
Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, December 15th, 2023

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

- I. Call to Order 10:05am**
- II. Roll Call and Introductions**
- III. Approval of the September 22, 2023 Draft Minutes**
 - a. Motion my Kirk, second by Adams, motion passes to approve minutes with corrections.
 - b. Comment from Laura with the Film Commission stated the minutes were fabulous. They are meant to be there for information if you were unable to make it.
- IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – limited to 3 minutes**

Ceremonial Resolution honoring the life and impact of Mary Trotter.

 - a. Congressman Panetta: I would like to take this time to acknowledge and recognize Mary Trotter. I put forward a Congressional Record that I would like to read that is now written into congress. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Mrs. Mary Trotter. A longtime resident and community leader of Big Sur, California, Ms. Trotter passed away on September 7, 2023, at age 81. Her legacy is one of tireless service, advocacy, and profound dedication to the Big Sur community. Ms. Trotter's journey to Big Sur began in the early 1970s, after spending her early life in the Salinas Valley. Her passion for the Central Coast's history was admirable and in part influenced by her late husband, Walter Trotter, the son of Sam Trotter, a larger-than-life pioneer and master builder who made his home in Big Sur in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Walter and his brother Frank were renowned carpenters, contributing to iconic projects like Nepenthe, a Big Sur fine dining institution. Mrs. Trotter was a founding member of the Big Sur Historical Society, dedicating countless hours to historical research, often traveling throughout California to delve into archives. For two decades, Ms. Trotter chaired the community's Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC), where she utilized her expertise to fiercely advocate for responsible land use and the preservation of Big Sur's unique heritage. Her dedication to Big Sur was unwavering, and her wealth of information about local land use and history was critical. Marcus Foster, a fellow LUAC member, shares, "Learning from her was one of the reasons I joined the LUAC. The next generation is going to have to "step up" to fill the void Trotter left behind." Mrs. Trotter, affectionately known as "Mary with a backbone of steel" and "larger than life," was not defined by her stature but by her remarkable character. Her friend, former Big Sur Fire Chief Marta Karstens, described her as intelligent and kind with a keen sense of humor and deep interest in the happenings of Big Sur. When she spoke, people listened, not only because of her wisdom but also because of her genuine appreciation for the community. Mrs. Trotter's love for Big Sur extended beyond history. She was pivotal in creating the cherished book, "Recipes for Living in Big Sur." Additionally, as a dedicated volunteer, Mary Trotter was involved in numerous

charitable ventures, serving on the Big Sur Health Center board, being a member of Big Sur's Community Emergency Response Team, and contributing to events like the Big Sur River Run and the Big Sur Fire Annual Muster. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me on behalf of California's 19th Congressional District in honoring Mary Trotter for her invaluable contributions to the protection and prosperity of Big Sur. Her legacy will forever inspire us to continue the critical work of preserving and maintaining this extraordinary community.

- b. Mary Adams: John, on behalf of County of Monterey we wanted to present you with this proclamation in the remarkable life of Mary Trotter. Early life in Salinas Valley, then San Francisco, and made her way to Big Sur. On behalf of Monterey County, we would like to present this proclamation that commends the memory of Mary Trotter for her years of services to the Big Sur Community.
- c. Mauricio Arias from State Assemblymember Dawn Addis: Joint Resolution on behalf of the State Assembly and State Senate, for Mary Trotter's leadership in the Big Sur Region. Kate Daniels, I first had the opportunity to meet Mary in these rooms, at the BSMAAC. What a presence, what a force and an institutional knowledge keeper. In my mind as we work on this new draft plan, Mary's legacy is filled with each and every page.
- d. Steve Beck: I worked with Mary Trotter on the Land Use Plan update. The Land Use Plan has been around for 37 years. Anyone looking at it objectively would call it a tremendous success. You should not see any construction from Highway 1. Update is coming along well. Maintains plan and updates for things that could not have been anticipated. The problem is within the original text, you won't see the building but what you do see is hundreds of acres that have been overtaken by Pampas grass. The invasives are mentioned in the update but the infestation has only grown. Iconic places like Hurricane Point are now being taken over. Almost nothing is being done. And there is no plan for anything being done. The landscape is protected from human construction, but it is being overtaken by invasive. It travels along the highway, so Caltrans has a responsibility to repair landslide slopes that doesn't create a new nursery for Pampas grass. I beg you to do something.
- e. Kate Daniels: Is there a recommendation from the LUAC's version that the ad hoc missed?
- f. Steve: I think it needs to be additionally put in.
- g. Sharon Petrosino Wilson: Thank everyone who helped with the 40th Big Sur River Run. The fundraising was split between the Big Sur Health Center and Big Sur Fire. Note for Caltrans, cones from Post Ranch to Bakery, can Caltrans take these cones down?
- h. Sam Farr: Pampas grass, we did a project with Caltrans many years ago. The problem is multi-faceted. You have to agree on what herbicide should be used and then access to private land. It gets very complicated. This is a massive effort. This means we need pressure from you for agriculture research to come up with a formula that will kill the pampas grass. You can weedwhacker it and spray it, but

manually pull out the root. Need something that will kill the root without manual labor.

- i. Bree: Comment on that. The only way you can get rid of it is to pull the roots out. Herbicide and poisons won't work. Each one is 4-8 ft; it is a monster.
- j. Sara von Schwin: We do have a subcommittee on the invasive plant species in the Byway Organization. Caltrans is on the subcommittee as well.
- k. Jeanne Dawson: Pleased to say Monterey Ranger District hiring staff who is going to manage range and invasive species programs. Still getting feet under us but I already spoke with them this morning to work multi-jurisdictionally to get a handle on this, but we are willing to come to the table to see what we can do to achieve some success on this.
- l. Dan Shaw: State Parks are looking at highlight treatment methods, this is getting worked on and we can share that information with others.
- m. Bree: Eradication method to put something else there with native species included in eradication plan.
- n. Sherna Stewart: I used to live in Big Sur, the pampas grass is mostly in inaccessible places. It is in no one's backyard and in everyone's backyard. We need everyone, homeowners and business owners to come together. I was involved in starting the Big Sur Land Trust, it is astonishing to me to find out how partisan the Monterey Peninsula is about Big Sur. Everyone from Big Sur and the whole county, and state gov and forest service to do something about it. Drones may be needed and with mapping. This is a huge thing. On-going task force. Thrilled this is such a hot topic of interest. I came down to Big Sur for lunch and dinner a few months ago, in the last couple of months the pampas grass has significantly grown.
- o. Martha Diehl: speak to the Byways discussion. Financial support from county for administrative support. Marcos Ortega has been carrying on his back the efforts to combat invasive plant species. We tried to allocate \$2,500 to give taskforce to buy gloves and water bottles. This is a huge effort, and we will need funding regularly. So, the practical agreements and activities can continue. The Byway is not at a capacity to provide meaningful input without funding. We could use the help to do this thing where the community is concerned, and it is the action we can't do without money.
- p. Trish Jackson from the Bixby Canyon. The polices 3337 33210 talks about eradication of invasive species. Encouragement to all residents to control species on their own property. There needs to be a financial incentive. What do you do with the pampas grass because the dump doesn't want it. On Coast Road, there was a young man doing mapping of the pampas grass. I'd like to know what the follow up is from that. Private land and a lot of the land is inaccessible, and it needs to be taken care of. I will work hard to get rid of it if someone offers specific guidance.
- q. Michael Harrington: El Sur Ranch, thank you for recognition of my aunt. My family and I greatly appreciate it. Thank you from El Sur Ranch for the eradication of Pampas grass it is an important issue
- r. Matt Glazer: On board of BSF, Exec Director of Deetjens, on Byways, President of Captain Cooper Parent's Club. We had a Big Sur Byways Organization

scheduled this month and did not make a quorum. We want to do this work on the Byway Organization, and we need support to have a quorum. That is why “we” the community show up. I want to compel everyone on this council, you are here to listen to us, and we do not have a lot of progress. I encourage you to listen to every side of the argument and what is the middle ground. We live in a black and white and red and blue world right now. You model for us how to hear the matters at hand. I’m talking about land use plan, and STRs which is different than transient occupancy. You have an opportunity to model finding the middle ground.

- s. Jeanne: When is the next Byway meeting?
- t. Martha: Taylor Price can help, we are working to schedule a special meeting to agree on meeting dates for 2024.
- u. Mike Caplin: Pampas Grass. I’m not expert on it and I tried to cut it with a chainsaw, first order of business is to cut it quickly. And I don’t know of a drone to do it. It will not be cheap. Smaller size Pampas grass was cut with chain saw and sprayed with roundup. I have read the seeds last 3-6 months which is hopeful if you can kill it. Genesta seeds last for 8- years or more.
- v. Rick Aldinger: Big Sur River Inn, proud to host an event for Jimmy Panetta this afternoon, 3-5pm, we are proud to do it and extend a heartfelt invitation to everyone here.

V. New Business

Broadband Update – Central Coast Broadband Consortium and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

- a. Gladys from National Telecommunications Information Admin, the NTIA is a feral agency tasked with running the IJA act. A big part of that is a broadband program and build out. In her role, she coordinates partnerships with government agencies and interest groups. Gladys can you please give us an update.
- b. Broadband is a popular subject matter and we all learned through COVID how essential it has become. As the Congressman said, admin and congress passed bipartisan infrastructure bill, \$60 billion allocation. \$42 billion for broadband itself and the goal of the program is to get 100% connectivity household in the country. Each state has opted into this fund. California has two grants officers but every other state has one. California’s allocated was almost \$2 billion. CPUC involved. State did an equity program administered by Cal Department of Technology. Yearlong effort in planning, issued draft plans, CPUC has finished public comment period on initial proposals. Proposals are how are we going to put funding out, and CPUC has experience in broadband grants and well fit to administer this. The community should get familiar with the proposed plans. Share your experience with broadband or lack of broadband. What does California look like now and what does that look like in the future. Are there any barriers to participating in the program for local gov or broadband providers. Comments to consider as you review these plans. Leaving materials and business cards so you can follow up and learn about the programs. Contact me to learn more or other briefings. In closing, for the national website internetforall.com state website, broadbandforall.com.
- c. Congressman Panetta: Where can people go to put this public comment?

- d. Gladys: On proposed plans, CPUC public comment period has closed. However, CPUC will take general comments on their website. Subject matter: Proposals on Broadband.
- e. Congressman Panetta: California is a big state, and we lead the world in technology, but we lack in a lot of area of connectivity. Were we given enough funding to have the proper investment?
- f. Gladys: It is a yes and a no. We are fortunate that Ca has had programs looking at the digital divide. There is a big divide in Big Sur. Ca has been running digital initiatives for almost twenty years. It is not a new issue for us. The offices are brand new in other states, so we have a big advantage. Knowing the challenge of geographic barriers to the coast and to the mountains. Less dense a population an area has, the less rate of return for the providers. Programs like this are to incentivize providers to go to these areas. Make this feasible not profitable.
- g. Congressman Panetta: passed the broadband law with funding but where the money is used is decided by local governments?
- h. Gladys: Yes, no one knows the local issues. MBEP Ameer is partner in crime, and they run a regional broadband consortium, multicounty entity to help communities coalesce. Take advantage of funding opportunities.
- i. Supervisor Adams: I get so irritated when I hear providers do not want to provide coverage based on the number of residents, why do they not consider the amount of people driving people through to Big Sur?
- j. Gladys: They don't know what they don't know in Big Sur, the market here. Vacation time, throughout guests, localize business model.
- k. Jeanne Dawson: Do you anticipate much involvement from USFS with land base.
- l. Gladys: Yes
- m. Jeanne Dawson: Have you already reached out?
- n. Gladys: Yes
- o. Jeanne Dawson: We'd like to support you and we will also need time to plan and support you.
- p. Gladys: interagency panel that meets monthly. Over a dozen of national agencies that have been meeting. One of the biggest issues is permitting. Caltrans is a major partner and endorser, thank you.
- q. Jeanne Dawson: We can't go around NEPA but if there are ways for the USFS to help expedite, we will do what we can.
- r. Congressman Panetta: Bureaucratic hurdles.
- s. Ryne Leuzinger: Infrastructure types. Three potential types, in ground, expansion of 5g, and subsidization of satellite internet. Could federal funding be used in each 3 of those areas? Would the next step be?
- t. Mike Caplin: I might be the reason you're here, I'm the one who bugged our Congressman. How could we get on the Middle Mile map of California. Are you the one who receives grant applications?
- u. Gladys: That would be the state. We look at the different funds to weave together different funding opportunities. California is the only state in the country with a Middle Mile effort. California is almost 98%, we are looking at connecting the last

- 2%. The Middle Mile program is unique, I know Ameer and the consortia are talking to Middle Mile folks.
- v. Mike: How can we get this? It's going to take with fiber a lot of money, especially if it will be buried.
 - w. Gladys: B funding might be available for building middle mile funds
 - x. Mike: the complicated bureaucracy is so difficult to follow learning which entities do, we will also need an internet provider who is willing to take us on.
 - y. Kate Daniels: Mike I'm not sure if your letter came back to you, but Senator Laird wrote a letter to the CPUC for including mapping.
 - z. Matt Glazer: Speaking for Captain Cooper School that suffers from insufficient internet service. Prioritize serving children in underserved communities and public safety agencies to be able to perform their tasks.
 - aa. Gladys: County Offices of Ed
 - bb. Matt Glazer: Some of the disadvantaged communities take on difference forms. Employee housing concentrated areas.
 - cc. Sam Farr: It might be a lot cheaper to contract with Starlink. If you are going to do fiberoptic, we had a petition to underground power lines. PG&E paid no attention to us. We also need to consider power lines for connecting to Starlink.
 - dd. Steve Beck: My own story, I live in a neighbor with no electricity and cable for telephone is buried in the ground. It constantly breaks. We had satellite but it is expensive. I had a dream we had everything in one package. Now I have Starlink. I can afford a \$120 a month but there are people who can't.
 - ee. Mike Caplin: In this room there are people who drove four hours to get to this meeting and there is no zoom option. For lack of connectivity. Please keep us in mind. To be part of the current us society we need to get connected in a proper way.
 - ff. Gladys: I focused on rural for the last 15 years and particularly with broadband.
 - gg. Congressman Panetta: Thank you for talking with us and I appreciate the comments with the audience.

Bixby Bridge Taskforce Update

- hh. Mauricio: Following the previous BSMAAC meeting to address long and short-term issues along the Bixby Bridge. Thank you to Martha for kick starting this. During the meetings, 8 meetings, 2 were at large and the rest were one on one meetings. We discussed options including mitigate marketing and communication, parking control, increase patrolling, we are still looking into concrete long-term solutions, Supervisor Adams introduced a Board of Supervisors referral. Thank you to SeeMonterey for offering to produce an A -frame sign.
- ii. Martha Diehl: Commending Assemblymember for her and her team to give gravitas with this effort. The energy and focus on pursuing this has been wonderful. Highlight referral from Supervisor Adams. Other big understanding that I took away immediate solutions. There will be experimental attempts that we know will not work but we have to try it. But we can add it to our arsenal of things we have tried. The citizen data can give us more data and ask CABS to use traffic counter data to get more data at the highway. Thank you for taking this seriously! Public works is creatively trying to come up with things to address this issue.

- jj. Trish Jackson: I had hoped for more, but I am happy to hear the amount of attention this had shown. Delineators shoved all the traffic on to coast road. 85 % of the time, I cannot get in or out. I have to wait for tourist traffic. We can put more signs. We need to try even if it fails because what we have now is dangerous. The County has a gate further along the road. Was there any discussion about putting in another gate? Residents who would have access? Something needs to be put in place to mitigate tourists from coming. Pleased about the extra officers. I think if there was enforcement. That would bring in funding. Commercials.
- kk. Kate Daniels: I've enjoyed sitting on the taskforce. The Coastal Commission is important to involve on the issue. And the Bixby Bridge is the built environment not the visual access. We need to work with Coastal Commission to look at public access. This is a positive first step.
- ll. Martha Diehl: Taskforce was really refreshing. Including closing the road, no parking, all on the discussion table.
- mm. Alyssa Rendon: On SeeMonterey, visitor messaging has been updated. Sandwich board signs, updating Bixby Bridge sign Dos and Don't, people will look for info and we can provide them what to do. Creating materials with hotel staff. PR media have committed to not photographing the bridge or have health and safety messaging. Visit SLO and Visit California about Highway 1 roundtable with the highway closure to make sure we are aligned with messaging.
- nn. Ryne Leuzinger: Appreciate Commissioner Diehl with experimental approach. Complex approach over many years. Looking at multiple opportunities to help solve it. Road is a throughway but not treated as much. Serious issue on impeding residents and safety issues. If the emergency taskforce to have traffic study, there would be funding. Land Use Plan to place boulders where parking issues could be placed. Appreciate the comments from SeeMonterey and managing visitor expectations and viewing the Bixby Bridge differently. It is a major destination point without any infrastructure point.
- oo. Ranger Joe Navarez: Someone recommended at Bixby Bridge visit to I went on my lunch to pick up trash for 3 minutes with trash bucket and grabber. Thank you to the task force for their focus about litter as well.
- pp. Sam Farr: Bixby Breek is a crowd control problem. I came through on Friday before Thanksgiving and it was a shit show and it was insane. No law enforcement there. You can predict when the crowd will be there. Highway patrol. Design is important.
- qq. CHP Officer Oscar Loza: As an example, this last was a busy weekend with a DUI arrest. It is difficult for me to make it to Bixby Bridge, I'm usually there by sunset to help monitor. When I am there, people pay attention and I do not need to write tickets. I write a citation and then the next group comes and don't see the citation that was just written.
- rr. Trish Jackson: Citizens patrols? Zion shuttle.
- ss. Patrol Commander with Sheriff's Office Ivan Rodriguez: Became aware of the taskforce and in the interest of a short term and immediate solution, I have sent my sheriff deputies to go to the Bixby Bridge Friday, Saturday, Saturday. They are

there for about 30-60 minutes. I am pulling them away from other areas in the county. Personal experience, I strongly discourage citizens becoming deputized or issuing citations. Citizens do not have the de-escalation training or the equipment to address difficult situations that might occur. Citations create conflict.

- tt. Question: Could you park a vehicle with lights flashing?
- uu. Rick: I couldn't agree more enforcement is the solution here. These folks have a lot of responsibility here. Bixby Bridge parking does not rise to the top of what these guys are responsible more. What does that mean, it means we will need funding. We will need sufficient funding to make this work. Travelers have learned there is no enforcement.
- vv. Matt Glazer: SeeMonterey has updated their messaging, but the travel video for the new year is very enticing of the coast. Do we have an opportunity for remote patrol that does not put public safety at risk?
- ww. Mike: Thank you for assigning your deputies there to help solve one of our local problems.
- xx. Steve Beck: if SeeMonterey is putting out stuff without the bridge, maybe the County of Monterey will also stop using the Bixby Bridge in photos.
- yy. Mike Caplin: the amount of the tickets if significant with social media could help solve the problem. Signage indicating special area for special fines. Parking citation is \$28.
- zz. Oscar Loza: CHP and SO issue county ordinance fine which is typically \$28.

VI. Old Business

Nacimiento-Fergusson Road Update - Federal Highway Administration

- a. Jeanne Dawson: 6 months since I was at the last meeting. Updates from Michael Daigler from Federal Highway Administration. 40% of project work is completed. We are making progress, and a lot of work has gone into this. There are a lot of closures, and we appreciate your understanding and your support. Council here, information on road closure status, coordination of the closures. Site 5 culvert construction with concrete work there. 6 sites that have been worked on. Sites in progress. NOAA strong El Nino pattern up to 80 inches of rain during the winter. Preparation for winter we don't know what's going to happen. Hope for the best and prepare for the worst. We have been working with contractors what can they put to bed and stabilize for the upcoming winter season and will know they will have to completely disengage because storms will close the road again.
- b. Sam Farr: I came here for this item. When FHWA was here a year ago, they said this would be repaired by now. I think the USFS should contract with Caltrans to maintain this road through legislation. Fort Hunter Liggett have the best paved roads in the nation. Caltrans had to move a whole mountain and it will be done before Naci-Ferg. It is a shame that this road is still closed.
- c. Jeanne Dawson: I appreciate your feedback on this. A lot of the work happened from storm events several years ago and in the most recent year, we added more sites into the contract so all of it will be completed and worked on. DOD has a higher budget than the forest service does. We are required to work with federal agency partners with the boost because we don't have the engineering capacity. We are getting help from other agencies to help address the condition we are dealing with.

- d. Sam: This isn't enough. Wouldn't you want to get this off your plate? Caltrans would be a much more responsibility maintaining the road. We can legislate this. There has to be a better solution to maintain this road.
- e. Bree Harlan: I respectfully disagree with Sam and say the Forest Service has done a great job. I'd like to show this calendar that the South Coast residents received when they would have and not have access to their property. I would rather wait with information than not have information and guess on openings on roads. I want to commend USFS for the calendar information shared with South Coast residents. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from South Coast residents on USFS work on Naci-Ferg.

VII. Reports from Member Agencies

a. Big Sur Resident, North Coast Martha

- i. Grange: 75th anniversary party, with over 100 people turn out. Talking about making it an annual event. We just had an election of officers. We had our craft fair over Thanksgiving weekend that was so popular. The Grange gets a percentage from the vendors. Historical Society: program at the Grange at the 75th anniversary. How places in Big Sur got their names. Sorry to report work has temporarily stopped on our cookbook, cutting ties with publisher. CERT: thank you for Weston Call Fund Grant. River Run was successful and the Bal Masque. Question from residents: County law about micro kitchens.
- ii. Adams: State law that the County has agreed, and it was put into place. And you are right that the info wasn't shared well. It would give people an opportunity to have a first start for opening a restaurant. I fear it may be like STRs and we will have to track it but at the time no one in the 5th District had applied for this permit and only two in the whole County. Environmental Health issues permit and would regulate.
- iii. Martha: Bridge?
- iv. Sara; We have to mitigate with bridge
- v. Martha: Garrapata signage
- vi. Sara: project is not fully finished so the sign with a small post and a barricade leaning against it and I will ask about that.
- vii. Martha: 10th anniversary of the Pfeiffer fire.

b. Big Sur Resident, South Coast Bree Harlan

- i. Nacimiento Ferguson road repair updates. Pleased with communication of construction company with community and willingness to provide necessary access. Appreciate the calendar of construction events and projected closure periods provided to the community to afford insight into construction timeline and allow for residents to plan ahead for projected closures. Happy with progress so far. Concern among residents regarding possible HWY closure through rainy months and possible use of NF, Los Burros and South Coast ridge road as throughway for construction vehicles for Highway 1. Paul's Slide. Very happy to finally have some sense of when the road will once again be open even if that projection changes as winter rains cause new developments. We are all looking forward to the reunification of our community and the ability to finally once again be able to access both sides of the coast without a 4-hour round trip. Bridge Rails. Why is there a need to change the design of the

existing rails at all? It's not a baby crib or a deck railing. Nobody has fallen through or gotten their head stuck in the last 90 years. BSLUP update. Pleased with the addition of language updating the natural resources and including the community in that category. STRS. I have lived in Big Sur my whole life and have watched as home after home where my friends were raised and grew up with their families have been sold and bought and transformed into luxury homes and vacation getaways for the upper class. The rise of STRs is a manifestation of the class warfare against low income and working-class people that has taken place across the country, many of whom have dark skin and hair and speak with an accent. When you talk about STR increasing accessibility to the coast, imagine who those people are. What color skin and hair do they have? What kind of cars do they drive? Where are they from and what kind of homes do they live in? In reality, STRs only provide yet another elite form of accessibility for the white upper middle class. Housing has been redefined from resources to investment commodities to luxury goods. There seems to be a subconscious underlying belief that low income and working-class people do not deserve nice things, beautiful surroundings or self-actualization. They don't deserve to dream. They don't deserve access to the outdoors or space for their own gardens or nice homes. We have humble homes that have been transformed into multimillion dollar vacation getaways for the well to do while the rest of the community must compete for housing in shacks, rundown trailers, converted sheds, garages and chicken coops, in their cars or miles away in squalid apartments. The community of Big Sur is being squeezed further and further into the peripheries, into overlooked and rundown places. Most of the people who live here have no prospect for upward mobility. Most are just struggling to provide a better life for their children and to leave them with more than they themselves started out with. Meanwhile we have dozens of homes that sit empty. Large luxurious homes that are too nice for working class people. The planning commission has released blueprints for housing plans. Tiny little homes that make the most of every square inch of space while upper-class homeowners build underground bunkers and wine cellars and tennis courts and garages for their expensive cars. They value things not people. They value possessions not community. They do their good deeds by donating to the health center or the fire brigade while they hoard the finite resources of this area and argue that the environment can't support more homes to be built for the working class. Ceasefire in Gaza. Not speaking as a representative for the south coast on this issue but as a representative of humanity and human decency. I implore Representative Panetta to support a resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the war that has targeted hospitals, ambulances, journalists, women, children, and other civilians.

- c. Big Sur Chamber of Commerce - Kirk Gafill
 - i. Big Sur businesses undergoing seasonal slowdown with typical reduced traffic levels due to winter weather and shorter daylight hours, though visitation levels are further reduced by 30-35% due to Highway 1 closure at Paul's Slide. Economic impacts of the Paul's Slide closure are

widespread and continue to increase due to the duration of the closure and these impacts can be expected to continue largely unabated until Highway 1 is again open from Carmel to Cambria. Impacts go well beyond individual business revenues and extend to reduced earnings for employees and lower overall employment levels. The Big Sur Chamber of Commerce requests that Caltrans provide updates on no less than a monthly basis going forward on the status of the work to re-open the highway at Paul's Slide and to provide detail on to what extent work ongoing weather and/or site-specific conditions may affect anticipated re-opening target of late spring of 2024.

- d. Community Association of Big Sur Ryne Leuzinger
 - i. Broadband for All - CABS is available to partner with various broadband stakeholders like Congressman Panetta's Office and MBEP Ameer Othman to help collect data (via broadband "speed tests") within our 70-miles of coastline. We are aware of the need to correct the PUC mapping of our area. Bixby Bridge Task Force - CABS is standing by to support the emergency task force as needed. We'd like to offer our thanks to the BSBO and Assemblymember Dawn Addis for helping address the significant safety issues and traffic impediments at this location. South Coast El Nino Preparations and CABS participation - CABS has been working closely with the South Coast residents since this last winter and the many atmospheric river events. To prepare for this winter's El Nino CABS organized and delivered the following to the Red Cross container at Pacific Valley School on November 27th. Thank you to the following for these donations: Cases of nonperishables from the Monterey County Food Bank Dry dog and cat food from SPCA 24 cases of bottled water from Monterey County Department of Emergency Services A location for a 40-yard rolloff for household garbage has been Identified. Thank You to USFS - Fin Eifert and Chevene Simmons. Coastal Rolloff will be the Provider. El Nino weather will trigger the rolloff to be ordered. Caltrans – Thank you Caltrans for the Press Release of the estimated reopening of Paul's Slide for late spring of 2024. VUM Visitor Use Management – The Enterprise Team continues its work. The next step is to prioritize and implement actions shared by the Community this last August. There will be an opportunity for more public comment this coming spring, date tbd. Fire Adapted Big Sur – We're happy to note that Partington Ridge has been certified as a Firewise community. There are now 3 Firewise communities (Clear Ridge and Post Creek are the others) and more are interested in starting the process. Please contact Rayner to explore how Firewise might help your neighborhood become more wildfire resilient Firewise USA® Firewise is a program developed by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), administered by CAL FIRE, that helps neighborhoods organize, assess for wildfire resiliency, and create an action plan to improve wildfire resiliency. Partington Ridge Firewise recently joined Clear Ridge Firewise and Post Creek Firewise as Big Sur's newest Firewise-recognized community. FABS Chipping Program ● CABS is working on a grant application to fund a cost—share Big Sur chipping program (from SLO county line to Malpas Creek, including all

communities that access Hwy 1). ● This CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program grant application will be submitted the first week of January 2024. ● Potential benefits of the chipping program: reduces seasonal accumulation of slash from defensible space clearance work (not subject to burn season restrictions); economically-attractive alternative to (some, but not all) burning slash piles; reduces risk of unintended wildfire resulting from burning slash piles (2022 Dolan Fire); reduces greenhouse gas emissions (fewer slash pile burns); fewer fire department page-outs from reported smoke from slash pile burns; reduces burn injuries with fewer slash pile burns; chips available for soil supplementation. Fireside Chats Every other Wednesday 9:30-11:00 AM at Big Sur River Inn. “Office hours” for residents and businesses owners to meet with Rayner and discuss wildfire resiliency. Began in November. Upcoming chats are December 27, January 10, January 24... Newsletters/Announcements FABS newsletters are now integrated with CABS newsletters. Regular notifications concerning wildfire preparedness, regulatory changes, insurance, events, and other timely topics. You can subscribe to the CABS newsletter at our website – cabigsur.org 2024 FABS additional areas of focus for the new year will include safety and evacuation, and structure hardening (preparing buildings for wildfire).

- e. County of Monterey Planning Department Taylor Price
 - i. List of current development projects in agenda packet. Garrapata Bridge Rail Project, BoS took action for staff to return with an intent to deny the appeal and the fact that the big sur bridges are a treasure in the Big Sur area. Staff went to the planning commission on the 13th, please contact us with more comments on Big Sur Land Use plan. County staff is working to update Coastal AUD regulations with state law. Separate from Big Sur Land Use Plan Update. Spring 2024. Finally, draft EIR for vacation rentals on December 11th. Public comment period ends on January 29th. Submit comments before the 29th. Available online and hard copies at library in Carmel and the Carmel Valley library.
- f. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District Joe Navarez
 - i. Preparation for winter. Dampierre ballpark 4,000 sandbags in preparation of an emergency berm wall to prevent flooding. Recovering from last year's storms still. Palo Corona Backcountry. Park District partners Coastal Conservancy \$10 million Rancho Canada floodplain restoration project. Improving floodplain activity. Hacienda Carmel and other communities. Restoring environment. Spring 2025 construction may start. Palo Corona Park, finishing school bus drop off, restrooms and other improvements. Lastly, Park District is embarking on a strategic planning session. February 10th on a Saturday a community meeting with Board of Directors and staff.
 - ii. Mike Caplin: On the committee for planning California Coastal Trail, Senator Lairds’ office is interested in getting the draft to the Coastal Commission, one of the issues is to Kathleen Lee and Kate Daniels asking about an easement between Palo Corona Regional Park and Carmel river. Does the park district have an easement for that? Contact Jake Smith. jsmith@mprpd.org and he and Kathleen can talk.

- g. California Coastal Commission Absent
- h. Caltrans Sara von Schwind
 - i. Cones at Big Creek, they are not Caltrans cones. Cones are to prevent people from driving into drainage ditch. Discussion of boulders, that is always going to be an issue for anything that is a fixed object impacts emergency response. Safety devices are designed for MASH compliance. Federal compliance. New systems, you as a driver, if you hit one, the safety device will crumple with impact rather than have a direct impact. Vision zero, safety of traveling public, I have heard from the public that no one has been hurt there before. We are interested in saving people's lives and that is where our earnest efforts come from. We designed the Garrapata Rail specifically for Big Sur. It's okay if the community doesn't like it, but we did crash testing as you can see cars are bigger, heavier, than before. We have moved boulders away in turn outs where space was available. We want everyone to be able to go home. We want to partner with you and I understand the special nature of Big Sur. We just sent out a new press release about Paul's slide. We will give more updates on Paul's Slide. If there is 2 inches of rain every day for 10 days, the timeline will probably be extended. Speed limit survey were conducted on sections of Highway 1 and we did a presentation of the speed survey at a BSMAAC meeting that was held online. That whole process has been complete, and we will be putting up speed limit signs in areas as we discussed. 45 mph in some sections. The overall impact is adding 5 additional signs but some signs will also be coming out. The signs will be coming. Draft EIR for Limekiln Bridge. 45 day review for comment. In Mid-January there will be a virtual public meeting.
 - ii. Bree: you are replacing the entire bridge?
 - iii. Sara: yes
 - iv. Steve Beck: the comments that have gone into the LUP, Caltrans submitted one, part of that said that Caltrans owns the highway or the right of way.
 - v. Sara: We own the liability for the highway. We don't have one consistent land ownership. Generally we own the property or the easements
 - vi. Steve: You would be a landowner who has to follow county land use plans like policy on pampas grass.
 - vii. Sara: we are working on it with our arborists, first goal was to remove at turnouts. We own 20 feet on either side. We are trying to partner with people to address this.
 - viii. Sam Farr: I am concerned that Caltrans doesn't support highway as a scenic highway and a nationally recognized scenic byway. Has Caltrans ever asked the National Highway Administration to apply the same standards to Highway 1? The only highway section in Highway 1 that is codified in state law? There is a unique status in this road, you can make exceptions. How do you get the federal government help with the designation of scenic byway for special financial or exceptions to general role

- ix. Sara: Depends on what exceptions we are looking for.
- x. Sam Farr: Signage.
- xi. Matt Glazer: Are there going to be advisory signs that the speed limit sign will be changing?
- xii. Sara: yes, that is required in our regulatory package.
- i. California State Parks and Recreation Dan Shaw
 - i. I would like to provide updates on the list of items Marcos presented at the last BSMACC. Partington Cove Trail repairs have been completed and the trail is now open. All bridges to the Point Sur Lighthouse have now been completed. We are currently working on a structural evaluation and Historic Structures Report. This will assist with our project to return the original Fresnal lens to the Lighthouse. John Hiles presented information on the Point Lobos visitor use survey at the last BSMACC. We expect that draft report sometime in January. We completed a prescribed burn at Andrew Molera this past week. The burn was a collaborative effort with allied agencies and particular thanks to CalFire and our tribal partners. We had fire trained members of the Esselen Tribe assisting with ignition and holding so a great collaborative burn. We are getting close to opening the Ewoldsen Trail in Julia Pfeiffer Burns. This trail was closed due to past fire and flood events and we are excited to get it back open to the public. (a comment came in asking specifically how soon it will be open, we are working hard to open it as soon as possible but impending storm/rain makes it difficult to provide an exact date).
- j. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Absent
- k. United States Forest Service Jeanne Dawson
 - i. Contract time used is 40%, and contract work completed is 33%. Confirm with Michael, but contract period is for all work (east and west) and anticipate west side work to start in February. South of Monterey to north of LA, throughout the forest, we experienced in \$185 million in damage from atmospheric rivers. We are coming up on the one year from damage and we are paying close attention to preparation. If you see something, say something to our local district office. It is a matter of triage. Across the forest we have addressed a lot of significant damage to reopen access to the public. Open up roads, trails and recreation sites. Coastal sites, sand dollar day use area, Plaskett Creek campground, Silver Peak trail network and Pfeiffer Beach. A lot of our roads are level 2 roads. For high clearance vehicles and high passenger traffic not designed for these roads. Not everything will be paved for passenger vehicles. Apex construction completed work on Southcoast Ridge Road. Doing work on Chews Ridge mastication.
- l. 5th District, Monterey County Board of Supervisors Mary Adams
 - i. Bree, I hope you'll send your comments on STRs to the Coastal Commission. Underscore what Taylor Price said, please provide comments by January 29th. Taylor already talked about Big Sur Land Use Plan Update info. Congressman Sam Farr and I attended meeting in SLO. Board of Supervisors voted on Garrapata Bridge Rail Replacement. Sara and John from Caltrans, I want to thank you and your staff for being

available for comments on the important bridge rail design. And thank you to my team for providing the snacks today.

- m. 30th District, California State Assembly Field Representative Maurico Arias
 - i. Assemblymember part of the California delegation to the climate conference. Sent letter of support to advocate expansion of marine protected areas. Appointed by Assembly Speaker Rivas. Legislation, Addis had her first hearing as chair. Big Sur follow ups, Highway 1 roundtable with Visit California. Met with Big Sur Byway member Katie Moon. Happy to report the log jam on the Big Sur River has been removed. Bixby bridge, thank you to the agencies. Broadband letter to CPUC.
- n. 17th District, California State Senate Policy Advisor Kate Daniels
 - i. Log Jam on Big Sur River success! Caltrans got the logs out of the river, thank you! We had a conversation with Caltrans and business community and residential community, communicating in advance of winter storms. Now that there is a date for reopening Highway 1, our office would put together meetings. Thank you USFS for calendar. Comment on California Coastal Trail segment through Big Sur, we are looking for all of the existing trails that could possibly be a part of the community's alignment. Next step is working with agencies to see where the alignment can go. Senator Laird letter to Broadband (ADDED AS AN ATTACHMENT) Every single bill of Senator Laird's was signed by the Governor, all 47 bills have been signed since he took office. In 2021, we had a \$30 billion surplus and directing money to district, and last year a budget shortfall, \$68 billion budget deficit and interesting time to see how legislature will balance budget.
- o. 19th District, United States Congress Jimmy Panetta
 - i. Good to be back here and in Big Sur. Talked about the "Do nothing" Congress in the 1940s and with the majority in charge, we are only keeping the government. Majority like we do that is dysfunctional and cannot govern themselves. My party helps govern to have the vote in CV in September, Supplemental funding package for Ukraine and Taiwan and record crossings at the border. This administration to work with the Senate to come up with a change in policy. We have two budget deadlines on Jan 17th and Feb 2nd. March FFA reauthorization. April FISA reauthorization. Very big bills that need to get done. We have a number of retirements going on. Anna Eshoo is retiring. Broadband, Mark Dennin in my office, is leaning in this to ensure we get our fair share. Inflation Reduction Act, extend microgrids. People should be allowed to use Medicaid during extreme weather events. Study on NEPA. Funding with water resources and development act. Projects at the local level, working to ensure we have our fair share. FEMA \$60 billion for the national disaster relief. Give Martha credit for NOAA transmitter, Dick Ravich and Trey Kropp making this happen. Working with NOAA and the County to move this along. I appreciate bring up emotional evolving and complicated levels at the Big Sur level or the national level. We will continue to listen and learn to do what is right. To have peace in the middle east and across the world.

Shoutout to Rick Aldinger who is retiring as the General Manager for Big Sur River Inn.

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

- a. United States Forest Service, Law Enforcement Officer – absent
- b. California Highway Patrol – Ian Troxell 770-8000, phone number, follow us on social media. Thank you to Dawn Addis and Supervisor Adams to move forward on some enforcement projects on the Bixby Bridge and the Sheriff’s Office to assist us and game plan for 2024 and traffic safety on Highway 1.
- c. Monterey County Sheriff’s Office – Ivan Rodriguez, I use to work here as a patrol team member and a search and rescue as well. Happy to be back and thanks for your time today.
- d. Big Sur Fire – Matt Harris, 2024 is 50th anniversary for BSF. Planning special events. Thank you for noting 10th anniversary of Pfeiffer Fire. Incoming rain, we added South Coast sand pile, thank you Caltrans and County Public Works for that. Easier to coordinate with them. We have thousands of bags.
- e. Big Sur Byway Organization

IX. Adjournment 1:22pm motion by Kirk, Second by Bree, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting – TBD, 2024 meeting dates will be sent out in the New Year

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