



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2026, SPECIAL PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE (PROS) COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A special meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Committee of the Cambria Community Services District was held at the Cambria Fire Department, located at 2850 Burton Drive, Cambria, CA 93428, on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 3:00 PM

1. OPENING

1.A Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1.B Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established at 3:04 p.m.

Committee members present: Michael Thomas, Shannon Sutherland, Gary Stephenson, and Matthew Jaffe. Two seats remain open on the committee

Staff present: Facilities & Resources Manager David Aguirre, Fire Chief Michael Burkey, and General Manager Matthew McElhenie.

Public Present: Spencer Gordon, Steve Auten, Dan Turner, Keith Hinrichsen, Kitty Connolly, Juli Amodei, Dick Clark, Rick Denman, Beth Vidakovits, and Tom Loganbill. On Zoom: Crosby and Laura Swartz, John Nixon, Mary Maher, Dianne Anderson, and Shari Robasciotti.

1.C Chair Report

Chairperson Thomas reviewed recent CCSD news related to the PROS Committee including:

- Funding for the Santa Rosa Creek stream bank stabilization project was approved on April 9.
- On April 24, the Board adopted a resolution prioritizing general fund expenditures for core health and safety services, such as fire protection, while limiting discretionary spending on non-essential capital expenditures, such as parks and recreation.
- On May 29, the Board adopted a resolution excluding Spohn Ranch as the skatepark contractor and extended the bid submittal period by two weeks.
- On June 11, the Board discussed a draft amendment to the Fiscalini Ranch Management Plan.
- On July 9, the Board approved the revised Fiscalini Ranch Management Plan.
- The Cambria Skatepark project will receive funds from the Cambria Community Council to move the project forward.
- The California Coastal Commission released its staff report for the September 9 meeting on the Water Reclamation Facility. The Commission staff recommended a finding of “no substantial issue.”

1.D Agenda Review -- 3:09 p.m.

1.E Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report(s) – 3:10 p.m. Subcommittee Report is on the agenda

1.F Committee Member Communications – 3:10 p.m.

- Chairperson Thomas offered a brief update about the Community Park Restroom Mural Project following a question from Secretary Jaffe.
- Vice Chairperson Sutherland commented on the Highway 1 North Coast Engagement Survey preliminary report and had specific questions about the purported ease of local walking and bicycle riding, as presented in the report.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – 3:12 p.m.

- Chairperson Thomas addressed a question regarding Shamel County Park maintenance.

3. REPORTS & PROJECT UPDATES – 3:14 p.m.

3.A Facilities & Resources Manager's Report, David Aguirre

- One staff member was promoted, leaving one maintenance technician.
- The Forest Health Fuel Reduction Project started on September 1 on Fiscalini Ranch.
- Performed work to repair a rotting fence at the Dog Park.
- Working with the Dog Park Committee to install bubblers that will be both beneficial for dogs and reduce staff time. Also working with the committee on shade structures.
- Working to reinforce the roof on the F&R building in anticipation of possible heavy winter rains associated with El Niño.

3.B Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Report, FFRP Executive Director Kitty Connolly – 3:19 p.m.

- Deferred any comment pending the presentation on the Forest Health Fuel Reduction Project.

3.C Skatepark Project Update Report, Juli Amodei – 3:19 p.m.

- Preparation for construction will begin on September 21 in anticipation of groundbreaking the following week
- Amodei thanked Board Member Karen Dean for baking cookies and Aguirre for helping to bring the world's largest skateboard to Cambria for the Pinedorado parade.

3.D Friends of the Cambria Dog Park, Shelly Becker – No update.

3.E Forest Committee, Laura Swartz – 3:21 p.m.

- Swartz thanked David Aguirre for removing a downed tree on the Fern Canyon Trail.
- Camp Ocean Pines has a new director.
- Reiterated that the Forest Committee is a cohesive group with the active involvement of several local organizations.

3.F Greenspace the Cambria Land Trust, Executive Director Karin Argano – No update

3.G Lampton Cliffs Adopt-a-Park Iceplant Removal Project, Suzanne Fiedler – No update

3.H Reports from other Affiliated Community Groups – No updates

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.A Consideration to Approve the January 15, 2026, March 4, 2026, and March 25, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairperson Sutherland moved to approve the Minutes.

Secretary Jaffe seconded the motion.

The motion was approved: 3-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstain; 0-Absent

5. REGULAR BUSINESS – 3:24 p.m.

5.A Presentation from Auten Resource Consulting and the Fire Safe Council Regarding the Treatment Plan for Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

- Dan Turner with the Fire Safe Council, Spencer Gordeon with the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, and Steve Auten with Auten Resource Consulting presented a detailed briefing on San Luis Obispo County Monterey Pine Restoration Project and Cambria Reserves Forest Health Vegetative Treatment Project prior to questions and public comment.
- Committee Member Stephenson inquired about the potential impacts of climate change.
- Secretary Jaffe asked how lessons from the project could be applied by private land owners to manage the forest health of their own properties.
- Keith Hinrichsen asked whether there's enough data and information about the seedlings that have been planted over the years on the ranch to determine whether these trees are adapting to drier conditions.
- Fiscalini Ranch Executive Director Connolly summarized 25 years of planting Monterey pine seedlings on Fiscalini Ranch, while Dan Turner described the environmental changes taking place on Rancho Marino.
- Crosby Swartz inquired about the document titled Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Forest Health Goals.

5.B Community Park Phase 3 Planning Update and Discussion Regarding the Next Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Cycle – 4:17 p.m.

- The Community Park Phase 3 Planning Ad Hoc Committee of Vice Chair Sutherland and Secretary Jaffe presented the August 24 revisions to the East Ranch Community Park Phase 3 Plan.
- Key revisions include: Incorporating input the Board provided during the March 25 meeting and the removal of the picnic area with the shade structure and the sand volleyball court from the plan.
- Locations of individual park features on the map are preliminary.
- There were discussions about the siting of features in relation to the setback from the base of the hill.
- There were also questions about the level of specificity that the Board will require before the beginning of detailed design work.
- General Manager McElhenie discussed his understanding of the Board's expectations, as well as flood plain questions and the possible use of a portion of the existing Dog Park for park features.
- Committee Member Stephenson inquired about the proper sequencing of steps to earn Board approval, the level of design detail required for approval, and funding questions.
- F&R Manager Aguirre announced that he and Fiscalini Ranch Executive Director Connolly would meet with a Cal Poly Professor and his students on-site to introduce them to the project.
- Discussion ensued about the complexities and timing of establishing a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to support the creation of the park.
- General Manager McElhenie said he would consult with Monte Soto and County Planning about specific park details, such as the placement of features relative to the setback, and what constitutes permanent vs. non-permanent features.
- At 4:57 p.m. the PROS Committee unanimously voted to extend the meeting for another 30 minutes.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – 5:11 p.m.

- Community member Rick Denman advocated for finding and establishing a place in Cambria to play dodgeball. Chairperson Thomas encouraged him to follow up with an email so the matter could be discussed at a future meeting.

- Chairperson Thomas announced that the PROS Committee will not have a quorum for the November 19 meeting and that there will need to be a special meeting.
- General Manager McElhenie said that consideration of the Community Park Phase 3 Plan could take place at the November 12 Board meeting instead of at the October 8 meeting. The updated plan would have to be approved by the PROS Committee by late October.
- A special meeting of the PROS Committee will likely take place in October.

7. ADJOURN

Chairperson Thomas adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.