

**BIG SUR MULTI-AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 11, 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: Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Senator Bill Monning, Aline Reyna (District Director for Assemblymember Anna Caballero), Supervisor Mary Adams, Kevin Elliott (USFS), Sara von Schwind (Caltrans), Brent Marshall (State Parks), Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission), Joseph Narvaez (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).

PROCEEDINGS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of March 23, 2018, were approved with one minor correction to reflect that Teresa Benson was not present.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Michael Wisner** – Asked for Caltrans help regarding the climbing lane project at Rio Road and Highway 1, and the project results in the loss of a turn lane. Sara von Schwind (Caltrans) responded to his comment.
- **Tim Green** – Commented on the Local Coastal Plan for Big Sur, and read and submitted a letter (copy attached).
- **Lindsay Romano** – Commented regarding dispersed camping on Willow Creek and Plaskett Roads, and the danger posed by campfires. Campfires are still allowed on USFS lands even though the fuel level is critical. Asked for a ban on campfires and more pro-active patrolling. Also stated a need for more fire breaks to prevent future wildfires.
- **John Handy** – Suggested a year-round ban on campfires. Asked about the accounting of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue from Big Sur, and recommended a County budget line item for Big Sur TOT.
- **Steve Beck** – Asked why the trail rides at Andrew Molera State Park were closed. Brent Marshall (State Parks) responded and listed factors that contributed to the decision to close the trail rides: 1) the trails are in poor condition, and 2) mixed use on limited trails. He added that when the trails re-open (date uncertain), then a new contract will be issued for trail rides.
- **Rock Knocker** – Asked Caltrans about hauling between Mud Creek and Willow Creek. Sara von Schwind (Caltrans) responded to this question.

- **Anneliese Agren** (introduced by Supervisor Adams as the new South Coast Resident Representative to the BSMAAC; appointed on May 8th) – Commented that awareness of events by local residents is necessary, and that events impact traffic capacity on Highway 1.
- **Pam Silkwood** (in response to Senator Monning comments about the Coastal Trail) – Commented that the working group is compiling a list of interested parties, and that there is a need of volunteers from Segment 5.
- **Barbara Woyt** – Asked for an update regarding the Big Sur Land Use Plan. John Dugan, RMA Deputy Director for Land Use and Development Services, responded that RMA review would be completed by the end of the summer and presented to the Board for consideration by December.
- **Marcus Foster** – Commented on traffic and number of visitors. The infrastructure in Big Sur does not support the high level of visitation. Identified a number of needs to address this issue, and recommended converting Highway 1 to a toll road to limit the number of visitors.
- **Joel Depalo** – Commented on the restroom issue, and asked whether or not the public can use restrooms free of charge. A Parks Management representative (USFS contract concessionaire) stated that the public must pay for restroom use in order to cover the expense of providing the restrooms.
- **Mike Linder** – **Comments missing**
- **Kate Novoa** – Commented on the need for Parks Management personnel to be educated about the rights of the public and the responsibilities of the USFS.
- **Martha Karstens** – Announced the start of a firefighting basic training class.
- **Public Member** - Asked when Coast Road would be re-opened. Kate Daniels, Principal Aide to Supervisor Adams, responded and stated the road would re-open at the end of May or early June.
- **Supervisors Adams** – Introduced John Dugan, RMA Deputy Director for Land Use and Development Services; Neville Pereira, RMA Chief of Building Services and Interim Chief of Public Works and Facilities; and Christine Poe, RMA Management Analyst. Christine Poe commented on the climbing lane project signage and how constructive input from the community has resulted in signage changes. Neville Pereira stated that the RMA is addressing issues raised by the community, and that right-turn lane issue is under investigation. Kate Daniels introduced Kelsey Scanlon, Monterey County Office of Emergency Services, and Todd Muck, Transportation Agency of Monterey County.
- **Congressman Panetta** - introduced Monterey County Sheriff Steve Bernal.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Community Update Re: Pfeiffer Beach Shuttles/Sycamore Canyon

Butch Kronlund outlined the demonstration project, and thanked stakeholders for their support and cooperation (see attached information sheet). He also introduced the shuttle operator, Weston Call, and emphasized that the shuttles would be an alternative (not a replacement) to driving to Pfeiffer Beach on Sycamore Canyon Road. The reservation system would reduce the number of daily trips on Sycamore Canyon Road. Marcus Foster asked about erosion at Pfeiffer Beach, and if the shuttle would make the overuse of the beach worse. Barbara Woyt asked about numbers.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

None

VII. REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES:

Anneliese Agren (Resident of Big Sur – South Coast)

- No further comments. See comment above under Public Comment.

Dick Ravich (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast)

- Thanked the public commenters for their comments on issues.
- Commented on the traffic study for Sycamore Canyon Road, and mentioned over 300 cars had used the road in one day over a weekend.
- Announced another short-term rental LUAC meeting in June.
- Asked for an update regarding the Community Fuel Break project.
- See attached notes.

Kirk Gafill (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce)

- Announced that business levels are consistent since the re-opening of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, and are equivalent to levels in 2012.
- Commented on big challenges for the Big Sur business community, including the labor pool being maxed out due to limited housing, engaging in the County processes for advertising and TOT allocations, and developing carpool and rideshare shuttles.

Butch Kronlund (CPOA)

- Announced a community initiative to possible purchase a property in Big Sur to use as a housing site for employees. The unit would not be income limited. Pam Silkwood reminded the attendees about SB35 regarding affordable housing.

Joe Sidor (Monterey County Resource Management Agency)

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

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

- Commented that the Cannabis Committee had recommended revising the setback requirements and taxation rates. The County would also consider allowing outdoor grows.
- Pam Silkwood asked about fuel mitigation augmentation requests in the County Budget. John Dugan responded and stated the RMA had requested a \$150K augmentation for fuel mitigation/reduction.
- Dick Ravich asked about the proposed CHP housing and enforcement plans for the summer. CHP Senior Officer informed attendees that construction on the housing is scheduled to begin in the September – November timeframe. Sheriff Bernal responded MCSO responds when notified to illegal camping/campfires.

Joseph Narvaez (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District)

- Announced that MPRPD is prepping for the fire season, and increasing enforcement and fuel reduction actions.
- Announced that Mill Creek Preserve remains closed until further notice.
- Announced that Rancho Canada officially transferred to MPRPD on April 9th, and would open in June. MPRPD is planning preliminary trail alignments and the transfer of its headquarters.

Mike Watson (California Coastal Commission)

- Commented on the Caltrans project at Hurricane Point.
- Commented on a preventative maintenance project from Partington Ridge to Carmel. The proposed maintenance would include pavement rehabilitation.
- Commented on the Sycamore Canyon Road shuttle demonstration.
- Announced that the Coastal Commission is coordinating with the County on the update to the Big Sur Land Use Plan.

Sara von Schwind (Caltrans)

- Informed attendees of the availability of the Big Sur Project Update report.
- Announced a \$210K Caltrans planning study of Highway 1 in Big Sur that will be completed in 2019.
- Anneliese Agren asked about local access through Mud Creek. Sara von Schwind responded that Mud Creek is an active construction site and not safe for any type of access. She also stated that Caltrans is working to open Mud Creek as soon as possible.

Brent Marshall (State Parks)

- Thanked the Big Sur Lodge for their continued support of the BSMAAC and Big Sur community.
- Thanked the CHP regarding a stolen vehicle incident.
- Thanked Caltrans for the cooperative use of the Point Sur facility.

Karen Grimmer (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary)

- Absent

Kevin Elliott (USFS)

- Introduced himself as the new Los Padres Supervisor.
- Pam Silkwood asked about the status of the community fuel break. Kevin Elliott responded that the Final EIS would be released soon.

Aline Reyna (representing Anna Caballero, 30th District, State Assembly)

- Commented regarding concerns about the cost of proposed restrooms at Garrapata State Park, and the possibility of scheduling a community meeting to discuss concerns and opinions. Anneliese Agren and Barbara Woyt asked for clarification about the purpose of the meeting.
- The topic of trash cans and signage at vista points was raised, and Sara von Schwind responded that experience has shown that they cause more problems.
- John Handy asked about constructing rest areas along the Big Sur coast. Sara von Schwind responded that rest areas are related to driver fatigue, and no new rest areas are planned for the Big Sur area.
- Aline Reyna discussed State Coastal Conservancy matching funds of up to \$500K for bathroom construction.

Bill Monning (17th District, State Senate)

- Spoke prior to public comment.
- Commented on the state budget, and the Governor's revised revenue report that shows revenue (**missing text**).
- Commented on the SB-1 measure that will be on the November 2018 ballot to repeal the tax adopted last year by the state legislature. Added that truckers want the investment in roads.
- Commented that the Coastal Trail has no designated alignment yet.
- Announced the implementation of Phase 2 for the Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery.
- Commented on a state-wide safe water bill under consideration.
- Departed the BSMAAC at approximately 10:57 am.

Jimmy Panetta (20th District, United States Congress)

- Announced that Monterey County would receive \$8.5M in FEMA funds.
- Announced that funding was approved for fire-fighting (i.e., prevention and suppression).
- Commented on priority issues in Congress, such as immigration reform, the farm bill reauthorization, which also includes the SNAP program (food stamps), and the House Armed Services Committee is working on the National Defense Authorization Act.
- Lindsey commented that campfire enforcement won't stop wildfires, and that modifications to the Wilderness Act are needed to allow mechanical creation of firebreaks in wilderness areas.
- Dick Ravich commented about the budget being increased for the USFS, and the expressed support for Governor Brown's executive order regarding fuel reduction.
- Pam Silkwood asked about the budget for actual implementation of the Monterey Community Fuel Break.

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

IX. NEXT MEETING: Congressman Panetta announced the next BSMAAC meeting on August 10th, 2018.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm.