

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BoardComment](#)
Subject: September 16, 2021 CCSD Board comment
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:16:39 PM

September 16, 2021

Cambria Community Services District

RE: Public Comment

President Steidel and Members of the Board:

I am writing to strongly encourage the Board of Directors to direct CCSD staff to take all actions necessary to initiate operation of the Water Reclamation Facility as soon as possible. This effort would include, but not be limited to, harmonizing the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan with CCSD's existing Municipal Code as contemplated in today's agenda item 7.D. While there may be issues in declaring at least a Stage 5 water emergency until the board can finalize said harmonization in mid-October, there's no reason staff cannot begin preparing the WRF for operation now.

There are two main reasons to activate the WRF as soon as possible. The first, and most obvious reason is that, based on current well levels, and with no rain in the forecast, our community is on the cusp of a true water emergency. While Cambria residents have done an admirable job of conserving water, commercial and visitor serving facilities such as hotels and vacation rentals do not appear to have taken to water conservation with the same enthusiasm. Ratepayers have spent millions over the past seven years to fund the WRF as an "insurance policy" in the event of a drought such as we are currently experiencing. It is time to "file a claim" on that policy and provide existing ratepayers a return on that investment, and enough water to survive without additional hardship until (hopefully) the winter rains replenish our aquifers.

The second reason is that actual operation of the WRF will provide the community with opportunity to determine exactly how much water the facility can safely produce and at what cost. Seven years after the facility's construction, we still don't have answers to those two critical questions. This is the perfect opportunity to replace models and estimates with hard data. The district should carefully track both the usable output of the facility (how much water makes it from the injection point to the wells) and the actual costs to produce that water. These costs include debt service on the loan, staff time to permit and operate the facility, upkeep and maintenance, the cost of the electricity to run the RO system and deliver the water to the injection site, and disposal of the waste brine generated by the facility. Environmental costs should be included in the analysis as well.

Developing a clear, real world understanding of what the facility can produce, and at what cost will have the additional benefit of providing existing ratepayers, permitting authorities and other stakeholders with the factual information required to make informed decisions regarding water availability and cost going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Jim Townsend
Cambria, CA.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BoardComment](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 7D - Is the math right?
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:53:45 PM

The purpose of the stages don't seem to reflect the reality of actual water use...

I know this ordinance is the culmination of a long public process and yet another checkbox marked off if you pass this today. But, before you enshrine these stages and guidelines in an ordinance, I urge you to consider the unwritten assumption: that the largest majority of households are currently using 14 units per billing cycle. Does this assumption reflect actual water consumption patterns?

From one section (pasted below), one could "reverse engineer" a baseline consumption estimate of 8-9 units per billing cycle, per person. Assume average number of people per household in Cambria is 1.75, and that's 14 units per billing cycle. Does this amount of consumption represent the largest number of residential customers?

It is the purpose of a Stage 4 Water Shortage Emergency to reduce consumption by up to forty (40) percent.

3. Residential Uses. A maximum monthly use limit of three units per permanent resident is established for separately metered individual residential dwellings and for each separate residence within residential uses with two or more residential dwellings on the same meter (e.g., apartments and mobile homes). Each residential customer account is allotted three units per month. Customers may request an increase in the allotment of units by completing a permanent resident certification form provided by the district. The breakdown by household size is as follows:

Household Size	Units/Month
1 permanent resident	3 Units
Each additional permanent resident	3 Units each

Also of note: the purpose is "to reduce consumption by *up to* forty (40) percent." **UP TO**...that target seems to be in the wrong direction. You could say stage 4 is successfully enacting its purpose even if only 5% reduction is achieved.

It's great that the District has made so much progress. Keep setting the barre high.

Amanda Rice