

Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, March 3rd, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Big Sur Lodge, 47225 Highway One, Big Sur, CA 93920

Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Supervisor Mary Adams, Co-Chairs

APPROVED MINUTES

I. Call to Order

10:00am Called to Order by Chair Adams

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. Monterey County Planning Department – Melanie Beretti
- f. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District – Caine Camarillo
- g. California Coastal Commission - Sean Drake
- h. Caltrans – John Olejnik
- i. California State Parks and Recreation - Marcos Ortega
- j. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Karen Grimmer
- k. United States Forest Service - Fin Eifert
- l. 5th District, Monterey County Board of Supervisors – Mary Adams
- m. 30th District, California State Assembly – Andrea Chmelik
- n. 17th District, California State Senate – Kate Daniels
- o. 20th District, United States Congress – Jimmy Panetta

III. Approval of the March9, 2023 Draft Minutes

- Motion by Kirk Gafill, Second by Ryne Leuzinger, All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – limited to 3 minutes

Board of Fire Safe Council- only fire safe council in county nonprofit goal help people in county to protect against wildlife and provide education. Obtained grant from county. Fire safe was assigned management of funds. Purpose of the grant. They have hired Anthony Anderson as coordinator. He will collaborate with the county. We will be reaching out to the supervisor and others to collaborate.

Steve Beck – Talk about pampas Grass. We have a problem with invasive grass. 72 miles of Highway 1 most of it has pampas grass. It would be hard to find any native plants. Slides cause infestation to grow. Hoping to begin the process of actually doing something. I hope the agencies have a plan for attacking the problem since 75% of the land is owned by public agencies. I would like to see those plans made public. I would rather see the plan than an agenda item.

Kate Armstrong – My inquiry of the trailers at the bottom of Fall side in Big Sur. Have you been able to determine if the people living in the trailer obtained permits.

Response- Permits were not received. Complaints have been filed. Pending restoration permit to be in compliance. Should it not be submitted in a timely manner then it will be scheduled for an administrative review. There is an open case and the next steps have been identified.

Mike Chamberlin- We have been busy. Over 20 volunteers and hundreds of miles working with Forest service to assess if trails can be re-opened. Less damage than expected. Looking forward to reopening

Kerri Frangioso, UC Davis – We 17 years of research we are hosting an informational. It will be on March 31st through April 4th. You can pick up a packet and return it to have it sampled. We have 23 events going on in the state. I welcome you to participate.

Sharon Wilson – co director of BS river run- Looking for volunteers for the Big Sur River Run on October 28th.

Heather Lanier – She shared that she hopes that forest closure will be addressed today She shared additional concerns including why the forest is closed and why there is an increase in law enforcement presence in Big Sur.

Connie McCoy – Will we have an opportunity to speak to individual agencies?

Supervisor Adams – Requested questions wait until agencies give their update.

Reporter Monterey weekly – They had questioned the forest closure. Questioned when a closure had happened previously.

Supervisor Adams – She shared questions that will be addressed at a later part in the meeting. Thanked everyone for their comments.

V. New Business

a. Certificate of Recognition for Big Sur Lodge manager Paul Amend.

- Representative Jimmy Panetta, Andrea Chmelik on behalf of Assemblywoman Dawn Addis, and Kate Daniels on behalf of Senator Laird. Big Sur Lodge manager Paul Amend was presented a certificate.

b. Bixby Bridge Call Box Related to Suicide Prevention – Monterey County

Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Services of the Central Coast

Supervisor Adams – Dana and Andrea will be sharing a brief presentation on the suicide information about Bixby bridge. Dana and Andrea forward to

Dana – Thank you It is a hard subject to talk about. This can be a sensitive subject breathe if you need to and take care of yourself. Especially since Big Sur is a small community. There is hope. We do have a slide show. MCHOPES helping one another to eliminate suicide. We have regular meetings. Open a conversation Andrea to share how suicide 988 functions.

Andrea- I am an education outreach suicide loss support group we also hold 988 call we are one of the call centers. De-escalation services including safety planning in terms of what is appropriate for the call. If we are unable to answer they go to a backup center. Last year with the launch we had 2400 calls and we answered 1400, an increase from the year before.

Dana – Talking about data, the information that I have comes from the corner's reports. Tracking information has changed over time. Now we look at zip codes. Last year 16 individuals committed suicide by jumping. Per year varies from 1 to 3 we also look at age of individuals look at age range 26 -59 most are males with the highest percentage being Caucasian white.

Andrea – 911 goes to dispatch they make the decision about who responds. I talked with others including the people working with San Francisco bridges, about effective deterrents – sign and community education. Barriers are the best way to save lives. San Francisco is installing nets. They are supposed to be done this year. There is no particular language working with community. We are happy to do trainings educations. We are happy to work with everyone. Thank you!

-Community member noted that BS needs more cell coverage to deal with emergencies, because there are not enough call boxes.

- Supervisor Adams suggested adding to next agenda discussion of additional call boxes, but need data on how often they are used

-Monterey County film commission-offered data

-BS resident-said better cell service would be best because call boxes are not used

-visitors bureau-asked about why calls increasing, Andrea responded that they have a lot of repeat callers

Adams – Thank you difficult but important subject

VI. Old Business - none

VII. Reports from Member Agencies

a. Big Sur Resident, North Coast, Martha Karstens

Grange- We now have tiered rates in place for the rental of the Grange. Some of the costs for the rental of the Grange-by-Grange members can be offset by the funds we received from the Weston Call fund. Please visit us as www.bigsurgrange.org.

Historical Society: Weather permitting, we are open on weekends. We hope to have a docent training in the next month. We elected our new officers. We received a grant to redo the UV protection on the windows at the museum. Work is continuing on our new cookbook. bigsur.cookbook@gmail.com. Please visit us at www.bigsurhistory.org.

Big Sur CERT- CERT was activated twice, once for going door to door along the Big Sur river with SO informing residents of the mandatory evacuation order when the potential for flooding was imminent. Our second mission was to deliver supplies to the residents who were landlocked on the south coast. We picked up supplies from Safeway and drove them to the LZ at Lucia where they were flown down to Sand Dollar by CHP helo H70. Please visit us at www.bigsurcert.org

Questions from residents from the December meeting:

#1 The stairs on the Buzzard Roost trail are in really bad shape mostly on the south side, are there any plans to work on them?

#2 What are the blank triangle signs underneath the existing signs for?

b. Big Sur Resident, South Coast, Bree Harlan

The South Coast community is not doing well. They have been under tremendous stress for the last few months. Highway 1 has been closed since the beginning of the year.

- Polar Star Occurred Jan 4th

- Paul's Slide January 14th
- Mill Creek Slide January 15th

The community has waited over a month and half for Caltrans to come up with a solution to address the problems that they have identified.

We, residents of the South Coast, have written letters and emails and made phone calls to our elected representatives and appointed officials to make some allowance for passage through the locked gates at Paul's Slide. Our pleas have seemingly fallen on deaf ears.

Caltrans claims that Paul's Slide is unsafe, however, it is clearly safe enough for dozens of construction vehicles to cross it every day.

We recognize that Paul's Slide has been deemed unsafe, but we must consider that driving a vehicle in and of itself is inherently unsafe. While Paul's Slide may not be subjectively safe it is safer than the alternative for many residents of the South Coast.

Here's what we want.

- Biweekly (or more) convoys through Paul's Slide and Mill Creek for residents on the north and south sides of the closure. Not a token convoy from the north side of the locked gate (which helps absolutely nobody). Early morning and early evening times on the same day, for instance, 7:30-8am and 5-5:30pm on the same day. This would give residents the time they need to run all of their errands north and south, facilitate deliveries of equipment, fuel, propane, garbage service, possibly mail.
- Movement of the closure on the North side to the locked gate at Paul's Slide. The Hermitage and Lucia are hurting from a lack of income and there are no insurmountable road hazards between the current closure and the locked gate at Paul's Slide. Movement of the southern closure to the north side of Pacific Valley to allow residents to come and go freely.
- Traffic controlled access for residents through the Mill Creek Slide throughout the closure so that residents from Nacimiento Road may have access to the school and food drop locations and avoid alternative routes through the mountains on treacherous and severely degraded dirt roads.
- Adjustment of the Forest Closure order to allow access to Forest Service areas west of highway 1. It makes sense to close the roads to Plaskett, Los Burros and Nacimiento while they are undergoing repairs and are the only way in or out for many locals and have suffered a lot of damage with this season's storms, but there is no reason to restrict access to the beaches and bluffs from Pacific Valley to the County line.
- Trash Pickup. Huge piles are accumulating.
- Financial assistance, gas vouchers, food stamps and enhanced unemployment benefits for those whose livelihoods have been affected including those who are self-employed (as many residents of the south coast depend on freelance work, harvesting, landscaping, gardening and contract work).
- A sense that we are being heard and understood. We would like empathy and compassion and we would like you to put yourselves in our place, understand the difficulties that we face. Our kids haven't been to school in over 2 months and we have no childcare, we have been unemployed, unable to get to our work, unable to make money that we need to survive, unable to get our mail and deliveries, Out of gas and propane, our lives have been placed on hold and on top of that we are spending hundreds of dollars a week on gas to make 8 hour long trips to the grocery store and doctor's appointments and back to our homes, with no end in sight.

On January 24th Caltrans issued the statement:

The estimated time to reopen Highway 1 at Paul's Slide with lane closures and traffic control in effect is three to four weeks.

This is from Caltrans on February 16th: Given the pace of progress to this point, it is anticipated that travel for locals from the southern gate of Paul's Slide south through Mill Creek will open on an intermittent basis within the next seven to 10 days.

This is also from Caltrans:

Caltrans is committed to allowing for a convoy when the roadway conditions are improved enough for it to be conducted safely. We are in conversations about the field conditions multiple times a day with our field staff and contractors. We will schedule the next convoy as soon as road conditions allow.

The following are emails from residents that I received over the days leading up to the BSMAAC meeting. I have edited for brevity.

- From Rich Veum Hermitage

From a personal standpoint, I normally act as a courier for the hermitage, transporting bills, checks, and other important business paperwork between the hermitage and our sister monastery in SLO. I do this twice a week, leaving Big Sur on Thursdays and returning to the hermitage on Sunday nights. The drive is normally about 1 hour and 40 minutes when the highway is open. Now that I have to drive the long way around twice a week, the drive time is now about 4.5 hours.

From the hermitage perspective, they are a poor Benedictine monastery and literally survive each year with a combination of asking for donations and operating a spiritual retreat center. The margin of their financial status is thin. When the highway is blocked on either end, it interrupts guests from getting to the hermitage and thus drastically affects the hermitage income. They go into the red financially fairly quickly when the road is closed for more than a couple of weeks. There are 9 elderly monks living at the hermitage, with support staff also living there. These monks and staff have been through many bad winters, including the atmospheric rivers of 2017 which collapsed the highway running past Paul's Slide. Even so, we were able to get by during much of that closure with the grace and help of the road crews.

We have lived here long enough and felt and seen the movement of the earth enough times to be able to fairly accurately judge the threat levels. Better, I believe, than visiting construction crews or state geologists who have never spent much time here.

There has been a perceptible change in the attitude of the agencies and contractors who come here to help keep the highway open. In years past, it was an attitude of mutual cooperation; they knew we had to carry on with life, and we knew to only ask passage as necessary and not pester them. Now it is more autocratic; the highway is closed without any input from residents affected by it, and without any attempts to mitigate the difficulties that causes residents by meeting us half-way in regard to access.

- From Grace Lutz Lucia

The current closure at Big Creek makes it really hard to get guests to Lucia and the Hermitage. Further impacting loss of \$ for individuals and the lists go on and on but I think everyone else has probably covered everything about Paul's.

- From Gene Wood Mill Creek

We see numerous trucks driving through the slide every day. Many have no serious business, for instance - the Caltrans guys I talked to who were just doing their general 2 year check up on the bridge, if it endangered their lives to do this - then it could have waited. The Hwy patrol officer would regularly come down in the evenings to just cruise and look at things, literally at the same time people with emergencies were having to be airlifted out, and food was being brought in by helicopter.

It goes from bigger things to smaller things like not being able to get the equipment we need to get started on major projects - we have a wood Mill waiting on the other side of the slide - to things like not being able to let our kid play with his friends, people are losing their jobs, kids can't get to school and supplies are not able to be obtained.

A safety concern cannot be fixed - because it is someone's belief about what is right for other people - It's easier to move rocks out of the road than it is to convince a person to empathize with a group of people and to have them understand how they are actually abusing their power. To have them understand that their "safety concern" is causing people to spend over a half a day driving over far sketchier road passes instead of what could be a 30 second drive through a cone zone.

Allowing residents to take their own risks at specific times when it would not hinder progress should be considered a right to people who have homes in these areas.

- From Megan Handy Treebones

My two-year-old Cici, can't get to preschool at Esalen. She sees her backpack in her bedroom and says "I miss my school! I miss my friends". This affects my ability to work as well.

My husband Caleb, on the fire department cannot get to trainings or meetings, and there are just 5 responders on this side of the slide, should something major happen. There are new recruits who are missing their opportunity to participate in the 4 month basic training to join the volunteer fire dept- and we definitely need more members, especially on the south coast!

We have partnered with other small businesses like Coast (for bread and baked goods) and Bitter Ginger and other artists and growers (like yourself) on the north side of the slide. We usually pick up or receive delivery in person and now these community partnerships are on hold.

It's had a huge impact on our business, and we employ 30 people... which is only possible if our business is thriving.

- From Mary Wargo Lucia

I live at Lucia but have a family farm off of the South Coast Ridge Road. I can see the top of my driveway from parts of Lucia, but what used to take 2 hours to do a round trip to my farm and back, now takes 7 to 8 hours. Round trip. I only have 3 hours if that, to do any work on my property. The property has been a source of income to help pay for the price of gas these days. I was hoping to actually make the property an agricultural business but haven't been able to get there to prune trees, do fire clearance, harvest what I have and check any winter damage to the property unless I drive 4 times as much as usual. I appreciate people being able to get food drops, etc... Yet, what about people like me who has to drive an outrageous amount to be able to do what they need to do. There are no gas vouchers for us. I have tried to talk to Kevin ,Caltrans, to see if there is any way to be able to go through at certain times of the day. No luck! He understands my plight and asks me to be patient. I wonder if he could be patient if he was in my shoes! I have lived on the coast for 45 years and have never experienced what is happening now. I see Caltrans coming in and out of Paul's slide. If it's so dangerous, why are they driving it? I just need to go through Paul's slide twice a week to do what I need to do and yet, they tell me it's too dangerous. I have watched workers go in and out. I have seen big trucks with double trailers behind them go through.

Shouldn't they be worried about the dangers of Paul's slide? This all has been more than frustrating for me! I don't understand why local residents can't go through at certain times.

- From Betty Withrow South Coast Ridge Road

My son, who is rebuilding Lucia and is the foreman of my ranch, has not been able to get to the property for damage assessment and needed repairs since the beginning of January. The people on site have had no hands-on backup during this time. Hazard trees are threatening the water source.

- From Corinne Handy Treebones
 - 35 people who live here are having extreme difficulty getting mail , if at all - some is lost
 - Have spent probably double on gas over past months as they navigate closures.
 - No trash pickup - huge pile up
 - Food purveyors spending double to come all the way around (remember some deliveries cannot get simply rerouted from the south) which puts at risk when driving further on unknown roads
 - As a business we are at half occupancy when we are typically full
 - All UPS and FED x is rerouted to various other address with delayed delivery times, gas and time spent collecting from landing places
 - My granddaughter cannot attend her Outdoor school.
 - We have an employee having to live temporarily at Treebones in a temp situation because she can't get to her house north.
 - Sub-contractors lost their jobs/ bids because they could not get to us
 - Farrier loses half his wages because he can't get north to complete what would be his full slate of customers.
 - Extra expenses incurred from having to go all the way around if going to Monterey like hotel stayovers , more gas , time of commuting
 - Most important of all: Zero accessibility to law enforcement

- From Kate Woods Plaskett Ridge

Here is one for you. I had to cancel my annual physical checkup and booster shot at the VA Clinic in Marina due to road closures. I haven't been able to reschedule it, yet. A second is that I needed to open my property up to people who couldn't get out any other way. The one week this happened, I had 25 vehicles pass thru by my house. That is more than I get in 5 years!

- From Sabrina Wyatt Pacific Valley

My comments are that I wish there was more communication. Specifically, the road closure that was supposed to be at MM 16 which would've been 200ft north from my driveway, was moved to sand dollar with no notice because they're working on a culvert by the forest service station. Because of this my partner and potential employees to work for Harry cannot get through to get to the property during daylight hours.

Mail has been a mess although getting better now! But I am still missing an important package that was 'delivered' January 27th.

And the forest closure - I understand locking the gates at Plaskett and Los Burros but John Ayres seems very adamant at keeping everyone off of trails and USFS beaches including the top of willow creek vista point where a lot of us like to go for cell phone signal.

Paul's closure also restricting Dylan Horst from getting to Harry's where he usually works 2 days a week. My partner and I both wish we were allowed access through the slide at specific times of the day or even certain days of the week. We feel that our residency should grant us certain access and we shouldn't be lumped in with the general public. If we understand the dangers and assume responsibility, we should be able to make our own choice to pass through at even a designated time. Harry has had to cancel doctors' appointments and other tax related appointments in Monterey/ Bay Area because he doesn't feel comfortable driving across base and going around.

- From Inga Dorosz Gorda Mountain

With the south open, the one thing that impacts us is access to Big Sur Health center and other services. We have medical and access services within the county. There's a number of health things that we all need to follow up on and to make a long story short, it's hard to transfer services south. Driving all the way around is not really feasible. Access through Paul's slide to access health care is important to us. My 80-year-old dad with heart issues lives with us and started having some breathing, pressure issues during the lock down. His doctors did not think he needed to go to the ER but had to be seen soon to prevent an emergency. I couldn't get Caltrans to allow him to get out from north or south. All they said was to call 911 but that would not have served him or the health care system to bog down an emergency with a non-emergency. And there really was no reason to create one. Not that I have anything against Teslas but there was a contractor commuting between Paul's slide and Mills slide and parking a brand-new shiny Tesla. If they are willing to risk life and limb and their new Tesla....for sure they can allow

people access! The lockdown affected our income and the boy's education. They had to drop-in person classes at Cuesta which impacts their ability to transfer. I teach at Cuesta College, and it was not easy to get a substitute for Etching, which is a technical class. I got lucky, otherwise it would have been cancelled and I'm the sole income earner. I could not get a substitute for my class at CMC, the prison, because of the required security clearance. Luckily, we were able to move it to a late start, but I feel bad because it's students who are most vulnerable and need the most amount of help. I think the closures were hardest on the most vulnerable members of the south coast. There are a number of people who have living situations in which they don't have the space to store food, propane etc. There is one gardener here who is homeless (he lives under a bridge). Closures like the one we had can have severe consequences. People did go hungry, and they shouldn't have had to....

- From Sarah Harvey Plaskett

Pacific Valley had 19 kids enrolled in the beginning of the closure, and because of extended online school we have lost 4 enrolled students that I am aware of. That's over 20% of our students.

Luckily our PTO (I am the secretary) ran the gofundme fundraiser and we raised money for income loss for our families, so that combined with the grant money from CABS and SCCLT gave me and others financially affected some income. The checks were sent out on Friday. This all, by the way, was an astonishing amount of work to put together for our whole community.

On behalf of those who don't respond, I will say that there are quite a few families who have had nearly zero income because of the closures.

For the remainder of the closure, I will be living off \$100/week that unemployment awarded me because even though I work basically full time normally, I am self-employed, and EDD did not factor in any of my income because I do not operate off a normal W2. I do claim my income and pay taxes, but they don't acknowledge any income that isn't W2. So, I'm totally screwed right now and haven't been able to work since December 30 because of the locked gates.

School has been closed and my 11-year-old has to sit in the corner 4 days a week with headphones glued to a screen. If they would at least let the bus through twice a day, we could open the school again so the kids can interact with the real world and the parents can work.

I also should mention that Kevin, my kids' dad, and I usually split custody 50/50 and because of the strict closure he didn't get to see them for a month and when he did, he had to drive an 8 hour round trip to spend one night with them. We usually just meet at Esalen twice a week for the exchange, or the kids just ride the bus there. Now if the kids want to legally see their dad, we are supposed to drive an 8 hour round trip Thursday night and again on Saturday so the boys can see him for his days off. How ridiculous when he lives in Big Sur Valley and works at Esalen.

- From Lisa Gering Pacific Valley School and Los Burros Road

Personally: It's been a long slog since the beginning of January when the storms started rolling in. There were weeks of no way to get to town due to all accesses (Los Burros/ South Coast Ridge Rd & Naci) having slides on them. We all worried re: running out of gasoline for our generators & vehicles, propane for our cooking & heat and food supplies. Luckily, living on Los Burros Rd. we have neighbors who have large equipment such as an excavator, backhoe and tractor and who have been willing to use it to enable access on the South Coast Ridge Rd that leads to Naci & Los Burros Rd and the Spruce Creek slip out & slide that boxed us in for weeks.

We'd like to thank CABS & the USFS. CABS for getting the donations to offset the cost of labor and fuel to do the necessary roadwork to open the back ridge and "patch" Spruce Creek slip out to allow residents on Los Burros to access Hwy 1.

USFS for getting a geologist and others out to access the road damage of both Los Burros & SCRR & put us in the queue of getting it repaired hopefully sooner than later. Special thanks to Tom Collins for organizing all of that and being the CABS liaison.

Once this area was declared a disaster area, it seemed as though USFS was able to move forward with the project so thank you to Gov. Newsom for that.

In these times everyone read the News Releases of CalTrans but there didn't seem to be any reliable information coming from them, only the constant Road Closure announcements due to "Public Safety" Locals quickly realized the only reliable source of information was amongst us, so an email chain was created to get the latest bit of reality so we could navigate getting to work or town! The email chain is still utilized since the "information speak" is still the same! Apparently, the higher ups in our elected officials have been unable to get the top people @ CT's to recognize the locals' needs in getting to work, doctor appointments or town, north of Paul's Slide! It's frustrating knowing that authorities are getting through Paul's from time to time but there is no consideration for our community.

Now that Polar Star to the south is open it has relieved a lot of anxiety.

What is the real information on Paul's Slide? Are they entertaining the idea of passage 1 or 2 xs p/wk for locals? What happened to locals crossing at their own risk, like is arranged with people living up Naci & coexisting with repairs by Papich?

Mail: Is there a reason our Highway Contract person can't bring the mail to us 1 day per week and pick up outgoing at the same time? Presently it's boxed up by Andrew (and others?) @ the BS PO, somehow sent over to San Simeon PO who sends it up to Ragged Point, who has graciously offered to hold it until a volunteer (either Caleb of BS Fire or Alex of USFS PV Station) drives the 20 minutes or so to RP, and delivers each of the entities boxes of mail. The entity's box contains mail for the employees of that entity and all the people who have PO Boxes at or near that entity! The entity (Gorda, CalTrans, Treebones, PV

School & USFS) then contacts the recipients and arranges times their mail can be collected. There is no outgoing mail service!

I'd say to 2 biggest issues right now are access north through Paul's and our mail delivery!

School is being conducted via Zoom remotely, like in the Covid days. This has been since January 2, when we were supposed to return after our Winter Break that began on December 16! The school bus is not allowed to travel on an officially closed road so even for the students that can access the school from the south, the bus cannot run. We have had 4 students leave our school due to these conditions.

SCHOOL EMPLOYEE: We have an employee living up Naci who attempted to get to the school site and tried to drive across Mill Creek before the workers started work, watched them stand under the slide for 1/2 hour and wouldn't allow her to pass in her car that would have taken 2 minutes to pass! She drove 1.5 hours to get there to only have to turn around and go back. (That's how long her commute is with rock and trees in the road). She has only worked 3 days since Dec. 16!

EDD: Thank you to Dawn Addis's office for helping people apply for EDD. The \$250-\$450 Disaster \$ for lost wages hasn't been showing up in people's 1 check they received so far. Can someone look into this?

- CABS/SCCLT/PV PTO/MoCo Community Foundation/The Big Share: Thank you all for getting much needed emergency funds to residents who lost wages due to loss of job access or diminished wages. Also for grocery money and the food drops made at the most desperate of times. The MoCo Community Foundation supplied the monetary donations to CABS & South Coast Community Land Trust who then dispersed the funds. CABS deserves a huge acknowledgement for organizing all of that! Without the cooperation of all of these groups our residents would be in worse shape!

c. Big Sur Chamber of Commerce, Kirk Gafill

- Business conditions in January and February have been significantly and negatively impacted by the closure of Highway 1 on the south coast, the extended and consistent wet and cold weather pattern, the unfortunate and widespread (“viral”) messaging about the possibility of the Monterey Peninsula becoming an island due to flooding potential, and favorable snow conditions in the Sierras allowing ski resorts to better compete with coastal destinations for visitors. Historically, when Highway 1 has been closed on the south coast, visitation to the Big Sur coast north of the closure area has dropped by approximately 30-33%. This year, though, we have seen an overall reduction in visitation in the area of 60-70% due to the factors mentioned above. I anticipate that with improved weather conditions, and most importantly, the re-opening of Highway 1, to allow for thorough travel between Carmel and Cambria, that visitation levels will rebound quickly. South Coast impacts/Caltrans Communications It is important to recognize that during this period, particularly with multiple closures on the south coast that south coast businesses and residents are far more impacted than residents of Big Sur who live north of the closure zone, given geographic remoteness, absence of PG&E infrastructure and service, reliance on Propane and all other goods services via Highway 1 access. Additionally, information from Caltrans that is timely, regular, and detailed, is critical to allow businesses and residents to plan for ways in which to adjust and adapt to the impacts associated with the highway closure(s). Destination Marketing Informed members of the Council and public that Alyssa Rendon, Community Relations Manager for the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCCVB), was present and her

attendance reflected the MCCVB's ongoing commitment to understanding issues and impacts associated with visitation to the Big Sur Coast to allow it to further develop and tailor its marketing and visitor education efforts to best support responsible and sustainable visitation.

d. Community Association of Big Sur, Ryne Leuzinger Bree Harlan

South Coast Roads

- CABS supports our south coast neighbors call to provide throughway resident access at Paul's slide when the road is clear. Current lack of access at this point has had a sizable effect on the ability of south coast residents to get to school, work, and their homes. South coast residents have frequently highlighted the incongruence between being able to freely travel on a county road in which hazards occur (Los Burros) but then being told at hwy 1 that they are unable to travel on a state highway and that their only option is to travel further on hazard filled county roads to make it to hwy 101. We should put ourselves in their shoes and consider what it would be like to have to travel 5 hours to the grocery store.
- We ask that trash pickup for the south coast community resume immediately.

Air Resupply

Air Resupply #1 - January 27, 2023:

In collaboration with:

- Monterey County Department of Emergency Management (formerly Office of Emergency Services)
- Supervisor Mary Adams and Colleen Courtney
- Monterey County Sheriffs
- Monterey County CHP
- Monterey County Search and Rescue
- Big Sur Fire
- Big Sur CERT
- CABS - Community Association of Big Sur
- CABS Program the Big Sur Big Share
- Safeway at the Crossroads
- Food Bank for Monterey County
- SPCA of Monterey County
- Big Sur Health Center
- Big Sur Post Office
- Big Sur Food & Wine
- Ken Harlan (Lucia - where the LZ was established for the Helicopters)
- Pacific Valley School
- Parks Management Company

A VERY successful day! Everything that was airlifted to Sand Dollar Day Use LZ was distributed and taken by a very appreciative South Coast community. Some numbers:

- * 26 Households purchased groceries from Safeway (order enough food for 2 weeks)
- * 30+ families - Big Sur Big Share and the Food Bank provided additional food for those community members who did not have the resources to purchase food from Safeway, or missed the window to order food from Safeway, or may not have ordered enough food.
- * 16 orders filled by the SPCA for pets & livestock needs - anything from dog/cat food, chicken feed to hay bales for mules.
- * Big Sur Food & Wine purchased toiletries, toilet paper, plus much more.
- * Big Sur Health Center, Sharen Carey - assisted with medications/prescriptions
- * Big Sur Post Office, Andrew - took mail over, borrowed a vehicle on the south side and delivered mail in 90 minutes.
- * Big Sur Big Share provided support at both LZ's with Big Sur Fire volunteers and South Coast residents to help organize all the Safeway orders, pet supplies, and food from the Food Bank and the Big Sur Big Share.
- * Two helicopters were used: one with a sling and the 2nd one food/supplies were placed inside. Each flight took 30 minutes and carried 800 lbs. First flight left at 11am and the last one returned around 4:30pm.
- * Those served were south of Mill Creek slide to Polar Star Slide (including Ragged Point area).

Vehicle Resupply #2 - February 5, 2023:

A second Air Resupply was scheduled for February 10th, but was canceled when Cal Trans opened Polar Star (south of Ragged Point) for a resident resupply. Even with Polar Star opening for a resupply at least 30+ families still needed food that they could not afford due to being out of work for so long.

Collaborators:

- Monterey County Department of Emergency Services
- Big Sur Fire
- CABS
- CABS Program the Big Sur Big Share
- SPCA of Monterey County
- Safeway at the Crossroads
- Pacific Valley School
- Parks Management Company
- Big Sur Food & Wine and All In

Chief Harris, Helen Handshy and Matt Bruno were met by the South Coast community at Sand Dollar Day Use for the food and supplies distribution. Another very successful resupply.

Grant Disbursement

- Thanks to donations from the Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC), the Community Foundation SLO County (CFSLOCO), Community Association of Big Sur (CABS),

e. **Monterey County Planning Department, Melanie Berretti**

- We are still looking forward to a workshop for planning commission. Again, you can contact me directly generalplanupdates@co.monterey.ca.us Please keep an eye out for those who are following it. Addressed concerns with forest closure, encouraging to see improvements to Bixby Bridge with delineators.

f. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, Caine Camarillo

- Similar to others, the Park District suffered damage as a result of the series of atmospheric rivers to impact the region during mid-January. Specifically, on January 9th, areas of both Palo Corona Regional Park and Garland Ranch Regional Park were inundated by flood waters on both the North and South sides of the Carmel River, which forced the closure of both parks. I appreciate Congressman Panetta, Supervisor Adams, Kate Daniels, and Senator John Laird for visiting Garland Park to see the damage firsthand. It has been approximately two months since the event and MPRPD is still far from being fully recovered, however, I'm happy to report that all parks have been reopened to the public. We are working closely with FEMA and Cal OES to apply for recovery grant funding to get us where we were prior to the event.
- The floodplain restoration project at Palo Corona Regional Park continues. This project (upstream and similar to Carmel River FREE) will alleviate flood potential in the area of Carmel and the mouth of Carmel Valley. We are still in the planning and permitting stage, however, MPRPD has already begun applying for grant funding to implement this very important project.
- The capital improvement project at Rancho Canada, known as Project B, is nearly complete. Consisting of a new restroom building, bus loading and drop off zone, as well as a multi-purpose event pad. A ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil this project is scheduled as part of California Wildlife Day on March 26 @ 10am, where MPRPD and Carmel River Watershed Conservancy have coordinated food vendors, activities for kids, nature walks, guest speakers, and much more. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to celebrate California's wildlife.
- Lastly, thank you to Kerry for mentioning the Sudden Oak Death Blitz, MPRPD is happy to host the SOD station at the Discovery Center again this year.

g. California Coastal Commission: Sean Drake

- In January, the Coastal Commission appointed Dr. Kate Huckelbridge as its new Executive Director. Dr. Huckelbridge was previously the Coastal Commission's Senior Deputy Director and, before that, led the Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division.

As mentioned during the last BSMAAC, the Commission hired Breylen Ammen as the new coastal planner to cover projects in Monterey County.

- **Project updates:**

In February, the Coastal Commission approved as submitted the Monterey County Resource Conservation District's Forest Health and Fire Resilience Public Works Plan. The Public Works Plan is a 10-year vegetation treatment program designed to improve forest health, restore ecosystems, and increase fire resilience within the Monterey County coastal zone. The plan is designed pursuant to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's certified California Vegetation Treatment Program and provides a simplified regulatory pathway for fire safety and forest health projects. The Commission has approved similar PWP's in San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties.

- The Coastal Commission's March meeting is March 8-10. There are no Big Sur projects on the agenda.

Commission staff are continuing to coordinate with Caltrans, Monterey County, State Parks, and other partners on forthcoming projects including the proposed railing replacement on Garrapata Creek Bridge, and the proposed Limekiln Creek Bridge Replacement project.

h. Caltrans: John Olejnik and Kevin Drabinski

- For our South Coast Resident Bree, and for everyone who's been or is currently impacted please know we hear you. There's nothing more important right now to us than dealing with the closures. You're living (are we are all working) through the effects of storms that are more frequent and severe. And thank you for talking about empathy. In Latin it means "seeing through the eyes of another person". Your heartfelt expressions have and continue to illuminate the importance of emergency work. Our eyes are clearly on the job at hand, and please along the way keep asking, keep knocking.
- In addition to our crews, we've employed over 25 contracts to help with storm repair. There have been literally hundreds of slide locations of slides along the Big Sur Coast since the storms began at the first of the year.
- Communication. Our outreach has continued to improve. We've provided some 25 press releases, posted frequently on social media, and attended every BSMAAC and BSBO meeting. We'll continue to be expressive, work to avoid technical language, but we rely on you to help convey.
 - If there are specific concerns or issues, please continue to reach out to us. Many times, the answer is more than just our decision. For signs example, it's both State and Federal regulations. A change we think is appropriate could have much larger implications.
- Mill Creek: we have an opening within our sights, within our horizon. The storms last weekend prevented us from being able to do the prepare the roadbed and barriers needed to open. Our repair work was held up which is positive, and we are working on placing striping where needed. This will give students between Mill and Pauls access to school.
- Paul's Slide: 500,000 cubic yards of material will have to be removed to make this repair. The area previously opened with construction vehicles has been filled up with material as construction activities are under way.
 - Contractors are assuming risk for the activities and are working top down.
 - Long-term closure. No timeframe, not anytime soon and the continued wet weather pattern isn't making it any better.
 - Just as the storms and slides have been dynamic, so has the approach. The debris material at the bottom of the slide is proving to be the resisting force to material at the top acting as the driving force."
- Each slide or storm has unique conditions. From a driver's perspective (even a local driver) the path may appear to be safe but that doesn't remove the risk. Our geotechnical engineers are aware of the actual movements happening within the slide area and the movement of below ground water. These slides remain active, and the contractor adjusts accordingly, and the contractor accepts the risk and liability to work on and under these slides. accept risk and liability.
- Delineators: Streets & Highways code requires parallel parking. The popularity of the sites has convinced drivers that the risk of collision, ticket, and getting stuck in a double park situation is

worth it. Part of our incremental approach (supported by CHP) to address. Consistent with the TDM which called for parking management strategies.

i. California State Parks and Recreation, Marcos Ortega

- The parking area by the Burns Community Association has great videos. We applaud Caltrans for their efforts to come up with solution.
- We have selected contractors for bridges three and four. Work will begin this month. We are continuing tours up there. We are close to losing the Angular camp ground. Trying to divert the river back to the channel. A recent storm has bypassed it. We have one in emergency contract for repairs. Hopefully, within the next month we can get company for response
- Major damage to campground 1 and 2. We will continue to try and keep what we can open. We are closing part of trail where tree fell on bridge that was just built.
- We have hired two new ranger supervisors and two new ranger trainees.

j. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Karen Grimmer

She shared that she acknowledged all the hardships that the community has been facing. We have been looking at boons coming from the rivers the sediment loads for parameters. We have some settlement funds and will be putting out the report. We do have a report on debris coming out soon. We are currently working with Caltrans on Pauls slide to try and ensure there is not a lot of runoff into the ocean. She reports Monterey whale fest March 18-19th. She shared that one of the priorities is kelp. There is a focus on restoration, and they are currently looking into restoration strategies. Other focuses noted were whale conservation, kelp, climate change, basal incidents. Enhancing community engagement and Indigenous communities and fisherman communities

k. United States Forest Service, Christopher Stubbs and Fin Eifert.

- **January 2023 Storm Damage**
 - Significant damage across the forest in the form of roads, trails, campgrounds, DUA's, infrastructure and facilities. We want to thank our partners (VWA and CABS) and stakeholders that have been assisting in the storm damage assessments, repairs, and recovery
- **Los Burros Road failure 2 miles up from Hwy 1**
 - We are working with Plumas NF Road crew to perform this repair at this location.
 - ETA for equipment mobilization March 7th and morning of 8th
 - Estimated 2-3 weeks for repair
 - Access may be blocked for a few days as they excavate back for wall installation. Timing will be coordinated with residents for walk through access on these days in the morning and evening (approx. 3-4 days)
- **GAOA Project work**
 - Contractor Apex construction is implementing this work now. They are working on overside drains, contouring, blading, and grading of: Southcoast Ridge Road, Los Burros, Plaskett, Prewitt, Alms

and Cone Peak RD. No definitive timeline on completion as dependent on current weather conditions.

- **Nacimiento-Fergusson Road ERFO**
 - We are working closely with Federal Highways on the necessary coordination to ensure we are on track with timeline. FHWA has shared most recent timeline:
 - Pre-solicitation March 3, 2023
 - Advertisement March 20, 2023
 - Bid Opening April 19, 2023
 - Contract Award Mid-May 2023
 - Notice to Proceed Early June 2023
 - Construction June 2023 to December 2023 with paving likely to occur in Spring 2024
 - We are also working to roll into this contract post award the 5 new ERFO eligible sites resulting from the recent storm. As you know, there is high possibility of additional damage with each passing storm. Our focus right now is to get the current plan set advertised, and per above schedule we can get a contractor on site to begin repairs. Once we have a contractor on site it will become a bit easier to feather in additional ERFO eligible repairs to the base package.
 - **North Coast Ridge Road**
 - We are working with local contractors and PGE to repair damage on this road past the first gate at Ventana and repairs are occurring now. TBD on completion
- **Priority Landscapes**
 - The LPNF is a Priority Landscape
 - **Maintain Fire Suppression Response Capability** via hiring and training, our response, we will seek to utilize any all-available funding sources to improve our stations, barracks, and employee housing.
 - **Implement the Wildfire Crisis Strategy through our vegetation and fuels program-** via fuels project implementation at admin sites, hazardous fuels and trees and implementation of the Strategic Community Fuel Break (SCFB) project and planning for the Ecological Restoration Project (ERP).
- **Forest Closure order and eventual reopening of the Forest**
 - Currently the forest (4 districts) is closed to the public until March 14th

We are working with our staff to assess what can reasonably and safely reopen. Anticipate a superseding order in the next 2 weeks

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

- Office will be looking into making the food drop happen and into taking surveys about the boxes.

m. 30th District, California State Assembly, Chief of Staff, Andrea Chmelik

1. **Monterey District Office Senior Field Representative – Alexis Garcia-Arrazola**
99 Pacific Street, Suite 575G, Monterey, CA 93940

Phone: 831-649-2832

Email: Alexis.Garcia-Arrazola@asm.ca.gov

**San Luis Obispo District Office Senior Field Representative – Jen Ford, District Director
Andrea Chmelik**

857 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: 805-549-3001

Emails: Jennifer.ford@asm.ca.gov; andrea.chmelik@asm.ca.gov

2. **Storm response**
 - a. Visited Big Sur and 20 other locations across AD30 to assess damage and recovery needs, along with Congressman Panetta and Senator Laird.
 - b. Met with CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham to discuss creek management
 - c. Met with Cal OES Director Nancy Ward
 - d. EDD – district office is available to help and expedite EDD cases (unemployment, disaster unemployment, disability, paid family leave, etc)
3. **Committees**
 - a. Natural Resources
 - b. Higher Education
 - c. Military and Veterans Affairs
 - d. Public Employment and Retirement (PERS)
 - e. Joint Committee on Fisheries (Vice Chair)
4. **Select Committees**
 - a. Chair – select committee on Offshore Wind and select committee on Students with Disabilities
5. **Caucuses and working groups**
 - a. Legislative Women’s Caucus
 - b. Legislative Jewish Caucus
 - c. Legislative Native American Caucus
 - d. Mental Health Caucus
 - e. Gun Safety Working Group
6. **Legislation**
 - a. Asm. Addis introduced 14 bills on a variety of subjects – conservation, housing, military and veteran affairs, education, emergency response and economic recovery, and human services.
 - i. AB 977 – Good Neighbor Tax Credit – direct result of storms, this bill will allow small businesses such as hotels, inns and motels claim a tax credit if they house victims of a natural disaster free of charge. In order to claim credit, the establishment would need to be located in a county that was in a state of emergency, declared either by the Governor or the President. The credit would apply to establishments with under 50 total rooms, ensuring that small businesses are the target of this relief.
 - ii. AB 1407 – Ocean Protection Fund – with Nature Conservancy / Monterey bay Aquarium – establish clear restoration targets for kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and native oyster beds restores, and establish an Ocean Restoration and Recovery Fund to support marine resource restoration and enhancement projects.
 - iii. AB 80 – Offshore Wind Fund – create an offshore wind community benefits fund to monitor impact of the deployment of offshore wind infrastructure in California

on tourism industry, marine and other coastal wildlife, and provide funding to marine life sanctuaries, tribes, cities and counties.

AB 444 – Stronger Defense Communities Act was introduced to create a way for California to partner with federal government to fund critical infrastructure in state communities that hosts military bases. This is infrastructure that will benefit military families and the areas where they live, and includes transportation, school, hospital, police, fire, emergency response, as well as water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas and other utility projects

n. 17th District, California State Senate, Policy Advisor Kate Daniels

The Office of Senator Laird will be coordinating the meeting that was requested in the room with Caltrans. She suggested the Byway Organization might be a good venue for this conversation. They are planning a time when the Senator and the appropriate folks from Caltrans could be there.

o. 19th District, United States Congress, Representative Jimmy Panetta

- **Discussed actions taken during the Winter Storms including leading full CA delegation to urge President Biden to approve Governor Newsom’s request for assistance.**
- Led 38 Members of Congress, including Sens. Padilla and Feinstein in writing to Transportation Sec. Buttigieg and the Federal Highways Administration urging them to provide CalTrans with all support they need following CA’s emergency declaration
- Has been in contact with local leaders encouraging them to work with FEMA on damage assessments which are key to getting federal disaster support.
- Shared updates on the damage caused by the storms including agriculture, flooding, power outages.
- Reminded participants that the House Appropriations Committee will accept Community Project Funding requests for Fiscal Year 2024
- Reviewed Bills that my office is currently working that address district concerns

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

a. United States Forest Service, Law Enforcement Officer- N/A

b. California Highway Patrol

Ian Troxell - He shared he had recently taken the position. He shared the community he moved from also had similar issues to those of the Big Sur Community. He acknowledged that his family is now part of the community, and his heart is in this community. He shared the need to work together to get through the difficult situations that were impacting the community.

c. Monterey County Sheriff’s Office

Sgt Irons- Thanked the community for continuing to work together. He Acknowledged the community’s struggles with the weather. He shared that there were 19 days of evacuations. He let the community know that they are currently understaffed, especially due to the Hernandez Jail Lawsuit. He shared that they are working to solve the issue. He thanked the Supervisor for working with them.

d. Big Sur Fire

Martin, the Chief stepped out of the room- We have a new class of 10 possible new firefighters. There is a possible roster increase by January. On Wednesday May 10 there is a Big Sur Fire station meeting.

e. Big Sur Byway Organization- N/A

IX. Adjournment – 1:30 p.m.