Draft July 21, 2024

Climate Adaptation Policy XXXX.XX

As of May 2021, the scientific community is in agreement that we are now in a climate emergency. The latest reports on sea rise from the California Coastal Commission explain the alarming encroaching tide line that will challenge all coastal communities. The CCSD recognizes that this and other threatening conditions for the planet and our local environment are part of the climate emergency. The CCSD recognizes the potential impact of sea level rise on the fresh water storage capacity of the San Simeon and Santa Rosa Creek aquifers and on the associated water supply and waste treatment infrastructure.

The District understands its responsibility for environmental stewardship while providing water and sewer service to meet the needs of the community's residents, businesses and guests.

The District is committed to meeting water needs with production, storage, and efficient equipment for energy reduction practices throughout the system, which may result in lowering costs.

The State has emphasized the need for service districts and cities to create, implement and maintain a Climate Action Policy (CAP). **To be congruent with these requirements the District Manger, Engineering and staff** will respond with a CAP that addresses the following areas with stated, but not limited to, goals. A Baseline emissions inventory should be developed in order to track progress.

Water Efficiency

Goal: to reduce consumption and losses with programs and processes to eliminate waste and reduce discharge (ZLD)

Building Efficiency

Goal: To reduce energy consumption both with environmental and equipment in offices and the field

Renewable Energy

Goal: Passive systems to reduce our power costs and batteries to provide storage generally and for emergencies

Transportation

Goal: Reduction in overall mileage and implement fleet wide hybrid and EV transition with evaluations should be based on a cost per mile basis. Implementation of electric equipment as soon as it becomes available and within budget.

Zero Waste

Goal: eliminate solid waste with aggressive waste recycling and Zero Liquid Discharge technology

Carbon Sequestration

Goals: Maintaining and increasing forest carbon sequestration requires regular assessment of the health and safety of district forestlands. The District will manage its forest properties to maintain or increase the overall health, size and count of existing tree species while selectively reducing dead, flammable vegetation. Where possible, the District will work with appropriate agencies to improve compliance with existing ordinances for defensible space around structures, ember-proofing and hardening structures for fire resistance.
Possible participation in Tree plating efforts both by supporting local groups and in any government sponsored urban tree planting programs.

Some Additional points from the previous policy submission not included in the above draft

The District has already environmentally responsible in the following actions:
Paper products – now conforming to the latest California regulations on recycled use
Waste recycling – all office waste is separated out for proper recycle disposal
Electrical demands – electrical upgrades to the waste treatment plant are underway

The District will adopt the following policies to continue reducing electrical consumption, carbon emissions, waste generation and disposal.

1. Office buildings, water treatment plants, equipment and tertiary systems
The District will give priority to renewable power for these locations/applications.

2. Motor pool and transportation vehicles:
Electric and hybrid vehicle purchase and leasing will be implemented as equipment is replaced. This will include truck and other specialty vehicular needs as new products become available. For 24/7 on-call employees who live outside of Cambria, district electric vehicles should be used for home transportation.

3. Efficient Water use
In addition to diminishing water shortages, efficient use of water reduces production energy consumption.
- All public restrooms will have water-saving fixtures and systems installed.
- All District offices will have water saving fixtures updated
- The District will hold inspections and maintain records for required water-saving fixtures on new homes, remodels, commercial motels, hotels, bed and breakfast, vacation rental- by-owner properties
- The District will continue encouraging personal water saving systems for existing homes/remodels and other business applications.

4. Waste product reduction
Containers will be placed in all workspaces for office waste recycling. All products used for upkeep and servicing of vehicles and other equipment will be disposed of per state regulations.

5 Purchasing
An environmental impact statement will be included on all purchase requisitions. For example "paper cups for the coffee station instead of Styrofoam", or "meeting snacks to include beverages in cans/bottles rather than plastic."

6 Forest Management
Maintaining and increasing forest carbon sequestration requires regular assessment of the health and safety of district forestlands. The District will manage its forest properties to maintain or increase the overall health, size and count of existing tree species while selectively reducing dead, flammable vegetation.
Where possible, the District will work with appropriate agencies to improve compliance with existing ordinances for defensible space around structures, ember-proofing and hardening structures for fire resistance.

7 Lighting

The District will support the Dark Skies Initiative guidelines for all lighting fixtures under its control to reduce energy consumption while continuing to provide adequate illumination coverage for safety.

Considerations (not be included in the policy per se):

The District, similar to the county efforts, should look into not only solar passive, but also new vertical tulip-style wind generators that produce power for periods beyond daylight alone.

Currently, electric vehicles present higher up-front costs. However, when fuel costs and servicing savings are figured in, the cost-per-mile is very close to internal combustion vehicles. Electric vehicles will become far less expensive in the future when battery tech scales up. Electric vehicles have far fewer moving parts, often have 110 outlets and have more towing capacity.

The district will evaluate what type of uses can be handled by electric/hybrid vehicles vs. large fuel consuming trucks. For on-call employees who live out of town, district electric /hybrid vehicles should be used for home transportation. If required, trucks can be picked up in the District yard, reducing fuel cost and vehicle upkeep.

Public restrooms should become waterless as soon as possible.

I'm sure Dark Skies Initiative supporters will be glad to provide additional environmental rationale beyond CO2 reduction for lighting considerations.