

From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: CCSD Board of Directors Seeking Public Input Related to Strategic Plan
Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 3:45:15 PM

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CCSD Board of Directors Seeking Public Input Related to Strategic Plan

If you have any additional comments, concerns, or recommendations, please feel free to share them below.:

I strongly oppose any attempt or plan to disband or exclude the WWL from the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan's goal and its obligation is a commitment to supply sufficient water to not only existing users but equally to the lot owners on the WWL. Lot owners are part of the community. Therefore including the WWL on the same priority level as existing users should not only continue to be part of the Strategic Plan going forward but clearly the right position of the Strategic Plan to uphold.

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From: [Beautify Cambria](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Cc: [Kitty Connolly](#); [Matthew McElhenie](#)
Subject: Re: lighting at Cambria Dog Park toilet
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:27:52 AM

Hi Haley,

I've written and spoken in public about the new restroom lighting at the dog park as a homeowner and as Beautify Cambria president. We ask that the CSD install energy efficient, non-electric lighting.

There are many good reasons to install solar tubes. Here are a few:

- Solar tubes save energy costs for the CSD and the rate-payers.
- The residents and wildlife need to be protected from light trespass.
- The FFRP is a *preserve*. As such it is not allowed to have nighttime activities that require electric lighting.
- Beautify Cambria is in the process of certifying Cambria as a Dark Sky Community.
- The CCSD is considering approval of an outdoor lighting policy.
- Solar tube options transmit more light than a typical lightbulb and use no electric power.
- A 10" fixture will light a 200 sq ft area. A 14" solar tube will light an area up to 350 square feet.
- Solar tubes are less expensive to install than hard-wired lighting.
- Maintenance costs are much lower than electric lighting.
- Use of environmentally friendly lighting will enhance the CSD public image by promoting dark sky practices.

Solatube engineered optical daylighting system is one of several options:

- Capture Zone Dome optical technology captures daylight
- Transfer Zone Daylight is directed through the patented reflective tubing
- Solar powered nightlights are available
- Deliver Zone Sunlight is brilliantly and evenly distributed throughout the interior space
- Uses LightTracker™ Reflector an innovative in-dome reflector that:
 - Redirects low-angle sunlight for maximum light capture
 - Increases light input for greater light output
- Uses RayBender* 3000 Technology a patented daylight-capturing dome lens
- Redirects low-angle sunlight for maximum light capture
- Rejects overpowering summer midday sunlight and heat
- Provides consistent daylight throughout the day.

Solar tubes can be installed in open beam and conventional attic spaces:

daylighting01.png



Thank you for considering a non-electric lighting system for the dog park restroom. We hope the CCSD does the right thing for the east ranch and our town.

Regards,
Claudia

Beautify Cambria Association

Dark Skies Initiative

Claudia Harmon Worthen

LEED AP, CAPS, CID

President

1241 Knollwood Drive, PMB 113

Cambria, CA 93428

Claudia@beautifycambria.org

www.beautifycambria.org

1•805•927.1934

On Jan 25, 2025, at 9:58 AM, Cambria Community Services District
<cambriacsd@specialdistrict.org> wrote:

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The Cambria Dog Park and its parking lot will be temporarily closed on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, to facilitate the installation of the East Ranch restroom. This closure is necessary to ensure public safety and allow adequate space for the crane and truck to maneuver during the installation process. While we aim to minimize unnecessary attendance at the site, the public is welcome to observe the installation from behind designated caution tape barriers. We encourage those interested to park on Main Street, near the Bluebird Inn or Black Cat Bistro, and walk across the bridge to the Rodeo Grounds. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we complete this important improvement to our community space.

Cambria Community Services District
2150 Main Street, #1-A, Cambria, CA, 93428

We know your time is valuable and we only want to send information you are interested in. If you decide you no longer want to receive emails from us, you can [unsubscribe](#).

From: [M. Levkoff](#)
To: [BoardComment](#)
Subject: Planning for emergency evacuation
Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025 11:08:17 AM

The CCSD has recommended residents' preparation for wildfires, e.g., packing bags beforehand to be ready to leave quickly and where the evacuation routes are.

There's nothing to prepare residents for traffic bottlenecks on Ardath Drive (eastbound) or Burton Drive (northbound), for example, if they must leave Lodge Hill.

(The same is true for Hillcrest Drive in the West Village if a fire starts on Covell Ranch.)

What is the CCSD doing to prepare an emergency exit to relieve volume on Ardath Drive?

A back road exiting Lodge Hill to Highway 1 is needed urgently.

From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: CCSD Board of Directors Seeking Public Input Related to Strategic Plan
Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 6:17:11 PM

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CCSD Board of Directors Seeking Public Input Related to Strategic Plan

**If you have any additional comments,
concerns, or recommendations, please
feel free to share them below.:**

Goals and best intentions
do not assure a safe and
viable community?

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [BoardComment](#)
Subject: Respectfully filing board comments for February 13, 2025 Meeting
Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 3:12:09 PM
Attachments: [Cambria Letter to the Board .docx](#)

Please see attached.

Please respond letting me know you received this email.

Thank you,

Nancy Akhavan

Cambria Community Services District Board of Directors
P.O. Box 65
Cambria CA 93428

February 7, 2025

APN: 024.261.017

Dear CCSD Board:

On January 25, 2025, we sent a letter to the CCSD and Mr. McElhenie regarding our concerns about the weed abatement bill we received. We received the letter back on January 28, 2025 with no response to our concerns. Because Mr. McElhenie did not respond to our concerns, we are now sending them to the board.

Please note the following points from our original letter:

- 1) Via a notice mailed to us on December 20, 2024, we were notified of a bill for weed abatement for our lot. This bill was extremely large at \$5,700. According to the fire department inspection, our lot passed all items for weed abatement, but did have a dead tree. We received notice of the dead tree after we talked with the fire official, Michael Castellanos in January 2025. We did not know of the dead tree before January. Although our APN number was on the list for not passing, we had no information as to why it had not passed because we had paid for weed abatement to be conducted prior to the deadline. We had verbal confirmation from our weed abatement contractor that the work was completed. Additionally, the weed abatement notification we received via mail was related to weed abatement, not dead tree removal. All weeds and vegetation on our property were removed before the due date. That is noted in the fire department's inspection report and according to the fire department report we did not pass only because of the dead tree.
- 2) Teresa Lees at 1491 Bradford Road, neighbor of our property, contacted PG&E about this dead tree on July 15, 2024. PG&E responded to Teresa Lees through the PG&E reporting portal in December that the tree had been cut. Prior to responding to Teresa Lees in the portal, PG&E spoke with Teresa Lees in person when they inspected the tree. They stated to Teresa Lees that the tree was on the right-of-way of the road and not the responsibility of the private property owner.
Additionally, Chris Hays, adjacent neighbor to the property and Teresa Lees met with PG&E officials on site. PG&E officials reported to Chris Hays and Teresa Lee that they

had tried to contact the CCSD numerous times in order to obtain permission to remove the tree.

The case number for the PG&E inspection of the tree is 03459720. The coordinates of said tree according to the PG&E report are 35.54413424-121.07559071.

- 3) The Vegetation Program Manager from PG&E, through the contractor EOCENE West, Chris Lourde, contacted us on January 27, 2025 and stated that the PG&E contractor, Davey Tree Surgery Company, cut the said tree on November 1st. That case number is 7489258093. Chris Lourde stated that the cost of cutting the tree would entirely be the responsibility of PG&E. We talked to Joel from Davey Tree Surgery Company on February 7. Joel stated that they did cut the tree, and the reference number is 00204152.

In our letter dated January 25, 2025, we requested that the bill for the removal of the tree be negated since, with proof we have from PG&E, that they cut the tree, not Paradise.

We are concerned about this issue as it appears there is improper conduct regarding weed abatement by the Paradise contractor, the CCSD and Mr. McElhenie. It seems that the CCSD should be responsible for the correctness of the billing. We did not receive proof that Paradise cut the tree. The image we received from the CCSD that supposedly came from Paradise of our lot, APN: 024.261.017, regarding the cutting of the tree does not show a date when the photo was taken and does not show Paradise equipment cutting the tree. The photo only shows that the tree was removed.

This tree was removed, in fact, by PG&E and we were falsely charged by Paradise for tree removal, chipping of the tree, disposal and taking photos. As stated, these charges were a total of \$5,700 made by Paradise for a tree that was removed for no cost to us by PG&E.

We respectfully request that the bill from Paradise be rescinded.

Sincerely,



Mehran and Nancy Akhavan

From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: Written Public Comments
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 1:23:52 PM

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Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Jeff Wilson
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
	Referencing Agenda Item 8.J., related to the Asterra Satellite Loss Detection system.. On page 7 of the Asterra proposal, the following is required from CCSD: "During the period prior to the scan acquisition, the client will provide ASTERRA with a GIS layer of all available treated water or sewage lines in the AOI to be analyzed. If available, the client will also provide a hydrant and valve layer within the AOI." I've had some conversations about

**Written
Public
Comment:**

our inability to provide this baseline GIS overlay in our AOI. The inability to locate these lines recently for preparation of the East Ranch Rest Room added to my concern. I don't know the truth, but if we are unable to provide this baseline GIS layer of our potable water and wastewater main lines, how can we possibly expect the results we want from this expenditure? Please confirm that we in fact do have this GIS layer of both our potable water and wastewater main distribution lines. PS... i'm much in favor of reducing our water losses, definitely not opposed to this possible solution. Thank you •

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Haley Dodson

From: DAVID OGRADY
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 6:18 PM
To: BoardComment
Cc: Debra Scott; Michael Thomas; Tom Gray; Harry Farmer; Brian Glusovich; Matthew McElhenie; Bruce Gibson; Trevor Keith; County of SLO Planning Dept.
Subject: 343 Harvey Street Board Meeting 2-13-25 Attach to Meeting Notes

Please include this as part of your meeting notes for meeting on 2/13/25. I will be joining this meeting via zoom.

Debra Scott mentioned a new standing committee addressing fire safety for Cambria.

As previously described the derelict property is a complete and total fire hazard and a significant public health hazard to the community.

1. Property is 100% rotten wood and is collapsing in on itself. (County is aware of structural issues with the house but will not act)

A) My property is in the collapse zone of the property. This type of issue has become significant since 9/11 where many people were lost do to not understanding or calculating for this issue. Fire code should address this.

2. Property has been broken into on multiple occasions and there were clear indications of inhabitants living and building fires in the property. (Sheriff and fire records confirm this)

3. Property has live electricity running into it at all times - in spite of the owner saying it was only on while he is there. If the wiring in the property is anything like the rest of the property then there is a clear and significant issue.

4. The property is infested (and I mean infested) with all forms of vermin. There continues to be a large and active raccoon colony in and around the house. There are massive hords of rats and voles.

A) As you may understand, many fires are caused by rodents and other animals chewing through wires while infesting the house. I know of at least two people whose homes were burnt down for this precise reason. (County is aware of rodent issue but refuses to act)

5. The property is a duplex and this neighborhood is not zoned for duplexes. The fire escape from this illegally zoned property is non existent. (County knows about illegal zoning on this property but refuses to act)

6. The property is 100% open framed in the top story of the house.

A) This is not only dangerous but I believe it to be illegal. Supervisor Thomas took pictures and stated as much, I am including a picture that I took as well.

7. The property houses a massive bat colony in the framing of the house.

A) Again the wiring of the house is such that the bats can get in the wiring and chew through it creating just one more fire hazard.

8. The derelict property owner does not have a permit to fix any of the ongoing issues with the house.

A) He has been issued 6 different permits and has failed to comply with any of them. It is an unknown if the County will issue further permits as they have been inconsistent in how to think or communicate on this issue. (County position on this is fluid and they will not commit to an approach)

9. The property is massively infested with the biggest termites I have ever seen.

A) termites reduce what structural integrity the property has left - which of course increases the likelihood of collapse.

B) Termites create additional porous openings in the wood which makes the material more combustible and flammable.

C) I spoke with a previous contractor who had worked on the house and he indicated that the open framing in the upstairs portion was so infested with termites that he would not go inside it anymore for fear of his own safety.

i. He quit the job as have other contractors who would not work on the property due to the derelict property owner only wanting to cover up the fire issues as opposed to fixing them.

D) Termites also increase the fire likelihood in the surrounding properties as they are creating the same problems with those houses.

10. The property is teeming with black mold. And while black mold creates a clear health issue which the County has known of for several years and simply does not care - it also degrades the quality and integrity of the material it attaches itself to - which in this case is wood. (County is aware of black mold but refuses to act on behalf of its citizens to mitigate this as a clear public health hazard).

In spite of comments from the CCSD to the contrary this property has been known by at least two of the previous fire chiefs (Putney and the guy who was on prior to Burkey). Tom Gray made this part of his campaign pledge to me via his wife who came to my house on two separate occasions where all we spoke of was derelict property next door. He either forgot this pledge or the problem is too complex for him to resolve. Since being elected he neither returns phone calls or emails. This presents as an elected official that has lost interest in the community he serves or someone who is simply in over his head.

Micheal Thomas came to the property and seemed engaged at first relative to mitigating, but again he has fallen off the map and appears to have lost interest.

Your GM told me I need to trust the process - this was over a year ago and he does not respond to emails nor has he outlined what the 'process' is.

The County is well aware of this property and has been for several years. In fact, Bruce Gibson made this one of the issues he was running on in order to get my vote. His admin as well as his building department have indicated they will lean and then condemn the property, but now run for cover when this previous message is delivered to them. For whatever reason he has been completely absent from this process, this in spite of meeting with him and exchanging multiple emails.

The County building department has regularly mis-managed the message on this as well and has done well to create new lows relative to how to underperform as a public agency. In short the building department has functioned the way everyone in the community knows it to function.

I am certain that all of you must have a negative opinion of me, however, I tried for 10 years to be professional and nice and it never lead anywhere. To the extent that there is any progress that has been made on this issue it is 100% due to me escalating my level urgency. I am asking you to take immediate and decisive action to address the issue as described in the 10 bullet points above. You are well within your 'jurisdictional authority.' I have waited long enough, the community has waited long enough. I am a solid member of the community; I pay a disproportionate share of taxes and I most definitely deserve better than how the public agencies have treated this issue. If there was ever a calling for elected officials to get up and lead then this is it. There is not a single person in this entire community that is aware of this issue that feels as though our elected officials or our public servants have served the community well or at all on this issue.

Ways to mitigate - the property meets every legal definition of a nuisance property. Unfortunately the County will not act, however, you are within jurisdictional authority to mitigate.

1. Condemn the property for the reasons listed above and then move to demolish
2. Take action on his water meter. The owner is not a good citizen and for the reasons described above should not be allowed to continue to inhabit this property.
3. Give the property owner a short period of time to address all of the issues listed above (30 days) and when he does not mitigate then move to condemn and demolish.

Time to get to work and do the job that citizens elected you to do!

David







From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: Written Public Comments
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:35:14 PM

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Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Anonymous
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
	<p>I am submitting this written public comment after reading Christine Heinrichs' Advances for Cambria CSD meetings. While I would normally list my name, I have no desire to be her next target. She frequently spreads misinformation and stirs up unnecessary drama. In her latest advance, she claims that President Scott complained to her about a lack of balance in her meeting advances. While she may believe she is providing</p>

**Written
Public
Comment:**

balance, that is far from the case. She also asserts that the Board approves anything General Manager McElhenie presents without questioning competence or corruption. Christine repeatedly uses the term “corruption” when referencing the General Manager. While she is entitled to her own opinion, such accusations are unfounded, and she should choose her words with more respect and civility. There is no corruption—rather, she appears unable to accept that the Board hired a competent General Manager who is effectively doing his job. I attend his monthly meetings whenever I can, and I have always found him to be open and willing to listen to concerns—whether about fire hazards, the weed abatement process, or my water bill. Cambria is fortunate to have him, and I wish Christine would stop pushing misleading narratives. She also claims that Board members rarely respond to her comments. In reality, they do—she just doesn’t like the answers because they contradict her distorted version of events. At a time when it is critical to provide the public with accurate information, Christine’s Advances fails to meet that standard.

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From: [Crosby Swartz](#)
To: [BoardComment](#); [Debra Scott](#); [Michael Thomas](#); [Harry Farmer](#); [Karen Dean](#); [Tom Gray](#); [Matthew McElhenie](#)
Subject: Public Comment on 2-13-25 Agenda Item 8.E Weed Abatement Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 7:34:10 PM

The first problem with the draft ordinance is the definition of trees as weeds, in Paragraph 6.05.020 Definitions. As a result, the requirement to "remove and clear away ... all Weeds" means to "remove and clear away ... all trees". Is that the District's intent?

The dimensions of the required vegetation removal are excessive. The requirement in Paragraph 6.05.40 C. to remove trees "50 feet from each property line" would require the removal of all trees in areas such as Lodge Hill with 50 foot wide property lines even where there are no buildings or structures nearby.

Vegetation removal around waterways and wetlands as mentioned in Paragraph 6.05.40 G. will likely require approvals and permits.

The wording of the last several requirements in Paragraph 6.05.40 G. is not clear. For example G.3. states "In the event that any lands adjacent to land, as described above are improved such that they are subject to this Ordinance ...". Does this refer to the requirements or the exemptions?

Please consider moving approval of this Ordinance to a future meeting to resolve some of the questions and allow time for the community to fully understand the positive and the negative effects of approving this Ordinance.

Crosby Swartz,
Cambria

From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: Written Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:38:10 PM

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Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Lauren Younger
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Written Public Comment:	If Trump cuts the funds that would allow Cambria to hire the new fire fighter, please look for a grant. Maybe just go ahead and look for funding now before the federal cuts happen so we are not so beholden to this federal government right now.



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From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: Written Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:49:27 PM

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Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Lauren Younger
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Written Public Comment:	Help the high school form a "steelhead-count afterschool club". That would help young Cambrians to feel they are a strategic part of this village and give them a real skill that a grateful community could thank them for. And we would probably get a better count year round rather that twice a year at maybe the wrong time. And a count we could trust.

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Public Input to February 13, 2025 CCSD Board Agenda Item 4B: Presentation from the PROS Community Park Ad Hoc Committee on the Community Park Conceptual Plan -- Dennis & Pamela Dudzik, Cambria Residents,

Thank you, madam President, Board, and Staff. My name is Dennis Dudzik, Cambria Resident

As described in this excellent report, Cambria CSD holds title to the Fiscalini Ranch property, and the FFRP holds the conservation easement. Even though the Park's northern APN boundaries include Santa Rosa Creek, the effective community park boundary will be some distance south of the southern Creek bank. As such, this plan does not deal with the health, care, or maintenance of the Santa Rosa Creek, the creek banks, or what grows and dies in and adjacent to the creek.

But the facts are indisputable, that this Community Park WILL be affected by future floods! Our Cambria community continues to live in fear of Santa Rosa Creek flooding that in 2023 stranded residents in Park Hill, flooded downtown, caused the evacuation of residents, destruction of the FFRP restoration nursery and other facilities, including water facilities, the generator, and gas pump. Even CCSD facilities were severely damaged.

The recurring flooding problems were initially mitigated by the construction of the Highway 1 bypass channel and the main street pump station, as part of the Cambria Flood Control Project in 2009. The completed project allowed overflows to move slowly through the by-pass channel and then rejoin the Santa Rosa Creek downstream without overtopping Cambria Drive, Windsor Blvd, or Santa Rosa Creek, restoring controlled flooding to the historic floodplain of Santa Rosa Creek while protecting the West Village from overflows of Santa Rosa Creek.

So, pardon my bluntness – but if you fix your home's plumbing, and then do nothing to maintain it, it's gonna plug up again! The SLO County Flood Control guidelines specifically state that maintenance of the creeks is the responsibility of the entity who holds title to the property through which the creeks flow. Invasive plants and trees, as well as downed trees and their trunks are supposed to be removed. As evidenced by the out-of-control invasives in and along the creek, since 2009, only the current GM and Facilities and Resources staff have acknowledged the magnitude of the problem, and taken what actions they could with limited staff and budgets to clear obstructions to the creek.

We are calling on this Board to establish the Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Committee. This committee will work with County Flood Control, FFRP, and local stakeholders, to develop, fund, and implement the maintenance plan, to stop the flooding. Please refer to my November 4th report to the R&I Committee on this matter. Thank you.

CAMBRIA 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN INPUT

Dennis & Pamela Dudzik, Cambria Residents, February 13, 2025

Thank you, madam President, Board, and Staff. My name is Pamela Dudzik, I have been a Cambria resident, since November 2023, and have loved Cambria since I first visited my Great Aunt Rose in her Park hill home, 62 years ago. Dennis and I submitted these proposed changes to the CCSD Mission and Vision Statement on line, and they are in the agenda package. However, we want to emphasize the subtle but, we believe, essential changes that we have proposed:

Proposed Mission Statement:

Mission Statement for Cambria CSD: The Cambria Community Services District's mission is to provide a resilient and reliable system of water supply and delivery, wastewater management, fire protection and emergency services, parks, recreation and open space, and accompanying Community Services to our customers, in a safe, cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally sensitive manner.

Proposed Vision Statement:

Vision Statement for Cambria CSD: Our vision is of a thriving, multigenerational, and diverse community where all feel welcome and valued, and where the natural beauty that attracts us all to Cambria is preserved for generations to come. We see a District wherein all facilities and core services are well maintained and staffed, and continuous improvement is a reality. We see a Cambria where future generations work together to balance the many and varied needs of those who love Cambria - those who live here, those who work here, those who want to live here, those who visit here, along with those who represent us at all levels of state and local government.

The current CCSD Core Values would remain unchanged, except for the "Teamwork" Core value which would read:

- Teamwork: We recognize the qualities, abilities, and contributions of others and seek to work collaboratively across departments and other agencies, to carry out the District's Mission and Strategic Plan.

Thank you

CAMBRIA 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN INPUT

Dennis & Pamela Dudzik, Cambria Residents, February 13, 2025

Thank you, madam President, Board, and Staff. My name is Dennis Dudzik

This Board, General Manager, staff, and committee members have taken bold action to realize a more enjoyable, secure, resilient and sustainable future for Cambria. Now, this Board has a chance to enhance our Vision, Mission, Values, and Core Areas (as Pamela has just described), by adding two foundational goals along with the associated action items, milestones, and the funding sources to achieve these goals without over-burdening our customers.

First: Secure the CDP for the water reclamation facility, and build a portfolio of new water resources, along with the needed infrastructure repairs and upgrades. We will utilize more than just our own rates and fees to fund this future. The folks who love Cambria, and own a piece of infill property here with a water position, are willing to work with the District to secure the necessary funding. Now is the time for this Board to take the olive branch, begin the conversations, and develop a comprehensive plan that will set the stage to bring in the funds, friends, and neighbors this Community needs to achieve our Vision.

Second: Protect our citizens from fire and flood, while preserving our sensitive environment.

This Board can support the District Staff and our entire community by formalizing the new Core Area of Flood Risk Mitigation and Management. As the landowner and responsible agency, CCSD is responsible for eliminating the woody debris and invasive trees and plants that are contributing to the flooding hazard on those portions of the Santa Rosa Creek that are within the boundaries of the Fiscalini Ranch. Even though the CCSD owns the land, we are not going to carry the burden of these efforts alone. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has the program in place and the roadmap for dealing with flood risk mitigation and management, and will guide us and assist in funding the effort. Once this Core Area is adopted, the next step is to work with the FFRP, contact the other local stakeholders, and form the Cambria Flood Risk Maintenance and Management Committee. The details of this roadmap are presented on pages 22 through 25 of my November 4, 2024 report on this matter to the R&I Committee.

The associated proposed Core Area and Strategic Goal revisions were presented on line, and are repeated, with the changes highlighted below.

CAMBRIA 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN INPUT

Dennis & Pamela Dudzik, Cambria Residents, February 13, 2025

Core Area: WATER SERVICES - GENERAL

Strategic Goal: MEET THE ONGOING CHALLENGES OF **SUSTAINABLY, COST-EFFECTIVELY, AND RELIABLY INCREASING CAMBRIA'S WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCE AND DIVERSITY**, WHILE EFFICIENTLY MANAGING WATER OPERATIONS AND ENHANCING WATER RESOURCES IN OUR SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEM.

Core Area: WATER SERVICES - WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

Strategic Goal: **SECURE COUNTY AND COASTAL COMMISSION APPROVALS AND SECURE THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (CDP).**

Core Area: WASTEWATER SERVICES

Strategic Goal: **PLAN, FUND, AND EXECUTE NEEDED REPAIRS AND UPGRADES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM**

Core Area: FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Strategic Goal: PROVIDE DEDICATED AND ADEQUATE **EVACUATION ROUTES AND PROCEDURES, OPTIMAL FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS WITH ROBUST WATER STORAGE**, SUPPORTING AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FIRE PROTECTION, WATER RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND SERVICES ON A 24/7 BASIS

Core Area: FACILITIES AND RESOURCES - GENERAL

Strategic Goal: MANAGE AND PROVIDE STEWARDSHIP OF DISTRICT ASSETS, PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE IN A TIMELY, COST-EFFECTIVE, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MANNER.

Core Area: FACILITIES AND RESOURCES – FLOOD RISK MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT

Strategic Goal: **COORDINATE WITH THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP, FUND, AND IMPLEMENT A FLOOD RISK MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY OF CAMBRIA.**

Proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan

Presentation to the CCSD R&I Committee 11-4-2024 – Dennis Dudzik, PE

From: Dennis Dudzik, PE

To: Karen Dean, CCSD R&I Committee Chairperson (via email)

Date: 10-27-2024

Purpose and Need

Flooding in Cambria has caused, and if not controlled will increasingly cause, injury, property damage, evacuations, people stranded by flood waters, cut off access to utilities and emergency services, and severe economic impacts to residents and businesses. This Proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan was prepared for presentation to the CCSD R&I Committee meeting to be held on 11-4-2024 by Mr. Dennis Dudzik, PE, a resident of Cambria and an active member of the R&I Committee. Mr. Dudzik has a long career in California of supporting municipal entities' projects and programs requiring technical knowledge, environmental sensitivity, extensive collaboration, stakeholder involvement, and regulatory approvals. This presentation includes the purpose and need, recent events, background, historical framework, objectives, scope and approach in support of a request that this committee review, discuss, and finalize the recommendations included herein for submittal to the full CCSD Board of Directors (Board) for approval and implementation actions – on an urgency basis – to address these very real and growing flood concerns. If supported by this committee and approved by the Board, a phased, comprehensive remediation plan would be developed by this committee and CCSD Staff in coordination with the appropriate State, County, and local stakeholders and regulatory bodies, to secure the necessary funding and approvals to begin implementing the needed remedial actions as soon as possible.

Recent Events

The following Flash Flood Advisory and image were posted on the CCSD Website on January 9, 2023:

Cambria and the County of San Luis Obispo is under a flash flood warning from the National Weather Service. There is localized flooding throughout Cambria which may get worse.

- *The Santa Rosa Creek has crested and is rapidly flowing across Windsor Blvd. This is temporarily cutting off access to the Park Hill neighborhood. Residents of Park Hill are encouraged to shelter in place until the water recedes. Should you need to leave, the fire access gates on Fiscalini Ranch are open and manned to allow egress only.*

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- *Main Street is actively flooding in the West side of Downtown. The County's pump station on Main Street has been running all day, but has been unable to keep up with the massive flow of water.*
- *San Simeon Creek Rd is also flooded, about a half mile North of Hwy 1.*



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During the March 10, 2023 storm, Cambria again experienced severe flooding. Windsor Blvd flooded, with large debris entering the roadway (CCSD photo below). Observations have indicated that the massive amounts of large debris blocking the flow of the Santa Rosa Creek flood waters under the Windsor Blvd bridge, contributed to (and perhaps were one of the root causes of) much of Cambria's flooding during the storms of 2023.



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The Pinedorado area flooded for the fourth time in two years, and the Oak Terrace Mobile Home Park flooding caused significant damage and evacuations as shown in the photo below:

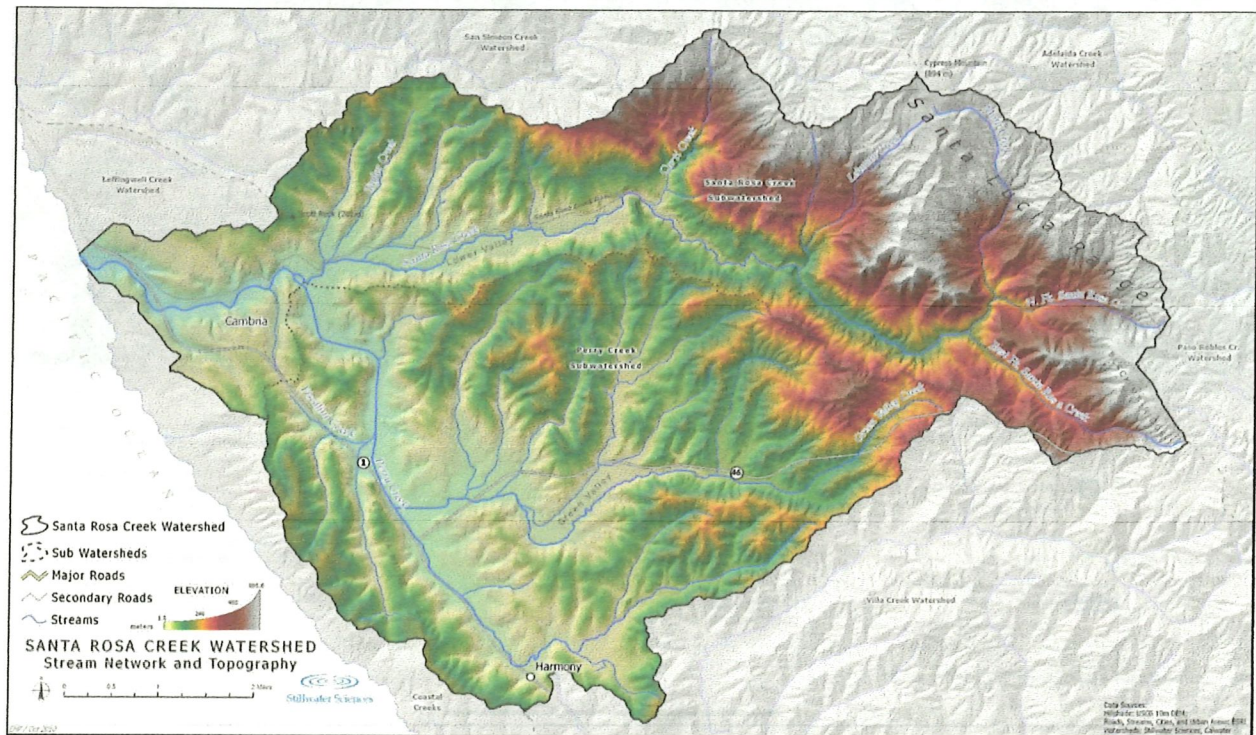


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Cambria's History of Floods and Flood Control

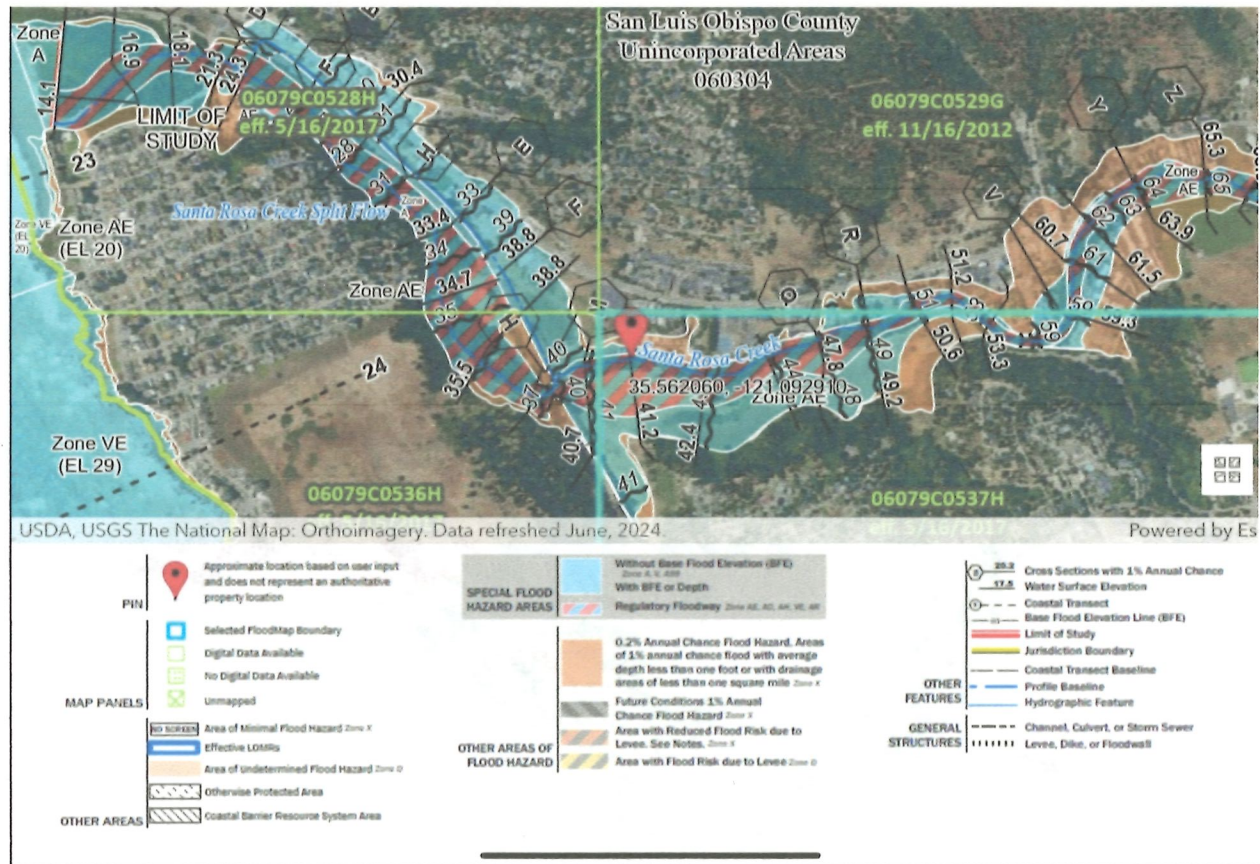
With the exception of the San Simeon Creek Road flooding, all of the above flooding events and the additional events described later in this report occurred in Cambria, within the Santa Rosa Creek Watershed (shown in the figure below). As such, this proposal focuses on flood control of areas within the Santa Rosa Creek Watershed.



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The following figure (USDA, USGS, The National Map: Orthoimagery.) shows Special Flood Hazard Areas and Other Areas of Flood Hazard (and related data) along the Santa Rosa Creek within and around Cambria.

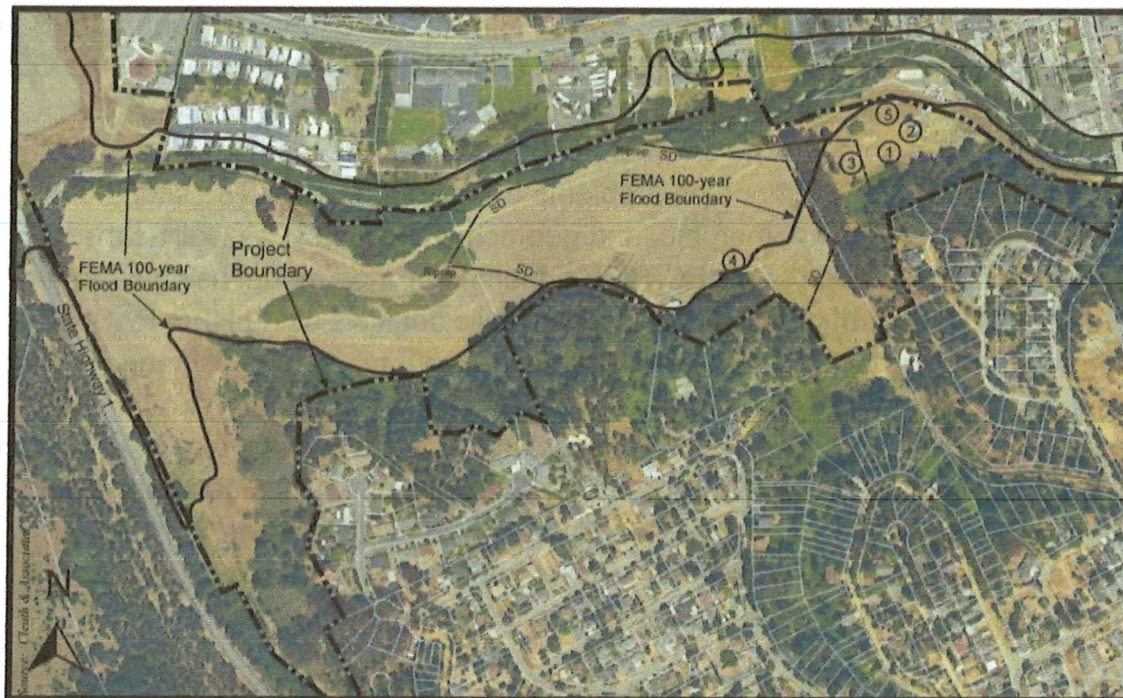


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The following map is from the Final Fiscalini Ranch Master EIR (September 2009), which contains significant information about this portion of the Santa Rosa Creek. Additional background can be found in the Santa Rosa Creek Watershed Management Plan (Greenspace Cambria, 2010).

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Master EIR

Hydrology



- Explanation
- ① Future Community Center Location
 - ② Parking Lot
 - ③ Restroom
 - ④ Storage/Maintenance Building
 - ⑤ Relocated Pump House
 - SD Storm Drain Pipe

Base Map: Aerial photograph by AirPhoto USA
 Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet

100-year Flood Hazard Map
 FIGURE V-5

Draft Master EIR

V-39

Two major flooding events occurred in Cambria in 1995, one on January 10th and the other on March 10th. During the March event, rainfall of 8.31 inches was reported in Cambria. To further emphasize the impact of the 1995 storms, four storm-related deaths were reported in San Luis Obispo County during the first four months of that year. Then, in March of 2001, Cambria and other parts of the County were again hit with severe flooding.

In response to the 1995 and 2001 floods, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors approved funding for Drainage and Flood Control Studies for the communities of Cambria, Cayucos, Nipomo, Oceano, San Miguel, and Santa Margarita. The goals of the studies were to quantify the extent of drainage and flooding problems

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of each of these communities, to generate recommendations for solutions for the drainage and flooding problems, identify environmental permitting requirements, provide planning level cost estimates, and to outline a plan for funding and implementation of the proposed solutions.

In 2003, Questa Engineering completed the design of the Santa Rosa Creek portion of the flood management project to protect Cambria from the frequent flooding from Santa Rosa Creek, in part due to development in the floodplain and the influence of the Coast Highway 1 Bridge. *[Note – this author has not yet found this document, only the following information from Questa’s website.]* Questa was the lead consultant for the project, intended to solve the flooding problems of the community. The scope of work included detailed biologic, geomorphic, and geotechnical studies, as well as the development and calibration of a HEC-HMS watershed runoff model using stream gauge data, completion of detailed channel hydraulic analysis using HEC-RAS, and development and presentation of alternatives to the County, community, and regulatory agencies. A flood bypass system, levee modifications, pressure storm drain, a new pump station, and a new Highway 1 bridge, including roadway elevation, were designed for the project. Initial conceptual design alternatives examined included upstream detention, channel modification, use of floodwalls, channel diversions, and pump systems, as well as bridge modifications. These design concepts were then turned into construction plans for review and approval by the County and Caltrans.

An important part of the work scope was to develop a plan that minimized aquatic habitat impacts and provided aquatic habitat enhancement; this was done in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. The project also entailed obtaining permits from the California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Questa prepared the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and obtained a Coastal Development Permit. Questa also completed final plans, specifications, and cost estimate for this project.

Two major multi-agency and multi-year programs were eventually undertaken to mitigate Cambria’s flooding problems. The recurring flooding problems along Santa Rosa Creek and in the West Village were initially addressed by the construction of the bypass channel and the pump station, as part of the Cambria Flood Control Project. The resultant by-pass channel adjacent to Highway 1 was planned, permitted, and constructed to allow overflows to move slowly through the by-pass channel and then rejoin the Santa Rosa Creek downstream without overtopping Cambria Drive or Santa Rosa Creek. The project was intended to restore controlled flooding to the historic floodplain of Santa Rosa Creek while protecting the West Village from overflows of Santa Rosa Creek.

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According to SLO Department of Public Works documents from 2010, the construction of the Santa Rosa Creek Bypass Channel Bridge across Highway 1 at Cambria Drive was substantially completed in FY 2008/2009 and the work was performed under a Cooperative Agreement between SLO County Public Works and the California Department of Transportation.

The SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTING FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS “Guide”, dated December 30, 2009, from the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOCFC&WCD), contains considerable background on the County’s response to these flooding impacts, actions taken at that time, and provides the roadmap for dealing with future flood issues.

The following italicized text are selected sections of the Guide. This italicized text presents a distillation of the key elements of the Guide, which is the basis for this author’s Proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan that follows these italicized text sections. This selected text is a quick overview, historical and contextual perspective, and the roadmap for Cambria to address the severe ongoing flooding risks demonstrated above. To eliminate redundant or inapplicable sections of the Guide and make this a succinct report with recommendations specific to Cambria’s current flood risk situation, only a small fraction of the Guide’s 191 pages is included herein. Note that the term “District” in the italicized text refers to the SLOFC&WCD, not the CCSD. Also, please recognize that this source document is 15 years old, and reference to funding sources and responsible agency names may need to be updated.

Executive Summary

The San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOFC&WCD or “District”) is a resource to help individuals and communities in San Luis Obispo County identify and address flooding problems. The District has historically not provided direct funding of community specific mitigation improvements. The District uses its general funding to identify flooding problems, recommend solutions, and help local areas implement recommended solutions. The District has identified a need to develop a model on how to approach these important water resource issues, including steps on how to integrate solutions for multiple benefits and community acceptance. The primary focus of this Guide to Implementing Flood Control Projects (“Guide”) is to identify several of the most significant constraints affecting the ability to implement flood control projects and to propose methods and strategies to address the challenges. As with most problems and especially with flooding, stakeholder involvement is essential. Therefore, the target audience for this report is the stakeholders themselves, those individual citizens and communities affected by flooding problems. The intent of the

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plan is to provide guidance in the process of implementing such methods and strategies to address these problems.

Preparation

Many elements are needed in order to both identify and to be adequately prepared to take advantage of opportunities for resolving flood control problems. Preparation includes gaining a detailed knowledge of existing flooding conditions, policy, funding and permitting constraints, as well as access and right-of-way issues. Being adequately prepared requires the ability to balance the need for a project with consideration of funding and responsibility for short and long term maintenance. Becoming prepared usually requires the building of community support and cooperation for a project, including willingness on the part of the citizens to agree to new assessments or increased taxes to fund some or all of the construction and maintenance required. It is understood that some communities may currently be better prepared than others and will therefore be better positioned to take advantage of opportunities as they become available. Key criteria associated with a community's preparedness will be further developed in later sections of this report....

Opportunity

Opportunities to develop flood control projects can come from a variety of sources. Recent media coverage of issues and events such as the collapse of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, the vulnerability of California's water supply, and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have focused the public's attention to the current condition of our national, state and local infrastructure, including flood control facilities. In California, this increased attention has resulted in both political will and support by the voting public to provide funding for infrastructure improvement. When approved, such funding can often come in the form of subsidized loan or grant programs, which typically require some amount of local match. In addition, regulatory agencies and non-profit conservation organizations often have access to grant programs for which flood control projects or portions of such projects can be competitive. In most instances, besides the local match requirement, such grant or loan programs require that a project have strong community support and a reasonable path for implementation in order for the project to be competitive with all of the other projects vying for the limited resources. In addition to public sector funding, proposed improvements associated with private development projects can often address existing flooding problems, provided there is a nexus for such improvements. Private development can also be a potential resource for constructing or funding flood control projects through participation in the formation of assessment districts with neighboring properties, reimbursement agreements, drainage impact fees, etc. In each of these funding scenarios, adequate preparation, including

development of community support and willingness to provide local match funding, is vital to positioning a project to be competitive.

Execution

Execution involves a community being proactive in recognizing and then taking advantage of an opportunity that may present itself to implement a solution or partial solution to an identified flooding problem. Execution requires that the community:

- Be knowledgeable about the problem*
- Have a clear understanding of the possible solutions to address the problem*
- Have a realistic understanding of the challenges inherent in each solution*
- Be willing to provide some or all of the required funding for the alternative solutions, including matching funds for grants*
- Be committed to follow through to pursue and/or to participate in possible grant, developer funded or other project opportunities as they become available.*

Progress

There are numerous significant challenges to resolving flooding problems which are inherent in the nature of such problems, and the solutions are often complex, multi-pronged and long term. Such challenges most often portend opportunity. Progress towards resolving a community's flooding problems can be viewed as a direct result of the members of that community agreeing to the process described above of working together in recognizing the challenges, preparing for, seeking and recognizing the opportunities, and then following through to take advantage of such opportunities.

Process for Implementing a Flood Control Project

a. General Comments

This section identifies the steps that are generally required to implement a Flood Control Project. Additional detail for each of the steps is provided in later chapters of this report. It should be noted that stakeholder involvement and advocacy is recommended in the initial steps and critical in the subsequent steps. Though a willingness for financial commitment by stakeholders is often needed, equally important, if not more important is the support and advocacy for the project by the stakeholders throughout the process. Though there is some truth to the proverb that "the squeaky wheel gets the grease," the history of developing infrastructure improvement projects has also shown the practical reality that it is easier to obtain funding for a project that is well defined, addresses a real need or problem, has a defensible cost/benefit ratio, has a reasonable cost and implementation schedule, and has broad support by the affected property owners. When each of these items is in place, a project can be considered "viable."

b. Project Implementation Steps

The steps described below must be followed in implementing a Flood Control Project. The information was originally developed as part [of] a report given to the Board of Supervisors by the Department of Public Works (“SLO County Flood Protection and Drainage Policies, Programs, Permitting and Funding,” April 17, 2001, a portion of which is attached as Appendix C).

Step 1: The project must be defined.

This requires that an engineering feasibility analysis be performed. The situation that needs to be corrected must be defined, alternate solutions must be investigated, and options must be analyzed to determine the most feasible way to proceed in terms of engineering, financial and environmental considerations.

Step 2: Formal project cost estimates must be made.

Step 3: A funding source must be identified, and then obtained.

As noted elsewhere in this report, the Flood Control Act contemplates establishing Zones that cover the area benefited by the project that can then pay for the cost of the improvements. The process that is set up in the Act is for the Zones to pay through property taxes. With the more recent changes to the laws governing taxing, these funding sources require voter approval, and may be required to pass by a two thirds majority.

Step 4: The project must be designed and constructed.

Once the projects are defined and a funding source is established, the project must be designed, environmental procedures must be followed and required permits or approvals obtained, and the project can then be constructed and operated. In most new projects, the environmental issues must be identified at the beginning of the process and kept in mind throughout implementation to insure that permits can be obtained and that any required mitigation measures are accounted for in the project work plan and budget.

Summary of Flood Control Project Constraints

Assuming that a flooding problem has been identified and analyzed, and that a project to mitigate the problem has been subsequently scoped, in general there are five major constraints affecting the implementation of a typical flood control project:

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- a. *District Policy Constraints*
- b. *Funding Constraints and Opportunities*
- c. *Environmental Permitting*
- d. *Right of Way*
- e. *Stakeholder Support*

This section will provide a description of the issues involved in each of the constraint categories and describe how they impact flood control projects in general, as well as point to community-specific impacts which will be further described in later sections. The information in this section was excerpted from the drainage and flood control studies prepared by RMC on behalf of the District in 2004. Additional general and community-specific information is provided in the individual reports which are available for downloading on the SLO County Public Works Department website at <http://www.slocountydrainagestudies.org/>. [Note – This link is broken - 10-23-2024]

a. San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Policy Constraints

Overview of Responsibilities.

The drainage and flood control responsibilities of the County are determined by State and County statutes and by County policy. The responsibilities for drainage are administered through the Road Division of the County Public Works Department and the District. The District is the designated County agency responsible for managing, planning, and maintaining drainage and flood control facilities in unincorporated public areas where no other agency has assumed an active role in such activities. The District has a regional role in the County and can work with individual cities or communities when requested. [Discussion text related to jurisdiction of road maintenance and improvement, Road Fund administration, history, etc. intentionally not included.]

Policy Direction: Resolution Number 68-223.

The District is available to help communities deal with flood waters, and to study and develop water supplies and conservation opportunities. The District uses its general fund to:

- *Identify water related issues*
- *Develop strategies and determine solutions to those problems*
- *Help those local areas implement recommended solutions*

The District is not, however, responsible for paying for community-specific mitigation improvements. The specific property owners that benefit from these solutions must

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agree to pay for the construction and future maintenance of them. This District policy (Resolution 68-223, included in this report as Appendix F) was formally established by the Board of Supervisors in 1968, and was reviewed and reconfirmed in April 2001. The policy was adopted because there is not sufficient funding available for the District to fund construction and operation of facilities. This approach provides the best leveraging of the funds that are available on a countywide basis.

Funding Sources and Countywide Activities.

The primary funding source for the District, which is the entire County, is a pre-Proposition 13 general property tax allocation, which provides approximately \$550,000 per year in General Flood Control revenue. In addition, the District receives about \$130,000 per year in interest income from current resources. Reserves from the County's General Fund, which is separate from the District fund, are normally not used for the construction of projects protecting private property, unless there is a significant general or roadway benefit. The District provides funding for flood control programming and planning of localized drainage issues.

Flood Control Zones.

The District has the power to form Zones of Benefit to implement and operate facilities. Each Zone must have its own funding source.

County Standards for Control of Drainage.

The County's planning department establishes the land use policies and drainage ordinances for the County (the District has no land use ordinances). These standards aim to minimize the harmful effects of storm water runoff and to protect neighboring and downstream properties from drainage problems resulting from new development. Section 22.05.040 et. seq. of the County's Land Use Ordinance outlines the standards for the control of drainage and drainage facilities. These standards include:

- a. Requirements pertaining to the design and construction of drainage systems*
- b. Requirements pertaining to the maintenance of offsite natural drainage patterns*
- c. Restrictions on development in areas subject to flood hazards*

Conditions of development in flood hazard areas must, at a minimum, enforce the current Federal floodplain management regulations as defined in the National Flood Insurance Program. The proponents of projects that may be subject to or cause flood hazards are required to prepare a drainage plan, subject to approval by the County Engineer. Unincorporated areas of the county are also subject to flood hazard combining designations. The combining designation is a special land use category

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which requires detailed project review to minimize the adverse impacts associated with flood hazards. In addition, the County's land use ordinances contain development standards for areas with the Flood Hazard (FH) designation. The standards state that drainage plans for development in FH areas must include a normal depth analysis that determines whether the proposed development is in the floodway or the flood fringe. In addition, development in FH areas would be subject to construction practices that would not limit floodway capacity or increase flood heights above an allowable limit.

The Road Fund.

The County provides some limited drainage improvements as a function of its road maintenance responsibilities. The Road Fund is a separate, distinct legal account and budget, from the District. It has numerous State statutes (primarily the Streets and Highways Code) that dictate how Road Fund monies may legally be expended.

Environmental Permitting Constraints

General Discussion, Key Dates & Changes in the Permit Process. Since they convey stormwater runoff, portions of natural and manmade channels critical to the control of flood flows are quite often critical habitat for a variety of important biological resources, including many endangered species. Therefore, improvements to such channels and certain maintenance activities, including sediment or debris removal, vegetation management, slope repair, etc. could potentially affect (adversely or beneficially) critical habitat and are therefore potentially subject to an extensive review and permitting process by a variety of local, state and/or federal agencies, depending on the proposed activity, as well as the nature and location of the facility.

Summary of Permit Requirements.

All projects, whether they are constructed by a public agency or by private parties are required by Federal, State and local law to comply with environmental regulations. The regulations that most often affect flood protection projects are general environmental protection, protection of endangered species, protection of water quality, and protection of coastal resources. The following table briefly describes some of the permits that must be acquired to do work within or near a stream channel. It should be noted that the permit requirements will be virtually the same whether the work is being done by the County Flood Control District or by a rancher protecting his rangeland:

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If the project...	Then a permit or approval is necessary from...
Qualifies as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Environmental Division
Qualifies as a project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Environmental Division
Disturbs the bed or bank of a stream	California Department of Fish and Game
Involves work below the ordinary high water mark of a stream	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Involves disturbance of wetlands or other "waters of the U.S."	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act	State Regional WaterQuality Control Board
Has the potential to impact sensitive species, marine mammals, migratory birds or their habitat	California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Located in the Coastal Zone or in streams that feed into the Coastal Zone	California Coastal Commission and/or San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building Environmental Division

Right of Way Constraints

Under-maintained facilities reduce their design capacity and inhibit their ability to convey runoff, and county staff typically receive complaints from alert private citizens who report existing storm drain facilities filled with sediment and vegetation. However, based on follow up field investigations, it is often difficult determining who is responsible for maintaining the facilities, most especially in the case of manmade and natural drainage ditches and creeks or drainage basins on private property. In most cases, the District does not possess flood control or drainage easements for natural or manmade creeks and channels or drainage basins on private property. In the absence of maintenance responsibility being assumed by a separate entity (such as a homeowners association), the owner whose parcel line extends into the drainage channel or upon whose property the drainage basin exists is responsible for maintaining the channel or basin's capacity.
[Emphasis added.] *If a property owner does not maintain the facilities, then these structures will go unattended because the District is not responsible for maintaining facilities on private property or on property within the jurisdiction of other public agencies (e.g. Caltrans, UPRR, incorporated city, etc.) or homeowners associations.*

Stakeholder Support

*As has been mentioned previously in this report, the input and support of stakeholders is critical to the success of most if not all flood control projects. The range of entities potentially impacted by a proposed project extends far beyond those that are directly impacted by flooding problems. For example, increasing the capacity of a channel to mitigate flooding problems in one location could potentially move the problem further downstream. Project construction may require the acquisition of temporary or permanent easements from private property owners or encroachment permits from other agencies. ***The long term viability of the project may depend on maintenance efforts outside the project limits by other entities, such as erosion or sediment control in tributary areas upstream in the watershed, or vegetation or debris management on channel reaches up or downstream located on private property.****
[Emphasis added.] *Given the context of the other constraints described above, it is crucial that key and potential stakeholders be identified and brought into the process of project development as early as possible. With the understanding that many stakeholders will have conflicting interests and/or goals for the same project, communication, negotiation and compromise are often key components for seeing a project through to completion, and the risk to the viability of a project is greatly reduced the earlier in the process these efforts are initiated.*

Summary of Significant Flooding Issues and Proposed Solutions

[Of the six SLO communities presented in the 2009 report, only Cambria is shown here. Keep in mind that this was written in 2009 and no update was found.]

Cambria

Flooding Issues. *The combination of the area's steep topography, lack of underground drainage facilities, and location of residential parcels below the street grade has resulted in localized poor drainage and/or flooding around some residences, buildings, and roadways. The magnitude of flooding varies by the districts in Cambria and by location in each district. Drainage from a number of uphill lots flows along the edge of street pavement and drains onto lower lots, creating flooding and erosion problems. Drainage problems also exist where curbs are present, but the topography creates conditions where lots adjacent to the roadway are much lower than the roadway surface. This allows street drainage flowing at the curbside to enter the residential lots at the lowered curb section along the driveway entrance. Many unpaved roads are also subject to sheet and rill erosion during storm events. Flooding problems along Santa Rosa Creek in the West Village have been addressed by the construction of a bypass channel for Santa Rosa Creek, as the first component of the three-part Cambria Flood Control Project. The bypass channel provides for overflows to move slowly through the by-pass channel and then rejoin the Santa Rosa Creek downstream without overtopping Cambria Drive or Santa Rosa Creek. The second component, a gravity pressure stormdrain system, will collect runoff from the central residential area and divert it directly into Santa Rosa Creek. This project restores controlled flooding to the historic floodplain of Santa Rosa Creek while protecting the West Village from overflows of Santa Rosa Creek.*

Proposed Solutions. *The improvements proposed include construction of a bypass channel, storm drains and pumping system to address regional flooding problems along Santa Rosa Creek in the West Village of Cambria, an area inundated with up to eight feet of water in the storms of 1995, as well as culverts, curbs and drainage inlets to address localized flooding. SLOCFC&WCD has earmarked over \$500,000 to fund one of the projects, has obtained funding assistance from the local community totaling \$1.1 million and obtained a FEMA HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) grant of \$3.5 million towards regional flood improvements. Total cost for the unfunded projects is estimated to be \$11.0 million.*

[This ends background text from the 2009 Guide. The proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan follows:]

Proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan

As the recent flooding and other background information in this report clearly demonstrates, the Santa Rosa Creek Watershed needs to be the focus of Cambria's flood risk mitigation and management efforts. It is also clear from the SLOCFC&WCD Guide, that unless the streambed of mitigated creeks and other drainages are continuously maintained, flood risk will again become a threat to the surrounding community.

This is clearly the case for Cambria. And, since the Santa Rosa Creek flows through the Fiscalini Ranch, from above the East Ranch, past Highway 1 and Windsor Blvd, out to the Pacific Ocean, the CCSD is an integral part of this Flood Risk Mitigation and Management program. Observations by CCSD staff and residents along the creek have documented large fallen trees within the creek, and no process or funding mechanism in place to remove them. Also, for fallen/downed trees on the East ranch, adjacent to the Santa Rosa Creek, the long-standing maintenance policy for CCSD has been to follow the fire code, by removing the leaves and branches and leaving the large trunks on the ground to decompose. This can be seen in the following picture, taken by the author on the East Ranch, of the lower portion of a recently fallen tree along the bank of the Santa Rosa Creek, and lying on top of, and being covered with, significant overgrowth.



At some locations along the south bank access road, the access road is above the surrounding grade levels. It is not yet known when the access road was raised.

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However, it could have been raised as part of, or during, the overflow bypass project in 2009 or earlier, perhaps to make it more level and accessible for construction equipment. The Army Corps of Engineers also reportedly did considerable work along the creek following the floods of 1995. In any case, as is evident in the panoramic photo below of a portion of the access road, the slope of the edge of the road indicates the presence of compacted fill. The road is clear of brush and relatively smooth, with no ruts from flowing water. There are no overflow channels evident that would naturally have been created from creek overflows (cutting ruts from north to south) across the access road, and down-slope into the flood basin south of the creek. Since the access road is raised and without creek overflow channels, it is directing flood water to overflow to the north, not to the natural flood basin to the south.



A long-time resident of the Oak Terrace Mobil Home Park, whose home is just north of the creek, was present in this home during the 1995 and 2023 flood events. He observed the creek during both floods from his back yard as they rose and receded. He states that in 1995, the flood waters rose and flowed to the south, filling the flood basin south of the creek, with only a few inches of water in his yard. In stark contrast, the 2023 flood waters did not flow south into the flood basin, instead they flowed north, covering his back yard with (approximately) 20 inches of water.

As discussed earlier in this report, observations from the 2023 floods indicated that the massive amounts of large debris blocking the flow of the Santa Rosa Creek flood waters under the Windsor Blvd bridge, contributed to (and perhaps were among the main causes of) much of Cambria's flooding during the storms of 2023.

The following Google map image indicates the general areas along (adjacent to) the Santa Rosa Creek on the East Ranch, where remnants of fallen trees, debris, overgrowth, and non-native tree growth have been identified by the author and other observers. Fallen trees, overgrowth, and debris are evident in the creek in this area as well.

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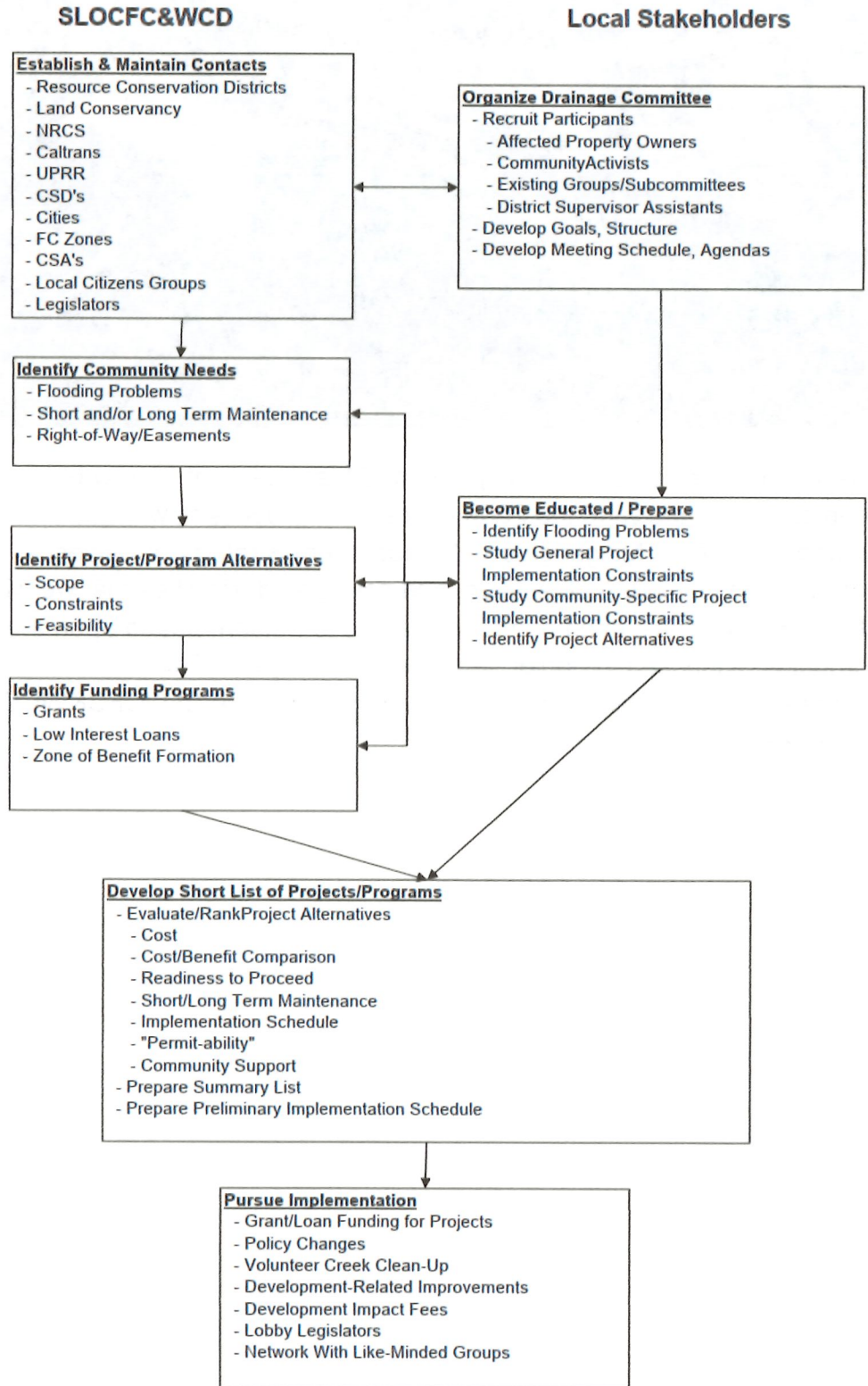
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The following Proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan was derived from, and is in conformance with, the 2009 Guide. The process flow chart below, entitled “Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Strategy” provides a graphic illustration of the interconnected objectives, and associated activities that we will need to undertake to bring Cambria’s flood control project(s) to fruition, based upon the concepts and local impacts discussed in earlier sections of this report. The chart identifies division of primary responsibility for each activity between the SLOCFC&WCD and Cambria’s Local Stakeholders.

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Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Implementation Strategy



Next Steps

The CCSD is clearly not the only Local Stakeholder in the Santa Rosa Creek Watershed flood risk mitigation and management process.

The Santa Rosa Creek watershed involves a diverse group of Local Stakeholders who play crucial roles in its management and conservation. Here are some of the other key stakeholders:

1. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve: Beginning in 2000, FFRP has worked continuously to maintain and enhance the Ranch. FFRP volunteers, often in collaboration with Cambria Community Services District staff, have transformed the Ranch from degraded rangeland to the treasure we enjoy today.
2. Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD): The US-LT RCD engages in restoration projects and collaborates with various partners to benefit the community. In 2020, the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) received a \$653,250 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore the habitat on a portion of Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria. This project seeks to address an infrastructure problem in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. A portion of Santa Rosa Creek Road was identified as at risk of falling in to Santa Rosa Creek as a result of streambank erosion. The County of San Luis Obispo approached the US-LT RCD looking for solutions to this possible road failure, and the US-LT RCD saw this as an opportunity to not only repair the conditions affecting the road but also to restore critical steelhead spawning habitat. [Updated information on this effort is needed].
3. Greenspace -The Cambria Land Trust: Focuses on environmental conservation and has been involved in developing the Santa Rosa Creek Watershed Management Plan.
4. Local Landowners and Residents: Participate in watershed management and restoration efforts, providing historical and current information.
5. Agricultural Sector: Farmers and ranchers who manage land within the watershed and contribute to its ecological health.
6. Business Community: Local businesses that support and benefit from a healthy watershed.
7. Planning Advisory Groups: Offer guidance and input on land use and watershed management.

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8. Environmental and Fishing Interests: Groups and individuals concerned with the health of fish populations, particularly steelhead trout.
9. San Luis Obispo County: In addition to the SLOCFC&WCD, the North Coast Advisory Council (NCAC) and other SLO County departments and committees oversee various aspects of watershed management and public works.

The phases to accomplish the Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan are grouped under the general progress phases described on the above SLOCFC&WCD flow chart, along with the associated division of primary responsibility, as follows:

Phase	Description	Primary Responsibility
1	Identify & Contact Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management (CFRM&M) Stakeholders and Organize the CFRM&M Committee	CCSD Staff, supported by the CCSD R&I Committee, as authorized by the CCSD Board of Directors
2	Enlist the support of the SLOCFC&WCD	CFRM&M Committee
3	Establish & Maintain Contacts	SLOCFC&WCD
4	Identify Community Needs	SLOCFC&WCD
5	Identify Project / Program Alternatives	SLOCFC&WCD
6	Become Educated / Prepare	CFRM&M Committee
7	Develop Short List of Projects/Programs	SLOCFC&WCD
8	Identify Funding Programs	SLOCFC&WCD
9	Obtain Funding	SLOCFC&WCD / CFRM&M Committee
10	Pursue Implementation	SLOCFC&WCD / CFRM&M Committee
11	Project Delivery	SLOCFC&WCD / CFRM&M Committee

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Once we get to Phase 4 above, we will follow the Guide's Project Implementation Steps, as described above and repeated, in part, below for clarity:

Project Implementation Steps

Step 1: Define the CFRM&M Project

This requires that an engineering feasibility analysis be performed. The situation that needs to be corrected must be defined, alternate solutions must be investigated, and options must be analyzed to determine the most feasible way to proceed in terms of engineering, financial and environmental considerations.

Step 2: Prepare formal Project cost estimates

Step 3: Identify and obtain funding source(s)

Step 4: Design and construct the Project

Once the Project is defined and a funding source is established, the project must be designed, environmental procedures must be followed and required permits or approvals obtained, and the project can then be constructed and operated. The applicable environmental issues will be identified at the beginning of the process and kept in mind throughout implementation to ensure that permits can be obtained and that any required mitigation measures are accounted for in the project work plan and budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the CCSD R&I Committee review, discuss, and finalize the analyses and recommendations for the Proposed Cambria Flood Risk Mitigation and Management Plan included herein for submittal to the full CCSD Board for Board of Directors for approval and implementation – on an urgency basis – to address Cambria's very real and growing flood concerns. If supported by the R&I Committee, approved by the Board, and taken on to be directed by the SLOCFC&WCD, a phased, step-by-step, comprehensive flood risk mitigation (short term) and flood risk management (long term) plan would be developed by the SLOCFC&WCD and CCSD Staff in coordination with the other appropriate State, County, and Local Stakeholders and regulatory bodies, to secure the necessary funding and approvals to begin implementing the needed remedial and maintenance actions as soon as possible.

