon/Pfeiffer Beach Update

Sarah Harvey - Commented on animal waste and the need for trash cans. She commented on campsite in the Big Sur area and requested that information on fire prevention be made available to the public.

- **Shaun Corrales (Parks Management Company)** – Noted that PMC is operating under certain permit restrictions that drive their concession agreement with USFS, we will look at shuttle operations. We need to identify parking locations, signage locations and price points to make the shuttle feasible. We have installed signage for “no pedestrians” and “no left turn” to help control traffic down to Pfeiffer Beach and that seems to be working.
- **Mary Trotter** – Commented Right turn only signs are not working. Reservations might be best. **Shaun** responded that PMC is doing its best to manage the traffic into the park and that they are willing to explore the shuttle option.
- **Butch Kronlund** – Commented that there is a focused working group that will come together before the season opens. (Tim Short (US Forest Service) responded that Parks is committed to being part of the solution.
- **Tim Green** – Commented on the parking/shuttle from Sycamore Canyon Road and that it might not be the best solution as a lot of people are coming to Big Sur. We don’t need another service to take them there, we need to limit the number of visitors to Big Sur.
- **Weston Call (Transportation Service)** - Commented on the use of Big Sur and that a shuttle service could help through education during the shuttle ride. We can educate and increase literacy of the history and geography of Big Sur for visitors and help them understand how to respectfully visit Big Sur.
- **Barbara Woyt** - Commented on the carrying capacity of Big Sur. Sympathetic to the shuttle concepts, but we need to look at hard core numbers to determine what is the carrying capacity for the number of visitors to Big Sur. We need a reservation system and a strict adherence to speed limits.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Preserving Big Sur/ Destination Stewardship

Tammy Blount, Monterey County Convention and Visitor Bureau (MCCVB) - Presented information regarding Sustainable Moments campaign and the goal of education to visitors. Their purpose is to inform visitors on how to interact with Big Sur and how to preserve the beauty of Big Sur. They desire to create a partnership promoting responsible tourism. The goal is to have a higher engagement with the community about being responsible visitors and users of the area. They are working to expand their network. There is area for improvement in getting the message out to visitors on where to find services, make reservations, etc. Tourism /visitation can be great when there is a balance with the quality of life. The idea of embarking on creating a Destination Master Plan (Stewardship). They are looking at collectively addressing the issues of managing and educating visitors. Presented an overview of ways to help manage events and travel trends.

- **Mike Caplin** – Commented that he’s been at MAAC a long time, how long would it take to get this plan completed? MCCVB already gets a percentage of Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) for marketing. Big Sur generates a lot of TOT with very little of that coming back.

- Melissa Morrison – Questioned if the TOT could be designated for any specific area. She noted that it is important to balance economic impact and resident needs. Tammy Blount (MCCVB) responded that TOT could be possibly designated for this.
- Pam Peck Provi requested information on how much TOT is generated and how much returns to Big Sur? Can you assess Big Sur only and keep those funds in Big Sur? Supervisor Adams stated that she would request that Dwayne Woods come and speak to the TOT.
- Martha Diehl – Commented that the TOT tax should be used to address transient visitor impacts, that money should not be used for other things. Hire people with the TOT money to pick up trash and human waste caused by these visitors.
- Alec Arago – Commented that many people are not paying TOT tax in Big Sur as they are driving through from SF to LA. Stated that perhaps there should be a grant or some consideration to areas that are disproportionately impacted by visitors like Big Sur and Yosemite.
- Marcus Foster - Commented that maybe we need to reduce the promotion/advertising Big Sur and the County in General. Tammy Blount (MCCVB) responded the Destination Master Plan would help with balance. Kirk Gafill – Commented that the MCCVB has a direct impact to decision makers as a publicly funded organization. The support visitation and the education of visitors.

Supervisor Adams introduced Caitlin Conrad (KSBW) and thanked her for her coverage of Big Sur.

VI. REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES

Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast)

- Provided an overview of Sycamore Canyon Road. He stated that 34,00 cars have driven down Sycamore Canyon Road over the past six months, that is 214 cars each way per day. Weekends have well over 300 cars per day. Potholes on the road are getting worse and need to be addressed.
- He encouraged people to attend the upcoming Big Sur Land Use Advisory Committee with hold a meeting to discuss Short Term Rentals.
- BSAGE announced Saturday, March 24th will be an Earth Event.
- Parking is needed at the USPS and many of those spots are often full and no one is in the Post Office. Businesses need to be respectful of community need to get in and out of Post Office.

Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce)

- Commented that business are being impacted by the closure of Mud Creek, and business is down 10-40%. Overnight business is down, day use is strong. Closure for 8 months, outlook of maintaining schedule for construction is promising. Regulatory burden and elected officials who pass legislation without understanding impacts to business create environment that is hard on business. Mr. Gafill commented that regarding a website that is terrific:
www.BigSurVisitorsGuide.com
- Kirk also asked about the status of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Housing.

Butch Kronlund (Coast Property Owners Association)

- Commented on the effort in North Big Sur to address the parking issue at Pt. Lobos and manage visitors, called ParkIT! He and Kirk met with Ernest Chung who is leading that effort and they support the visitor experience, we do not want to see an intensification of visitors. How do we manage the experience, through reservations, etc.?
- Acquisition of the Adler Ranch. Appreciation of Congressman Panetta for looking at the issues involved, talking with community before reaching decision.
- Coast Property owners are in conversation with a property owner of 18 acres to acquire for employee/workforce housing, hoping things move forward in a positive way. We will need regulatory support for this to move forward.

Jacqueline R. Onciano (RMA)

- Commented that Short Term -Rentals discussion is scheduled for the next BSLUAC meeting at the Big Sur Station. **Martha Diehl** noted that a larger venue may be needed. **Mike Caplin** requested that the RMA bring back the ordinance after discussion with the CCC.
- The LUAC and the SC LUAC had worked extensively on Big Sur LUP the County has had the document since 11/2016. We are now looking at it. The delay has been caused by other priorities and a significant drop in staff. They are down to 7 planners from a budgeted 25. We have hired 7 people to help reconstitute the long-term planning team. There is a 4/24 Board of Supervisors meeting to determine the new priorities from the Board. We will have a discussion with the CCC before going to the PC and BoS with the BS LUP. Not sure of that timeline though. I believe we are in a good place with the plan and she will provide a report at a future meeting.
- On Short Term Rentals, she believes that we are in a good place to discuss this very hot topic in a civil and respectful way. We anticipate needing at least 2 meetings.
- **Dick Ravich** – noted that a number of meetings have been held on this already, how do we prevent a rehash of what has already been discussed. **Jacqueline** noted that there is a draft ordinance to work off of, we want to focus on that. **Martha Diehl** noted that focus should remain on Big Sur. The PC asked LUAC to tell us how to draft ordinance such that it is tailored for the specific place.
- **Mike Caplin** asked if the LUAC will have the chance to look at the CCC recommendations. **Jacqueline** noted that they would be happy to do that.

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

- Update on bathrooms
- Park-it
- April 10, Budget Hearings
- Update of Rocky Creek
- Provided updates to upcoming changes to On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems

Caine Camarillo (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District)

- Rancho Canada Golf Course was purchased by the Trust for Public Lands will transfer to the Park District in April.

- March 24, Garland Park is hosting the CA Wildlife Day, a free public event
- April 7, 10:00 – 12:00 is the Sudden Oak Blitz
- Mill Creek remains closed.

Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission)

- Commented on the Deli Top Room application is in for review and features caretaker's units
- Caltrans project, a highway safety project at Hurricane Point to Rocky Creek.

Sara von Schwind (Caltrans)

- There were small road closures during the winter, although the state worked hard to keep roadways open. Caltrans is working hard on Mud Creek. Work is taking place seven (7) days a week. Working to get the road open as soon as possible. Area is being monitoring for landslides constantly. We are actively looking at ways to improve operations to get one lane open as soon as possible.
- Noted that her office has received questions about the climbing lane project and that is a County and TAMC project.

Brent Marshall (State Parks)

- Thank you to Big Sur Lodge for hosting today's meeting.
- New Ranger, Dan Kraft will start in July 2018
- Parking Options/Restrooms conversations are ongoing and State Parks is committed to being a partner in that discussion.
- Pt. Lobos Plan is ongoing, we are learning a lot through the Master Plan process. There is not the infrastructure to support visitor load, we are working to manage parking and understand how critical that is to the success of our parks and the impact it has on the community.
- Mary Trotter – Commented that the LUAC need to collaborate on the management and of the Pt. Sur Naval Station and wants to ensure that there is public dialog before a Pt. Sur Management Plan is developed. Access should be controlled or there should be a reservation system.
- Trails/Road facilities have had millions in damage due to the winter storms and we are working with FEMA to make repairs.

Chris Paredes (CHP)

- Update on CHP housing; resident utilities was an issue. Once the contractor breaks ground (18 month), we want to be down in Big Sur to get dedicated officers in post.
- **Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce)** requested that the project review be expedited. Aline Reyna (District Director for Assembly member Anna Caballero) and Representative Nicole Hollingsworth, (District Director for Senator Bill Monning) agreed that their offices would continue to work on this issue. Nicole Hollingsworth

noted that Sen. Monning has been very involved in this issue for years and would be happy to provide support in Sacramento for the project.

- **Mike Caplin** commented to the State offices that there are 50 state bills with wildfire in the title, and that fire and fuel reduction be a priority for legislation so long as they emphasize protection of human life and property.

Karen Grimmer (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary)

- Commented that they continue to work to expedite the Master Plan and should have a draft out by the end of the year.
- Working with Caltrans at Mud Creek. Black Abalone is being impacted by the land slide; some were smothered and others have been relocated further south.
- Free Public Events – check website for the series at: mb.noaa.gov
 - Science Saturdays, First Fridays and Lecture
- Outreach to tourist regarding resource protection program

Tim Short (U.S. Forest Service)

- Announced that Kevin Elliott has been named the Forest Supervisor.
- Staff/crews getting ready for fire season
- Repair work on North Coast Ridge Road is underway
- Repair trail is underway due to damage. The parking lot may be used to support shuttle service.
- Community Fuel Break Project EIS is expected to be released in May along with the Record of Decision.
- Federal Highways Planning project on Sycamore Canyon Road will take place in the fall.

Aline Reyna (District Director for Assembly member Anna Caballero)

- Commented that they are working with State Parks and have two locations for bathrooms. The cost is estimated at 1 million. They are exploring ways to fund the project. Coastal Conservancy is donating \$50,000 - \$500,000. It will be a one to two-year process. A letter was sent to the CCC requesting funds. Need written commitment by November 30. The two sites under consideration are:
 - Garrapata Beach, right off Highway One
 - Soberanes Pt. (Soberanes Creek)

Alex Pittaro (Field Representative for Senator Bill Monning)

- Extended thanks to Big Sur Community organizations for their participation in the recovery efforts.

- There has been discussion on the Park It and Sanctuary Solutions and invited the public to get involved. Mike Caplin - Commented with appreciation.
- Bill SB 1079 – Fire issues working with Cal Fire. Grants are administered.

Kathleen Lee (District Director for Congressman Jimmy Panetta)

- Commented on work that Rep. Panetta was doing with Big Sur Bathroom Task Force and conversations his office has had with Coastal Commission staff regarding funding and possible grant opportunities to fund State Parks Bathroom effort.
- Rep. Panetta hosted a school safety meeting with representatives from Carmel, Pacific Grove and Monterey Peninsula Unified School Districts with law enforcement and Sheriff.
- Rep. Panetta’s office will continue coordinating the Sycamore Canyon Shuttle group.
- Kamala Harris’ State Director came to Monterey County and Rep. Panetta had a good conversation with her and continues to strengthen that relationship.
- FEMA reimbursements, Kathleen tracks on a monthly basis to ensure Monterey County is reimbursed for storm damage in a timely manner.
- Congressional Art Competition is underway, open to all high school students in the County.

VII. REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES ON ISSUES PERTINENT TO BIG SUR:
None.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Supervisor Mary Adams announced that the next meeting is May 11, 2018.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.