

9 September 2003

The Board of Directors
Cambria Community Services District
1316 Tamson Drive, Suite 201 Cambria,
CA 93428

Dear Directors:

The community of Cambria caught my attention years ago because of its public commitment to conserving trees, land, and water. Now in the past year Cambria's leadership in conserving water has taken very specific form in rules, tips, guidelines, and surcharges. The "drought" is cited as the reason for these actions.

Cambria's leadership in conservation can inspire even more hope when grounded in a comprehensive vision of the quality of life. Cambria rests at the Pacific Ocean's edge, among oak and Monterey pine, within coastal meadows and valleys, along sandstone cliffs. Conservation means celebrating and caring for the wider community that sustains human life.

The motels, gift shops, restaurants, residences, schools, community center, places of worship, library, stores, clubs--all this and more rely on elements we humans call natural resources. Oxygen from trees, water from ocean, creeks, and air, ground for foundation and food provide resources manipulated by us. How we care for them touches not only self-interest but also the interests of all other life now and in the future. Even without drought, comprehensive quality of life requires conserving.

Cambria's leadership in conservation could expand from the rules so well stated in the CCSD newsletters and website. I offer some possible steps.

1. Provide presentations for local schools on the infrastructure of water and waste systems and how water is used and disposed in Cambria. How do children and teenagers in Cambria now learn about conservation?

The presentations by the fire department for local schools might be a guide here. Field trips to the creeks and treatment plants could also be part of educating to conserve.

2. Cooperate with the realtors in Cambria to provide a water conservation brochure for persons who want to move into existing or new houses here. The material provided so far in the CCSD newsletter and website could be a starting point for this brochure. 3. Cooperate with the Cambria Chamber of Commerce to develop and provide a plan of action and a descriptive brochure about businesses' water conservation.

4. Create an ad hoc committee with owners and employees of motels and bed and breakfast houses to develop a water conserving plan for tourists' overnight visits. Cambria's leadership in conservation could expand to combine ecological education with tourism, a distinctive characteristic for a coastal community.

5. Develop an explicit environmental and ecological educational function for the cross-town trail and the possible community park. For example, how do Santa Rosa Creek, the hills, the watershed, the ocean, and the air interact to make a soccer field possible? Might 4-H, FF A, and science classes in local schools help plan the sites and ways they get used?

6. Develop a cooperative arrangement with the ranch and farm community to expand the tourism base to include attention to water sources and uses in the Santa Lucia range, the ranch and farm land, and Cambria. How do the agricultural base, the ocean, and tourism interact? Might the Farmers' Market play an educational role here?

7. Cooperate with the many service and advocacy organizations in and around Cambria to develop an annual Conservation Celebration. This could provide ongoing

education, reminders, and perhaps an annual prize for the best new idea for conserving natural resources. Grammar school children could be the judges.

8. Write a weekly column for *The Cambrian* on conserving and recycling resources,

9. Expand the community's commitment to recycling, a creative component of conserving. Recycling standards from the last century will no longer meet today and tomorrow's needs,

For more than two decades Moonstone Beach and San Simeon State Beach have inspired me. Years of vacationing and now a full-time resident's daily walking along the ocean disclose life's complexity. Whether by-the-wind sailors creating waves on the beach, or dolphins surfing on swells, or young Herrmann's gulls huddling together against the wind-each reminds us of our dependence on every part of the whole planet.

Hoping your deliberating and directing keep this dependence at the forefront of Cambria's leadership in the use of water, ground, humans, and other resources, I am,

Attentively Yours,

Elizabeth Bettenhausen
345 Plymouth Street
Cambria, CA 93428

cc: Vern Hamilton, General Manager