

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [BoardComment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Date:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:35:08 AM

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President Howell, Vice President Dean, and Directors:

General Manager John Weigold recently told the CCSD Board of Directors that District finances are healthy and sound, and the majority of the board, with the exception of Director Farmer, listened silently to this observation. I take the majority's silence to mean that they concurred with Mr. Weigold's view of the District's fiscal well-being. I find that troubling.

As I understand it, the CCSD desperately needs to address very significant infrastructure problems that will put the District in the position of financial liabilities in the untold millions of dollars: these pressing issues include addressing serious problems with the wastewater treatment plant, the pump station, the temporary water main across state park property, and who knows what else.

I don't consider these obligations...in addition to the continuously ongoing debt incurred by the disastrously flawed and essentially unused but potentially obsolete plant now known as the Water Reclamation Facility...as a sign of the District's 'sound financial health.'

As the faces of the Board and General Manager have changed in the past few years, I had hoped that the District would be put on a more fiscally sound, financially responsible trajectory. Unfortunately, I feel that hope has yet to be realized. However, I believe the Board can still seize the opportunity to take really constructive steps to bring about positive change to address the mess former Boards have gotten the District into.

Yet one thing is true. The District can't just keep asking the community to give them more and more money when it appears there is little to show for what has been received so far from previous rate hikes. As for the future, please be as specific as possible as to how monies are being spent.

Also, I especially request that the Board seriously consider the financial consequences placed upon the ratepayers of our community with the 30-year Multi-Million Bond presently being considered by the District.

Thank you for your attention,

Donald Archer,  
Cambria

P.S.: Please include these comments in the public record.

**From:** [JAMES TOWNSEND](#)  
**To:** [BoardComment](#)  
**Subject:** Board Comment: July 14, 2022 Agenda Items 7A and 7B  
**Date:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:00:49 PM

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TO: CCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Jim Townsend, Member of CCSD's Policy Committee

**RE: July 14th Board Agenda Items 7A and 7B**

As a member of CCSD's Policy Committee, I am writing to encourage the Board to develop and adopt a District Code of Ethics and a District Climate Change/Climate Crisis Policy.

I understand that CCSD currently requires appropriate staff, Board of Directors and appointed committee members to comply with State Law AB 1234. As a former public agency official and current CCSD appointee who was required to take the two-hour online ethics compliance training every two years, I can attest that the online training is woefully inadequate to address the complex ethical issues that can arise in today's highly charged political climate. Developing and adopting a Code of Ethics consistent with the template provided by the California Special Districts Association will address two matters of import to Cambria's ratepayers. First, it will provide a clear and consistent roadmap for CCSD staff, elected and appointed officials to deal appropriately with potential conflicts of interest and other ethical issues that may arise in the performance of their duties. Second, it will convey to all that CCSD is committed to acting in conformance with the highest ethical standards.

And, given that the twin dangers to our community (catastrophic wildfires and running out of water) are both exacerbated by climate change, it would be very useful for CCSD to do its part to address the dangers to our community posed by climate change by adopting policies to address those impacts.

It appears that the vast majority of California's public agencies, including special districts, have adopted both a formal code of ethics and a climate change policy. While I'm sure everyone connected to CCSD strives to operate with the highest ethical standards and concern for the climate, adoption of formal polices would send that clear message to all interested parties. Conversely, the refusal to act on either of these issues would send a different sort of message, and will likely subject the District to well-deserved criticism and additional scrutiny.

Thank you for your service and the opportunity to provide these comments.

**From:** [Christine Heinrichs](#)  
**To:** [BoardComment](#)  
**Subject:** Written comments  
**Date:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:06:59 PM

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Please include in the record:

**Item 7A:**

Other California communities have written their own ethical guidelines, covering subjects such as conduct, conflict of interest, use of district property for private purposes, relationships and communication with staff members. Having a Code of Ethics could give board members guidance on district business and the public confidence in elected officials – sorely lacking.

Surely the district should have a standard code to apply to elected officials, as the CSD Association recommends. The Policy Committee (full disclosure, my husband Gordon is vice-chair) is working from the CSDA Handbook of Sample Policies for CSDs. The Institute for Local Government, a research arm of CSDA and others, has resources to address this in more than one page, [https://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/csac\\_ethics\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/csac_ethics_booklet.pdf)

Local government ethics should be guided by four principles:

- » Public officials may not use their offices for personal financial gain.
- » Holding public office does not entitle one to personal advantages or perks.
- » Transparency promotes public trust and confidence.
- » Merit-based decision-making based on fair processes produces the best results for the public.

Cambria's board should ask the Policy Committee's assessment as to the need for a Code of Ethics.

**Item 7B:**

I ask the board to appoint this ad hoc committee to take this to the next step. As with water conservation, everyone needs to be on board to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the effects of the climate crisis. The California Air Resources Board appeals to local governments in its Draft 2022 Scoping Plan, [https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-draft-sp-appendix-d-local-actions\\_0.pdf](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-draft-sp-appendix-d-local-actions_0.pdf): Local Government Actions are Crucial for Supporting Attainment of the State's Climate Goals.

There's lots Cambria can do, such as buying emission-free vehicles and reducing miles traveled.

When ideas like this come along, I look at the many ways Cambria could be a national, even international model community in climate crisis action. We've got everything going for Cambria: Small size, intelligent citizens who have time and willingness to be involved, natural resources to conserve.

I strongly support the board to take the next step in moving toward a Climate Crisis Policy. Thank you.

**Item 8 NCAC report**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The board may want to give attention to the plight of the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse Lens. This unusual Fresnel lens is a significant historic artifact, and a beautiful attraction. Right now, it's at risk because the structure in which it is housed is rusting and in danger of collapsing. If it does, the lens will be irreparably damaged. Other agencies are involved in finding a permanent home for this valuable piece of Central Coast history. I ask the board to add its voice and whatever help it can to saving the lens. Thank you.

Thank you!

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Christine Heinrichs