

I would like to share with you, as an item to be discussed at future meetings, an idea that may not be new, but one that is timely, and perhaps even critical to our success in developing the resources and infrastructure of our community. Adopting this idea would communicate the high value of our efforts, set a worthy goal for the future, and even help attract outside funding for CCSD projects. We could refer to this as Cambria’s “Water Positive Resource Plan (WPRP)” program.

If adopted, the goal of Cambria’s WPRP program would be to expand CCSD’s perspective, from a replacement mentality to a value system of giving back more than we withdraw. In other words, building a “Water Positive” resource portfolio, along with the infrastructure to support it. This idea goes beyond restoring a portion of the water resources within the watershed — and requires investing in water projects to effectively return back to the watershed more water than is consumed. The end goal of becoming Water Positive is to fully serve our community, while leaving our natural environment and sensitive species in a better state than they would be if we all were not here.

I believe that this goal is achievable with the operation of the WRF (hopefully with Zero Liquid Discharge) and eventually an integrated Direct Potable Reuse system, off-stream storage, and other water supply portfolio options. Of course, achieving this worthy goal will require substantial additional sources of funding (both in the development and operational stages). Advancing a Water Positive resource plan could unlock funding sources not otherwise available to our community. I am committed to working to find and develop the most economical and environmentally sustainable resources, and to secure needed federal and other grants, along with other ongoing sources of funding.

For direct potable reuse (DPR) projects, I have identified some potential funding sources available at both the state and federal levels. Here are some funding sources we might explore (even if we have already done so in the recent past):

1. California State Water Resources Control Board (State Level):

- The State Water Board in California is actively involved in regulating DPR. They have been working on developing uniform water recycling criteria for DPR, as mandated by SB 918 and SB 322.
- [For more information, visit the Direct Potable Reuse Regulation webpage!](#)

2. Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program (Federal Level):

- The CWSRF program provides financial assistance for water reuse projects, including DPR.
- Projects that promote water efficiency goals are eligible for assistance.
- While the use of additional subsidization is at the discretion of the CWSRF program, all water reuse projects can apply for capital cost assistance.
- [For more details, refer to the CWSRF Reuse Best Practices document².](#)

3. Other Federal Programs:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers various funding programs related to water infrastructure. These may indirectly support DPR projects.
- Examples include the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program.
- [Check out the EPA's Water Reuse Infrastructure Funding Programs³.](#)