COTTON, SHIRES AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND GEOLOGISTS

October 2, 2024
SLO6241

Jeremy Freund
Project Planner, Development Review
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

SUBJECT: **Geologic Peer Review**
RE: Cambria Sustainable Water Facility Project (SWF)
APN# 013-051-024 & 013-051-008
San Simeon, California
Proj. # DRC2013-00112

At your request, we have completed a geologic peer review of the Regular Coastal Development Permit application for the Cambria Community Services District's (CSD) Sustainable Water Facility using the following documents:

- Coastal Development Permit Project Description prepared by Cambria Community Services District; dated August 2024;

- Feasibility Study and Assessment of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, Sustainable Water Facility, prepared by Cindy Cleveland, and Robert Gresens, dated February 15, 2019; and

- Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, Cambria Sustainable Water Facility Project, prepared by Michael Baker International, dated July 12, 2017.

In addition, we reviewed pertinent technical documents and aerial photos from our office files.

DISCUSSION

Based on our review of the referenced documents, we understand that the applicant proposes to make modifications to the Sustainable Water Facility Project (SWF)

including brine storage tanks and off-site hauling, lagoon surface discharge, new conveyance piping, and modified SWF Operations. We understand that the SWF was constructed in 2014 under an Emergency Coastal Development Permit, and consists of injecting treated wastewater into the San Simeon well field in an effort to boost aquifer groundwater levels for a more consistent water supply for Cambria, which derives all of its potable water from groundwater pumping.

SITE CONDITIONS

The subject property is characterized, in general, by mostly level to gently inclined alluvial floodplain topography associated with San Simeon Creek. The creek boarders the SWF site on the south and contains moderately steep embankment slopes. Van Gordon Creek flows through the site from the north, and San Simeon creek from the east. Their confluence is located just southwest of the site, before flow into the Pacific Ocean approximately 1 mile west.

According to published geologic maps, the project site is underlain, at shallow depth, by marine terrace deposits and alluvial deposits. Marine terrace deposits consist of unconsolidated cobble-pebble gravel. Alluvial deposits are typically gravelly sands that grade upward to sandy or silty clays. The site is located within a floodplain, where dense, sandy to silty clays with coarse lenses are common. Within a 1 mile radius of the site, Franciscan Complex Melange (i.e., consisting of a chaotic assemblage of varying rock types, often including serpentinite, greenstone, chert and sandstone ina sheared, clay rich matrix) and Cambrian Sandstone (i.e. thick-bedded, medium grained arkose) are mapped.

The County Landslide Hazard Map indicated that the site is located in a '*low potential landslide risk*', with areas nearby on steeper slopes and along creeks that are located in a '*high potential landslide risk*.' The County Liquefaction Hazards Map indicated that part of the site is located in a '*high potential liquefaction risk*' zone. The site is located approximately 500 meters from a concealed fault of the potentially active Cambria fault and 3 miles southwest of the potentially active Oceanic fault. The site is located 5 miles southeast from the active San Simeon fault zone and 20 miles southwest of the active Rinconada fault. The active San Andreas fault is located 41 miles to the northeast of the site.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The SWF project is potentially constrained by settlement of alluvial soil materials, liquefaction, and the susceptibility to very strong seismic ground shaking. Based upon our review of the referenced documents, it appears that the SWF would not be significantly impacted by geologic hazards, and thus, we do not have objections to the proposed project from a geologic standpoint.

LIMITATIONS

This geologic peer review has been performed to provide technical advice to assist the County in its discretionary permit decisions. Our services have been limited to review of the documents previously identified, and a visual review of the property. Our opinions and conclusions are made in accordance with generally accepted principles and practices of the geotechnical profession. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, either expressed or implied.

Respectfully submitted,

COTTON, SHIRES AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
County of San Luis Obispo Reviewing Geologist

John Wallace
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