

**BIG SUR MULTI-AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 10, 2018  
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 10:09 am.

**II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Roll call and introductions were made. Agency attendees: Rick Aldinger (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce), Butch Kronlund (Coast Property Owners Association), Martha Karstens (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast), Anneliese Agren (Resident of Big Sur – South Coast), Brent Marshall (State Parks), Kevin Elliot (USFS), Kathleen Lee (US Congress), Supervisor Mary Adams, Aline Reyna (17<sup>th</sup> District, State Senate), Sara von Schwind (Catrans), Caine Camarillo (Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District), John Dugan (Monterey County Resource Management Agency).

Supervisor Mary Adams welcomed new North Coast resident member Martha Karstens and recognized outgoing resident member, Dick Ravich, for his service to BSMAAC.

**PROCEEDINGS**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of May 11, 2018 were approved unanimously. Motion made by Rick Aldinger and seconded by Butch Kronlund.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

- **John Handy** – Commented on South Coast bathroom progress. Supervisor Adams visited both Mill Creek and Willow Creek locations. Mr. Handy and Supervisor Adams discussed Monterey County financial support from TOT revenue to fund maintenance of public restrooms at these two locations. Mr. Handy reported on meeting between Joel dePaolo and new CEO of Parks Management Michael Hartley.
- **Michael Hartley** – Introduced himself to MAAC members and community. Said he would try to get approval from USFS and Parks Management to make Willow and Mill Creek free again and made himself available to speak with anyone after BSMAAC who would like to discuss bathroom issue.
- **Mary Trotter** – All LUACs including Big Sur need Committee Members. Ms. Trotter commented that the Big Sur LUACs are in the midst of a 5-year LUP update. She encouraged interested persons to fill out the [Land Use Advisory Committee Statement of Interest](#) located on the County RMA website.
- **Mike Caplin** – Gave update on the local workgroups planning the Big Sur portion of the California Coastal Trail. 210 people have signed up to participate from Carmel River to the San Luis Obispo County line. Only one public agency, State Parks, is signed up to participate. Other agencies (USFS) have land where trail will cut across and need to participate as well. Mr. Caplin provided a screen shot of form on the Big Sur CCT website and encouraged both elected and agency reps to sign up to participate so they are not left out of the process. More info at [bigsurcct.net](http://bigsurcct.net).
- **Marcus Foster** – Commented that roadside camping is out of control and getting worse. Cited Monterey County Code 3162 prohibiting roadside camping. Supervisor Adams asked he wait to comment on roadside camping until Agenda Item on Enforcement. Mr. Foster also addressed Bixby

Bridge and the hundreds of cars that park and exceed the 20-25 spots that are available at the location. Asked Member Agencies what the plan is for Bixby Bridge. He is concerned the spot will become more dangerous than it already is. Mr. Foster suggested coordination with lane widening project and an additional location on the west side of Highway 1 for a parking location. Sara von Schwind (Caltrans) responded that some of these concerns will be addressed during the Caltrans scheduled item Status Update: Highway 1 Sustainable Transportation Demand Management Plan.

- **Dana Carnazzo** – Landowner at Bixby. Asked who oversees the use of drones and how much the fine is. Requested “no drones” signage that includes fine. Sara von Schwind (Caltrans) discussed difficulty of adding signage in Coastal Zone. Recommended Ms. Carnazzo reach out to Peter Hendrix (Caltrans District Permit Engineer) to begin process. Ms. Carnazzo also asked about fencing or better barriers to protect pedestrians from falling off cliffs who then need to be rescued. Sara von Schwind responded that Caltrans had an easement but the property owners own the land. Ms. von Schwind would need to get Caltrans surveyors involved identify location of Caltrans easement. Butch Kronlund commented that he has posed the question of a pedestrian barrier along the Caltrans right of way already to Susana Cruz (Caltrans).
- **Mary Trotter** – Commented on the Federal Highway Administration project on Sycamore Canyon Road. BSMAAC would have been the appropriate forum to have discussed the project in advance but commented it was not discussed. Plan calls for a “No Left Turn” at top of Sycamore Canyon Road that will only be in use sometimes. Ms. Trotter is concerned that vehicles, when forced to turn right, will make U-Turn at first obvious location which would be the Post Office which is already congested, or another dangerous location. Recommended better coordination and additional conversation between Coastal Commission, USFS, and Parks Management.
- **Pam Silkwood** – (on behalf of El Sur Ranch) Ms. Silkwood followed up on Mike Caplin’s Coastal Trail comments to add that three orientation meetings for Coastal Trail local working group members will happen in September. Ms. Silkwood also referenced the City of Monterey Neighborhood Improvement Program which directs tourist-generated dollars back into the City’s residential neighborhoods. She recommended the County implement a similar program whereby TOT could go directly back into land use areas impacted by tourism. Ms. Silkwood also commented on Federal Highway Improvement Projects and Caltrans and concerns she had with a Brazil Ranch trail improvement project and parking lot that was not adequately noticed to the Big Sur community (it was included as a special condition of a Highway 1 improvement project.) Ms. Silkwood is concerned about the development of new trails that are separate from the Coastal Trail. Sara von Schwind responded her understanding is funds were for Coastal Trail. Butch Kronlund stated that the concern is there is a pre-determined trail alignment for Brazil Ranch when the trail alignment for the Coastal Trail has not been set. Sara von Schwind responded that is not Caltrans understanding. Supervisor Adams asked that we bring this item back to the next BSMAAC meeting.
- **Kevin Harvey** – Shared a distressing incident on the South Coast when he and his sons went to use the restroom at Plaskett Creek Campground and were told by camp host they were trespassing. Shared that his son was now afraid of using restrooms. He and his family clean up refuse along highway and in front of their gate. Asked agencies to please make an effort to get more bathrooms and better signage for the existing bathrooms.

- **Joel dePaola** – Thanked State Parks for the new bathroom signage at Julia Pfeiffer Burns. Commented that the Parks Management bathrooms were closed on the South Coast for 53 days. Michael Hartley, new Parks Management CEO responded that facilities are open and he is open to discussing this issue with both Kevin Harvey and Joel de Paola.
- **Marla (Parks Management Camp Host)** – Commented that it has been a stressful matter of months. She is Camp Host at Limekiln. Commented that Sand Dollar was never locked at any point in time. Willow Creek and Mill Creek were locked for vandalism and safety issues. Spoke about threats, being spit on, and other damages to facilities in her charge. Supervisor Adams suggested a meeting of all parties involved and offered District 5 office for such a meeting.

## V. OLD BUSINESS (10:45 am):

### a. **Status Update: Highway 1 Sustainable Transportation Demand Management Plan**

Presentation was introduced by Kelly McClendon, Transportation Planning, Caltrans District 5. Multi-modal safety, improving congestion and mobility and access are overarching goals of the program. Consultant is seeking public input and participation. Presentation was delivered by Stephanie Grigsby of DesignWorkshop. Study location is south of Carmel-by-the-Sea to State Route 46 interchange in SLO. Goals include understanding visitor demand and developing alternatives to driving. They seek to be collaborative and comprehensive. They are in early stages of gathering data and how to leverage and collaborate with other projects. Approximately a 1-year process. Will be returning to BSMAAC.

Q & A: Feedback was provided to consultant by MAAC members and attendees on data points to focus on including vehicular data, pedestrian data, goals, and benchmarks.

### b. **Dispersed Campfires – Update from Enforcement Agencies**

- Chief Karstens (BSFB): Conversation began post last Community and Public Safety Meeting (CAPs) and follow-up phone call organized by D5 office. Still unclear where different agencies can and cannot cite for campfires but BSFB will respond to all campfire calls. Chief Karstens provided overview of all campfires that have been responded to recently. Trying to correct orange glow light at Navy Base with State Parks since it is often mistaken for a fire. Of note: In 1949, Big Sur Grange members sent letter to CalTrans about people picnicking along Highway 1. CalTrans said it is MCSO to respond and police.
- Brent Marshall (State Parks): Reported State Parks will continue controlled campfires in designated campfire rings on their property. State Parks will help enforce along Highway 1. Up to July, State Parks issued 208 illegal camping citations along this corridor. 34 Personal Citations. Of 242 citations, only three were illegal fire citations. Less than 2% are starting illegal fires. Feedback from public who are receiving citations is that it is OK to camp. Commented that local businesses are giving the message to visitors that it is OK roadside camp. State Parks is not citing County Code but is citing State Law prohibiting roadside camping. Almost all have been upheld.
- Kevin Elliot (USFS): Commented on three new limitations recently enacted related to this topic. 1) A 14-day camping stay limit/21-day in any one-year period. 2) Increased fire restrictions limited only to camp stove that has a personal shut off valve. No open fires even in campfire rings in developed campgrounds. 3) Prohibited roadside camping along 10.5-mile section of Nacimiento-Fergusson road.
- Commander Wingo (MCSO): MCSO will respond to any illegal fire anywhere in the area. It may take them a while but they will respond.
- Jesse Villasenor (MCSO): Thanked CalTrans for the new signage on both ends of the corridor for that indicate no camping for next 72 miles. Jesse is issuing citations. Trying to overlap and cite even in other

jurisdictions such as USFS. Unfortunately, there are times when he is not working and it may take a while for a deputy to arrive from Salinas.

- Chris Paredes (CHP): Two dedicated CHP for Big Sur come from Monterey. They have open communication with Jesse Villasenor and work hand in hand with MCSO. They will address illegal camping/campfires if they see them or hear the report and are nearby.

## Q&A

- Rick Aldinger – Commented on the need to enforce. Called on electeds to allocate the resources. We need to address the behavior and enforce consequences for bad behavior.
- Butch Kronlund – Commented that we lack USFS enforcement officer patrolling public lands. Asked Kevin Elliot to comment. Mr. Elliot responded that half of his enforcement officer positions are currently vacant. (6 total positions exist). One is about to graduate from the academy and will be stationed here.
- Anneleise Agren – Willow/Plaskett, the “back country”, gets left out of enforcement. In vacuum of no enforcement, many locals are approaching dispersed campers starting campfires with information versus confrontation. Pressed the importance to USFS that when the enforcement officer is stationed here, it is critical that the officer work after dark when illegal campfires are ignited.
- Martha Karstens – Cautioned everyone to not put yourself in harm’s way. That is why the MSCO is called upon to respond.
- Supervisor Adams – It is not a matter of “if” it is a matter of “when”. Also called on other electeds to support enforcement needs.
- Chief Karstens – Dispersed camping ban should be year-round. Fire season is year-round. Could there be a grant for enforcement as part of the Fuel Mitigation Coordinator position?
- Dana Carnazzo – Suggested Big Sur residents keep a good fire extinguisher in car to put out dispersed campfires.
- Mary Trotter – Suggested no dispersed camping. Recommended we go back to prohibiting dispersed camping. You used to have to get a permit for a campfire. Gave folks a sense that someone was in charge. There are administrative things that can be implemented to give visitors the sense that Big Sur is not the Wild Wild West. Questioned the logic of saying there is not enough money for administrative person and then pay billions of dollars for fire damages.
- Weston Call – Commented on cost of camping versus citation cost. It is cheaper to pay citation then camp in campground. Suggested citation fine go up.
- Joel dePaolo – Commented on dispersed camping and changes in public access. Has concerns that public access is being reduced. Asked if dispersed camping ban has a timeline. Kevin Elliot responded more than likely a year from now he will be signing the exact same order.
- Kate Novoa – Commented on off-roading, dispersed camping, and lack of enforcement on Plaskett.
- Marina Kurikhina read portion of letter from addressing campfires in dispersed campsites on Plaskett. Commented on lack of enforcement. Called for regular patrols, seasonal signage, notices on local websites, placing gates during fire season, and restricting access except for full-time residents in fire season.
- Ken Ekelund – Recommended uniform rules among USFS and State Parks. Signage needs to be used where law enforcement is lacking.
- Heather Lanier – When campfires are happening in the valley from legal fires, it is difficult to citizen report. Locals do not know if they should call in or if it is a campfire in a designated spot in the State Park that they are smelling.
- Jen Smith – Sees and reports campfires. Asked what the citation is for an illegal campfire? Brent Marshall responded that fee schedules are not consistent but at least \$71.

- Barbara Woyt – Asked if Coastal Trail CalTrans fund accumulates, could it be a fund with the Coastal Conservancy to fund a body of people who will address this issue. Suggested the money is stockpiled against a purpose, rather than just a place. Commented that TOT intent is money to offset the costs of impacts of tourism. Where we have all these enforcement needs, TOT could fund enforcement.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS: Intro to the Marine Mammal Center: Monterey Bay Operations**

- Presentation by Sonny of the Marine Mammal Center Representative was cut short due to timing. The Marine Mammal Center wants to reach out to local Big Sur community to integrate themselves better.
- They sent via email the following message: “1. Marine mammals rest on beaches, but get too close and they’ll return to the ocean before they’re ready. They don’t need to be wet all of the time so please don’t pour water on them. 2. Use Your Zoom lens. Snap a great pic, but use your zoom! If an animal is reacting to your presence, you’re too close. 3. If you see a marine mammal in distress, call The Marine Mammal Center hotline number 415-289-SEAL. Never attempt to rescue a seal or sea lion on your own! We’ll monitor the animal and, if necessary, rescue it safely. We have small triage hospitals in Moss Landing and Morro Bay where we can dispatch specially trained rescue crews. Photos of the animal, size estimations, and detailed directions to the animal’s location are the most valuable pieces of information.”

#### **VII. REPORTS FROM MEMBER AGENCIES (11:50):**

##### **Anneliese Agren (Resident of Big Sur – South Coast)**

- Commented on high visitation of South Coast Big Sur and high bathroom use. Commented on issues with fees and the subsequent vandalism. Reported that this past Monday at Willow all USFS signs were removed and put them in a trash can.
- 24/7 firehouse need on the South Coast. Issue has been brought up at several BSMAACs. Can we put this topic on the agenda and move it forward?
- Bathroom project – Community supports Garrapata bathroom.
- Commented on vegetation management. Thanked Public Works mowing Nacimiento Fergusson shoulder. Issue is mower arm is broken. Requested Supervisor Adams advocate for replacement on the 2018-19 budget.
- Ask community to get involved. Suggested community to begin to write the travel articles on how it is in Big Sur, how to love Big Sur.
- See her events calendar. Events meeting will be on Aug 30 in Salinas. Jade Fest will be Oct 5 – 7. Dispersed camping will be a conundrum. How can we have a safe Jade Fest this year?
- Addressed question/comment to Congressman Panetta via District Director Kathleen Lee re: issue residents have receiving communications from Social Security and Medicare when mail is not being delivered due to closures. Kathleen Lee encouraged anyone with issues to contact her office.
- Register to vote. Deadline is 15 days before election.

##### **Martha Karstens (Resident of Big Sur – North Coast)**

- Upcoming arthritis bike event is on Sept 24 - 25<sup>th</sup> with 250 bicycles. They have been told they need to have a dedicated ambulance.
- Very pleased with the cones put up by Sobranes so no parking would occur. Mid-coast Fire Brigade Chief Goetz suggested permanent boulders be placed in area.
- Big Sur Grange 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sept 15 and 16. See Roundup for details.
- Volunteers needed for Big Sur Historical Society, River Run and upcoming Marathon.

- Big Sur Fire Board update: 35 calls to BSFB in July. BSFB is forming a succession plan committee. See Martha Karstens to participate.
- Update on parking issues at Big Sur Post Office/Deli lot. Not OK to park in Red Zone. Jesse Villasenor will cite if you are parked in the red.

**Rick Aldinger (Big Sur Chamber of Commerce)**

- Thanked CalTrans for the opening of Mud Creek. Visitation levels are back up. Displaced visitors from Yosemite, Shasta, Whiskeytown area have also come to visit Big Sur.
- Chamber is working with TAMC on [Go831RideAmigos](#). It is a software program to coordinate transportation needs (specifically carpooling needs) among businesses in the area. Literature on program was provided at BSMAAC on back table.
- Chamber is working with MCCVB, CPOA, BOS D5 office, and Congressman Panetta's office to assess and develop appropriate mitigations to the impact of increased visitation on the coast.
- Made clear that the focus of CVB is to educate visitors on proper way to visit Big Sur. Email [marketing@seemonterey.com](mailto:marketing@seemonterey.com) for free materials for businesses to support sustainability education efforts.

**Butch Kronlund (CPOA)**

- Gave update on property acquisition for housing project. Since that update, it has become clear would not work for CPOA purposes. CPOA is looking forward to other opportunities and will report out at future BSMAACS.
- Pfeiffer Beach shuttle demonstration project has been running since Memorial Day. MCCVB provided swing financing. Shuttle has safely moved almost 5K people from back country parking lot to Pfeiffer Beach and has kept nearly 1600 cars off the road. Where improvement is still needed is relief at the parking lot. Butch recommended increase fee to park, more parking at MAF, and a reservation system for those parking spaces at the beach. Butch Kronlund updated traffic count on Sycamore Canyon Road. In July, 29000 trips were made on Sycamore Canyon road in 1 month. Martha Karstens added accidents have increased along Highway 1 at Sycamore Canyon Road.
- Gave CHMP Byway Committee update. Necessary function to get community input into activities that pertain to CHMP. Supervisor Adams is working on convening that committee.
- Shared about Destination Stewardship Management Plan group that has been meeting to develop such a plan that would segue with CHMP and BSLUP.

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

- Gave update on Fuel Mitigation Coordinator that was recently approved. Turned over to John Dugan to provide update on where the County is funding this position. BOS will make a determination on a 150K amendment to the budget to enhance fuel mitigation.
- John Dugan also gave update on the Big Sur Land Use Plan. RMA staff is evaluating the plan and will be scheduling upcoming dialog with LUACs and other committees starting in fall.
- Neville Peirera gave update on Climbing Lane Project. Schedule has been accelerated. Project will not be fully finished by Car Week but all lanes of traffic will be open. Rest of project will be completed after Car Week.
- Neville Peirera commented on the mowing that has been completed and promised to look into the broken mower arm.
- Neville Peirera commented on the new hotline provided by Host Compliance to report nuisances associated with Short Term Rentals. No reports have been received.

- Supervisor Adams commented that she was pleased the Fuel Mitigation Coordinator, Community Liaison Program, and Pre-attack mapping programs were moving forward.
- Supervisor Adams shared a story of taking the 22 MST bus to Big Sur and back to town.

(At 12:26 Supervisor Adams left meeting, Kathleen Lee chairs remainder of meeting.)

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

- The new Rancho Canada unit of Palo Corona Regional Park is now open for limited use. The Discovery Center at Rancho Canada is open as well.
- There will be a Dedication event that the public is encouraged to attend on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-6:00 pm.
- Mill Creek Redwood Preserve remains closed with a caretaker on site.

**Sara von Schwind (Caltrans, District 5)**

- The temporary parking on the east side of Highway One near Point Lobos has been removed since climbing lane project is finished. The County is working on the resolution/ordinance to make the no parking area by Point Lobos. When the permit application has been received by Caltrans, Caltrans will review the documentation, Sara will sign a no parking order, and the County should be issued a permit to sign the area for no parking.
- Report on the list of Caltrans projects is located at the back.
- Pam Peck noted that the parking restrict on the east was appreciated. Where do southbound cars turn around? Sara responded that it is ok to make a left turn on a double-yellow line with appropriate sight distance.

**Brent Marshall (California State Parks)**

- Brent announced he will remain in the district office. He responded to an earlier question that the price of citations from state rangers can be increased through state legislation.
- The Carmel General Plan is out for public review. Chapter 4 discusses traffic and circulation. Fuel mitigation is also addressed in the General Plan. Please review and provide comments. A Public Workshop will be September 10<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. All information is available on the State Parks website.
- Mike Caplin commented that he appreciated that State Parks moved forward on fuel mitigation. Brent Marshall responded to a question that any projects in the General Development Plan will require CEQA.

**Kevin Elliott (United States Forest Service, Forest Supervisor)**

- Introduced himself as the new Forest Supervisor for the Los Padres National Forest, which oversees the Monterey District of the LPNF. He noted that he regretted the experience relayed in public comment. The USFS staff is working with PMC on customer service and education on changing the behavior.
- FireScape / Community Strategic Fire Break will commence again this fall.
- In the omnibus bill, there was funding for active forest management, so fire suppression was funded separately from fuel management. Both the House and Senate versions have increased funding in the fuel mitigation funds. Goal is to make hillsides safer.
- Mike Caplin commented that he appreciated the Forest Supervisor being in Big Sur and thanked Mr. Elliott for listening to the community concerns. Mr. Caplin hopes that Mr. Elliott will stay a while. Mr. Elliott noted that this is a permanent assignment for him and he hopes to stay 5-6years.
- Mike also noted that it was great to see the work getting started on the community strategic fire break project as the community would really like to see that as an effective fuel break.



- Assemblywomen Caballero asked State Parks to work on additional signage for restrooms and those signs have been added to state parks in Big Sur.

**Kathleen Lee (District Director for Rep. Jimmy Panetta, US House of Representatives)**

- Congress has had a busy legislative session and is currently in recess. Congressman Panetta has been working hard on the Farm Bill, with a particular emphasis on preserving the funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and specialty crop legislation.
- Rep. Panetta has also been focusing on issues dealing with immigration and protecting the Dreamers on the central coast.
- \$4 million in HUD grants and Community Development Block Grants were announced last week to assist housing, emergency shelters and HOME programs for Santa Cruz and Monterey County.
- Continue to work on legislation to be introduced when the House returns to DC in September, focusing on veterans, farmworker housing and continuing to protect the central coast values.
- Office has been working on Destination Management and visitor management with local stakeholders and will continue to be actively involved in that discussion.
- Office will continue to host mobile office hours throughout the district to provide outreach to our constituents who may need assistance with federal agencies such as Medicare, Social Security, VA.
- Constituent outreach and engagement remains high, please continue to convey your thoughts and concerns about the current Administration and legislative session to our office.

**VIII. REPORTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES ON ISSUES PERTINENT TO BIG SUR:**

None

**IX. NEXT MEETING:**

Friday, October 19, 2018

Date later changed to October 26, 2018

2019 Dates will be announced in December 2018

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Kathleen Lee adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.