
Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, June 7th, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Big Sur Lodge, 47225 Highway One, Big Sur, CA 93920
Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Supervisor Mary Adams, Co-Chairs

FINAL MINUTES

Link to recorded video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOxC5EGcV_E

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call and Introductions**
 - a. Big Sur Resident, North Coast – Martha Karstens
 - b. Big Sur Resident, South Coast – Bree Harlan
 - c. Big Sur Chamber of Commerce – Kirk Gafill
 - d. Community Association of Big Sur – Ryne Leuzinger
 - e. County of Monterey Planning Department – Melanie Beretti
 - f. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District – Caine Camarillo
 - g. California Coastal Commission – Breylen Ammen
 - h. Caltrans – John Olejnik
 - i. California State Parks and Recreation – Brent Marshall
 - j. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary - absent
 - k. United States Forest Service – Chris Stubbs
 - l. 5th District, Monterey County Board of Supervisors – Mary Adams
 - m. 30th District, California State Assembly – Mauricio Arias
 - n. 17th District, California State Senate – John Laird
 - o. 19th District, United States Congress – Jimmy Panetta
- III. Approval of the February 9th, 2024 Draft Minutes**
 - a. Martha Karstens comments there are many typos
 - b. Motion to include edits – Kirk Gafill, Second Mary Adams, all in favor.
- IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – limited to 3 minutes**
 - a. 50th Anniversary of BSF**
 - i. Congressman Panetta presented a Congressional Resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of Big Sur Fire
 - ii. Senator Laird and Mauricio presented a joint Senate and Assembly resolution
 - iii. Supervisor Adams commented and congratulated BSF on their anniversary
 - iv. Chief Matt Harris thanked the community for support
 - b. 75th Anniversary of Nepenthe**
 - i. Congressman Panetta presented a Congressional Resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of Nepenthe
 - ii. Senator John Laird presented a joint Legislative Resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of Nepenthe
 - iii. Supervisor Adams presented a Supervisorial Proclamation honoring the 75th Anniversary of Nepenthe

- iv. Kirk Gafill thanked the elected representatives and the community for the recognition.
- v. Dana Carnazzo commented on the 75th Anniversary of Nepenthe
- c. Dana Carnazzo commented
- d. Matt Glazer commented
- e. Senator Laird commented
- f. Mike Caplin commented
- g. Senator Laird commented
- h. Heather Chappellet-Lanier question to Caltrans
- i. John Olenjik – offered to chat about this question after the BSMAAC meeting
- j. Bruce Merchant – commented
- k. Tori Chesebrough-Buckles – commented
- l. Nick Pasculli – Director of Communications and County of Monterey Public Information Officer, thanking community for their partnership and prepared resources and services guide available to residents.
- m. Martha Diehl – Commented with a shout-out of the Big Sur community
- n. Kate Daniels – Commented
- o. Marcus Foster – Commented on behalf of Keep Big Sur Wild
- p. Commissioner Annie Notthoff – Commented
- q. Steve Beck – Commented on two things, pampas grass concerns and the supply and demand of tourism concerns
- r. David Witkowski – Senior Advisor for MBEP focused on Broadband commented on MBEP’s follow up to Broadband
- s. Alyssa Rendon – SeeMonterey Community Relations Director commented
- t. Dana Carnazzo – commented

V. New Business

- a. Big Sur Fund in Memory of Weston Call – Galen Call
 - i. Thank you for allowing me to be on the agenda and to speak to those who live here. I am Weston Call’s mom, and the fund was created shortly after Weston passed in December of 2018.
 - ii. Comment from Supervisor Adams of kindness and memory of the shuttle business Weston had started and how he remains in our hearts and in our minds.
 - iii. Matt Glazer as an adviser on the Weston Call Fund, commented about his memory of Weston driving the conversation of how the shuttle business started. Specific intention to continue the dream and be able to contribute to the services that are critical to the community of Big Sur.
- b. Coastal ADU Ordinance – County of Monterey Housing and Community Development Presented by Edgar Sanchez, Assistant Planner
 - i. See attached presentation in packet.
 - ii. ADUs have been updated several times over the years. Intention of the ADU legislation is to increase affordable housing stock. In this region, there are Coastal regulations that are governed by the Coastal Commission as well. The presentation includes state guidelines for how they impact unincorporated County of Monterey, including Big Sur.

1. Sharon Petrosino-Wilson - question
2. Mike Caplin - question
3. Peggy Goodale - commented
4. Steve Beck- question
5. Dana Carnazzo – question
6. Breylen Ammen – commented
7. Bree Harlan - commented
8. Mike Caplin - commented

VI. Old Business

- a. Nacimiento-Fergusson Road Update - Federal Highway Administration
 - i. Chris Stubbs – thanked contractor for doing great work. Contractor is demobilizing this week for phase one. Monterey County working with USFS for phase two on tree hazards and implementation of signage.
 - ii. Nick Pasculli – Commented that the County prepared some messaging for residents and visitors, different messaging.
 - iii. Marcus Foster – commented
 - iv. Chris Stubbs – forest order prohibiting dispersed camping. Road is USFS road, and the County has a maintenance agreement for the road.
 - v. Joel – commented on dispersed camping
- b. Bixby Bridge Emergency Taskforce Update
 - i. <https://bigsurkate.blog/2024/05/28/bixby-bridge-memorial-day-weekend/>
 - ii. Mauricio Arias from Assemblymember Addis’ office – co-led by Supervisor Adams’ office. Working with key agencies.
 - iii. Supervisor Adams – comments and thanks to Mauricio. Google maps removed parking. Thank you to Marcus Foster for the video he put together about Memorial Day Weekend. Yesterday, site visit with Commissioners who have been able to see the video and the site.
 - iv. Martha Karstens – commented
 - v. Captain Ian Troxell – commented
 - vi. Commander Andy Rosas – New County Coastal Commander for Sheriff - commented
 - vii. Alyssa Rendon – SeeMonterey – commented
 - viii. Dianna Ballantyne – commented
 - ix. Martha Diehl – commented
 - x. John Olejnik - commented
 - xi. Dana Carnazzo –commented
 - xii. Rob O’Keefe –commented
 - xiii. Marcus Foster – commented

VII. Reports from Member Agencies

- a. **Big Sur Resident, North Coast – Martha Karstens**
 - i. Thank you to Law Enforcement. Grange getting AED unit. Historical Society setting dates for programs. Big Sur CERT refresher training. Rocky Creek slip out. 150 people were stuck in Big Sur without somewhere to stay and stayed at the Big Sur Lodge.
- b. **Big Sur Resident, South Coast – Bree Harlan**
 - i. Thank Tom Collins who has been instrumental in keeping the community informed. Thank you to Federal Highway Administration program

managers, Michael Daigler, Justin Henwood, contractor Nick. Ability to participate in these meetings. Appreciate the zoom option but would like to be able to participate on zoom. Lack of education maintenance for vegetation management on the artillery roads to Naci-Ferg. Concerned about the reopening of Naci-Ferg to the public when Highway 1 cannot be fully opened. Concerned about the reopening of dispersed camping roads. Continued closure of Highway 1 which has created an island community experiencing of hardships.

c. Big Sur Chamber of Commerce – Kirk Gafill

- i. Traffic levels now that Rocky Creek has 24/7 access, we have seen a bounce back in levels of tourism but it is still very low. Thankful to Justin Lin from Department of Emergency Management with a small business administration pop-up. Thankful for Supervisor Adams to offer any help that may be needed. Thankful to Caltrans for being available to collaborate and provide convoys. CHP has been fully aware and involved with convoy challenges. Assemblymember Addis and her staff were helpful. Senator Laird and his staff like Kate Daniels were available to understand the challenges and identify up to the state level. Congressman Panetta and his Chief of Staff Mark Dennin were so helpful with SBA. Chief Harris with Big Sur Fire were engaged in unified command while representing the community. Community Foundation for Monterey County, members of the Monterey County Hospitality industry hosting a fundraiser. CABS received the funds to vet individuals who have been impacted economically, heroic effort from Patte Kronlund and Rachel Goldberger to go through every application.

d. Community Association of Big Sur – Ryne Leuzinger

- i. Community Association of Big Sur Rocky Creek Slip Out Disaster Relief CABS has distributed 535 grant checks - \$267,500! We have a small amount of Disaster Funding remaining and we have reached out to the 19 individuals who submitted a late request for financial assistance. We are processing these Assessment Forms now with the Employers and Independent Contractor References. We hope to issue these new grant checks this coming week.
- ii. CABS could not do this important Disaster Relief Work without our partnerships. We are very “grateful” to the following: David Fink (the Visionary), La Playa Hotel (the Host), Elsa Rivera and Matt Pederson and their Big Sur Food & Wine Team (the Magicians), all the Chefs, Wine Makers, the Live Auction Donors, those who attended, and all those who continue to donate to support the Big Sur community. THANK YOU! The Big Sur Relief Fund in Memory of Weston Call and the Community Foundation for Monterey County for receiving all of these donations from the La Playa Fundraiser and granting \$112,012 to CABS. THANK YOU! Private donations to CABS Big Sur Emergency Fund. THANK YOU! All of the Big Sur businesses, up and down the coast, for their assistance with employees and eligibility. With over 600 Assessment Forms received, we could not have done this without all of you as quickly as we did. THANK YOU!

- iii. A concern still exists for our South Coast neighbors who have been impacted since January 2023 and will continue to struggle until well after the highway reopens in the late fall of 2024.
- iv. CABS also wants to acknowledge Caltrans for their quick response on Easter morning to assess the Rocky Creek Slip Out and initiate “Convoys” at 12 & 5pm on that day. THANK YOU!
- v. Chief Matt Harris activated “Big Sur Incident Command” on March 30th within an hour of the slip out. The following individuals answered the call: Kirk Gafill / Big Sur Chamber, Sharen Carey / BSHC, Martha Karstens / CERT, and Patte Kronlund / CABS. It was their quick action initiated by Chief Harris and Big Sur Fire volunteers to identify a “Shelter” at Big Sur Lodge Conference Room Saturday night for those trapped who did not plan to stay the night. The Red Cross trailer at the Big Sur Health Center was brought to the Conference Center. For those travelers needing assistance they were directed to info@cabigsur.org It took all of us working together to support the estimated 1400 travelers trapped for a night.
- vi. The USFS ERFO Project - Nacimiento Ferguson Road + Plasket and Los Burros: Report from Tom Collins, South Coast resident and Director on the CABS Board - I thought the ERFO project was a success, beyond the technical achievement of finishing two months early, because community representatives (Tom Collins and Butch Kronlund) were involved from the beginning. From a resident's perspective, the project team of Mike Daigler, Justin Henwood and Nick Herbach deserve a good deal of credit because of their excellent communication skills and issue resolution. Mike Daigler was always aware of the impact of the project on the community as new closures on HWY1 added to the community's misery. Mike frequently asked how specific residents were holding up under the strain. Mike and Nick knew these individuals by name and asked about them. Early on, the project team allowed direct communication between Nick Herbach and myself so a detailed and precise schedule of closures could be immediately shared with residents on a weekly basis. Justin Henwood was always quick to respond to emails even on weekends. Another exceptional thing Mike did was to allow his monthly meetings to be used as a forum for stakeholders to discuss matters related to the project but not part of the project. Among other things, this led to a maintenance project on Plaskett and Los Burros after a site visit by MOCOPW (Monterey County Public Works) and USFS. Also a road project that had USFS provide 194 tons of gravel with the agreement that residents would install it. Mike Daigler's leadership in providing a forum led to these successes that he may not even be aware of. No future project should be conducted without a resident representative at the beginning. I also want to recognize and thank Randy Ishii, MOCOPW, and his staff Jose, Enrique and Contractor Papich for the great work they are doing on Plaskett and Los Burros roads. The community is very grateful. Thank you, Tom Collins.
- vii. FABS - Encourage residents to participate in (on-going) Big Sur Safety and Evacuation Survey (poster on table at back of room with QR code) Beginning 10 day chipper pilot for Big Sur Firewise-recognized

communities in July (further information to be provided in next two weeks) Fireside Chat expanded to include Mid-Coast Fire station location. FABS will have a booth at Big Sur Fire Muster July 13

e. County of Monterey Planning Department – Melanie Beretti

- i. County Board of Supervisors continued the Garrapata Bridge Railing item to June 25th. This past Wednesday, June 5th the Planning Commission reviewed the County’s Housing Element Draft and we will take the draft to the June 11th Board of Supervisors meeting. Vacation Rental Ordinance hearing at the Planning Commission’s meeting Wednesday, June 12th and look forward to hearing from the community before sending a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. In the coastal zone, Coastal Commission staff will need to review the Vacation Rental Ordinance. Comprehensive Big Sur Land Use Plan community meeting June 18th, 4-7pm, with planning team and Kate Daniels and Martha Diehl at the Big Sur Lodge. Big Sur Land Use plan going back to Planning Commission on June 26th.

f. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District – Caine Camarillo

- i. Hosted 3rd annual race for open space co-hosted with Big Sur Land Trust. Planning and design phase for CRFREE. Applying for grants and close to securing commitments. Invite people to attend Garland Ranch Regional Park annual Wildflower Show this weekend, June 8 & 9. Remains committed to ParkIt! Shuttle program. Implementing seasonal maintenance for trail and open space maintenance and wildfire prevention.

g. California Coastal Commission – Breylen Ammen

- i. Last evening, Commissioners attended site visit at Bixby Bridge and then attended Community Gathering in this room. Coastal Commission meeting next week Friday, June 14th in Morro Bay. CCC issuing permits to projects in area including Highway repairs. We will provide input on STR ordinance and ADU ordinance.

h. Caltrans – John Olejnik

- i. Appreciate gratitude for the comments of thanks. Rocky Creek slip out signal light needs to accommodate bicycles to go through. Permit structure teams are working as quickly as possible under emergency work with an estimated repair by summer of 2025. Cameras are watching the signal light loops. Go right up to the limit line to trigger the signal. Paul’s Slide opening has been moved up and opening sooner than anticipated. All the plans under way, looking at the plans as a whole, we would like to look at those in collaboration with others.

i. California State Parks and Recreation – Brent Marshall

- i. Upping aquatic safety. Thank you, Nick and Sonia at the County who have been exception, and her presence has been noted in the community which has been outstanding. The fine for parking that increased here has seemed to help deter people from parking illegally. The shuttle for ParkIt! near Point Lobos is a great example for reducing highway traffic. We have exhaustive almost all of our options to work on this problem, but we are working with cooperating agencies to address this issue. More information about ParkIt! is available online. There have been comments about restrooms, and State Parks restrooms are free and available to members of

the public for a 10-minute stop. For the ideas of building new restrooms, development in the coastal zone is challenging. We plan to build 9 cabins in Pfeiffer which was approved by the board in Salinas, and if you have comments, you may contribute them during the planning process.

j. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Absent the following report was read out loud.

- i. MBNMS continues to coordinate with Caltrans and other agencies such as US Army Corp, CA Coastal Commission, NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife on permitting and mitigations for Big Sur Hwy One road repair activities at the four main landslide locations that occurred in 2024 due to winter storms. The goals are to minimize impacts to endangered black abalone, and other resources, and get the road open to all again. Sunday, June 8th is the final decision by the Pacific Fishery Management Council on fishery protections for three proposed areas (Ano Nuevo, Ascension Canyon, and Sur Ridge) for deep sea coral research and restoration. The areas would allow MBNMS to conduct out planting studies of deep-sea corals in deep areas (over 400 fathoms in federal waters) that are suitable for transplanting corals. The areas would be closed to fixed gear fisheries which include pots/traps, in order to protect the out planted corals from crushing or other damage due to fishing gear. This project is included in sanctuary's draft climate adaptation plan, which is under development and due for completion in 2025. Team OCEAN (Ocean Conservation Education Action Network) kayakers headed out to recreational areas in Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing and Cannery Row, Monterey starting on Memorial weekend to educate the public about the sanctuary, its incredible wildlife and how to responsibly interact with other animals (e.g. sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, birds). This year 16 new Team OCEAN volunteers were trained and deployed into the field, and will be operating on weekends (Friday, Sat, Sun) until Labor Day. During their shifts, volunteers collect data and act as good witnesses by documenting and reporting wildlife disturbances. Team OCEAN volunteers help keep an eye on the sanctuary and contribute to documenting and preventing wildlife disturbances during the high tourist season in MBNMS. On Saturday, May 25th at the Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) in Santa Cruz, the "Dia de la Comunidad" event drew in a crowd of approximately 500 people. This event was funded by the California Department of Parks and Recreation Outdoor Equity Grant in efforts to provide more accessible outdoor education for marginalized communities. The celebration brought together three prominent community groups, including the Watsonville Senior Center, Activities for All Kids Mariachi, and Folklorico, alongside a dedicated school group. The event showcased a diverse range of activities aimed at engaging participants of all ages, from plankton viewing stations to kayaking adventures at the wharf. Arts and crafts activities added a creative touch, while a beach scavenger hunt added an element of excitement.

k. United States Forest Service – Chris Stubbs

- i. Long Beach Conservation Corps will be working on trails including Sand Dollar Beach trail. Acknowledge concerns raised about reopening

Nacimiento-Ferguson Road and camping. Virtual public meeting coming up soon. Wildfire prevention continuing with strategic community fuel break. Implemented forest order prohibiting overnight camping.....

l. 5th District, Monterey County Board of Supervisors – Mary Adams

- i. Thank you to Alex, Quinn and Alex Vatsula Visuals. Thank you to Colleen for coordinating the Coastal Commission meeting last night. Coordination in this community and every entity has been remarkable. Marcus, your efforts have been incredible and so impactful. Communication and Collaboration. Thank you, Caltrans for how quickly you moved on the Rocky Creek slip out. Commander Rosas, your comments about international signage. My time is winding down and this is such a treat, and a great opportunity to serve on this council.

m. 30th District, California State Assembly

- i. Sacramento updates, Assemblywoman was given new committee assignments. State is facing a budget deficit. Assemblymember Dawn Addis serves on the Central Coast Legislative Caucus. Safeguarding classroom funding, housing costs, emergency response. District related priorities, BigSurKate was selected as Woman of the Year in Monterey County. Unemployment assistance can be obtained by contacting our office.

n. 17th District, California State Senate

- i. Great to be here and see you in person. Kirk did an outstanding job going through everyone and their role in what happened with the Rocky Creek slip out. I had been on a Senate delegation to Japan, and I was in immigration when I received the first text and calls about Rocky Creek Slip out. I got the Caltrans Director on the phone and he was unaware of the day trippers who were stuck between the closures. Working with the business community to ensure they were prepared ahead of the road opening for their staff and the community to be ready. Media questions during road closures were surprising and the public unaware of Big Sur needed to be reoriented to the situation and the impacts. Proud to have my staff member, Kate Daniels, become my partner as she transitions in to being the next County Supervisor. Sorry for taking so long, it is rare I get a chance to see you and I'd like to

o. 19th District, United States Congress

- i. Most has been said already and I need to make it back to my daughter's Carmel High School Graduation. Caltrans who was right on it when Rocky Creek slip out occurred. Give credit to SBA for the recovery center in Big Sur. Please contact my office for any SBA assistance. When it comes to Rocky Creek, I'd like for the federal government to do what it does best, spend money, and support Caltrans in their Department of Transportation reimbursement. Rural Broadband will continue to engage at all levels so Big Sur is not left out. Making sure we get an accurate count of households in Big Sur part of the maps being developed by the federal commission for improvement. If you see inaccuracies, please contact my office. NOAA weather transmitter, thank you Martha for this idea, and we immediately got on it. We are able to place this at the tower at Post Ranch, and NOAA is in the process of acquiring antenna. Naci-

Ferg, emphasize coordination of the meetings we put together. State Farm is the largest home insurance company in California. Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Act, for grant program administered by the state to be distributed to homeowners, create a tax credit for homeowners, and direct states to consider disaster mitigation activities when setting up insurance premiums. Encourage and incentivize homeowners.

p. Public Comment on Member Reports

- i. Mike Caplin – question
- ii. Bruce Merchant - question

VIII. Report from Non-Member Agencies on Issues Pertinent to Big Sur

a. United States Forest Service, Law Enforcement Officer

- i. John Ares – one and only law enforcement officer, from here to the SLO County line, not including the East Side of the mountain range. Feedback to south coast residents about Naci-Ferg reopening. Already coordinating for Labor Day weekend, when that does happen, we will bring extra officers up to the area. Roadside camping still a big deal and thank you to SO for giving authority to issue citations. Campfires, when in fire season, zero tolerance. I rely on the community to be eyes and ears. Easy way to get in touch with me, call 911, reach out to SO and they are good at giving me a call.

b. California Highway Patrol

- i. Ian Troxell – I was trying to pull over a car that ran the red light at Rocky Creek and another car crossing double lines. So I was late to this meeting. Government approach to tackle problems has great collaboration. 770-8000 phone number, please follow social media. PIO receptive and responsive to traffic complaints.

c. Monterey County Sheriff's Office

- i. Andy Rosas, publicly acknowledge State Parks and CHP for their help during Easter weekend. We were cut off from accessing Big Sur. Working with SLO law enforcement agencies. That is already in place. We can confirm that we have relied on SLO, most recently death in Salmon Creek area relied on partners in SLO area. If they are available, they will respond and are here to help us.

d. Big Sur Fire

- i. Chief Harris, thank you for the proclamation and the congressional record and our 50th anniversary. Special year for the organization. Strategic Plan update and will be reaching out to you for input on strategic plan update. Thank you to one of my firefighters, Paul Ammen, who helped make this space available as an emergency shelter during the first night of the Rocky Creek slip out.

e. Big Sur Byway Organization

- i. Martha Diehl, the Byway Org has tried to figure out how to be helpful. Garrapata Bridge Railings Working group suggestions are not within Caltrans capacity and a legislative fix is needed.

f. Public Comment on Non-member agency reports

- i. Marcus Foster: question

IX. Adjournment

Motion Martha Karstens, Second Kirk Gafill, all in favor.

Congressman Panetta thank you to everyone who is here today!

Adjournment at 1:51pm.

Next Meeting – Friday, September 13, 2024

~Thank you to the Big Sur Lodge for your hospitality and for the use of the conference room at the Big Sur Lodge~

For BSMAAC Agendas and Minutes please visit

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/current-planning/committees-hearings-agendas>