

December 14, 2009

Cambria Community Services District

Dear President Sanders and Directors:

If and when a desalination plant is ever built in our area, it is critical that the growth inducing effects of turning on an endless stream of desalted ocean water must first and foremost be mitigated by limiting how much water will be produced and what total effects it will have on population growth in our area. Build Out Reduction is required mitigation for the growth inducing impacts of the CCSD Water Master Plan EIR. The CCSD is required by environmental permitting agencies and the law to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in its water planning and to consider the growth inducing impacts of water projects and implement feasible mitigations to reduce significant environmental impacts caused by this growth.

Although not publicly announced or discussed in a public setting, a few of our CCSD Directors and General Manager Rudock are in discussions with San Simeon Community Services District, regarding the transfer of water from Cambria to San Simeon for future growth in San Simeon. (see San Simeon meeting minutes April 2009 thru November 2009.) This is a huge issue that affects Cambrians as it violates the intent and spirit of the BRP, and Measure P. Why hasn't this issue been brought before the public in a CCSD meeting this year when discussions have taken place as far back as April? When did directors plan to inform Cambrians they are discussing the transfer of water from Cambria to San Simeon? Citizens have a right to know in public, what our Directors are planning.

Selling, transferring, or giving water produced in Cambria to areas outside of Cambria boundaries is in opposition to the past and present Build Out reduction citizen's committee's work. Page 10 of the final BRP report lists measures needed to ensure success. Number one on that list is to "**Limit water/wastewater service to lots within current CCSD boundaries.**"

To try to ensure any new water supply would not be growth inducing and the water would be limited to Cambria's boundaries, Measure P was placed on the ballot in 2006. It reads:

MEASURE P

The Board of Directors shall not authorize the extension of water service except nonpotable water for agricultural and irrigation purposes for outside of the District boundaries, as the boundaries exist at the enactment of this ordinance, for residential, industrial, or commercial purposes without first completing environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act or its successor statute, amending the Water Master Plan, and then submitting the question for approval to the voters of the District. The property owner seeking water service will pay the costs of the application and election in advance.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the ordinance requiring a majority vote of the electorate of the Cambria Community Services District to provide potable water service outside the 2006 District boundaries be adopted? YES OR NO

Cambrians voted in favor of Measure P by a whopping 78.55% with 76% of Cambrians turning out to vote in 2006. Cambrians continue to be denied the right to vote on desalination, but we overwhelmingly support limiting future growth caused by the addition of any additional water supply in our area as was shown by this vote in favor of Measure P.

The 2006 Cambria BRP Final report states (Page 10, Item 2), "**The desalination plant has been designed for 4,650 residential connections so there is no excess capacity available.**" If there is no excess capacity available in the proposed desalination plant, where is this water coming from? Letters are on file from the North Coast Alliance, Friends of the Ranchland, Greenspace, and the North

Coast Advisory Council as well as from many individuals in the Cambria Water Master Plan EIR, the San Simeon Water Master Plan, the North Coast Area Plan, and Cambria and San Simeon Acres Area Plans supporting area wide growth restriction, preserving the character of both Cambria and San Simeon, in support of build out reduction in general, and Measure P specifically. Obviously, these planning documents are already being undermined if there is enough excess capacity in this proposed desalination plant to provide water to San Simeon. Citizens have repeatedly provided written letters of testimony and spoken publicly against overdevelopment a new water supply may cause.

Quoting from the Executive Summary of Cambria BRP, Cambria's Build Out Reduction program is "in alignment with the Cambria and San Simeon Acres Community Plans of the North Coast Area Plan". How is this possible when San Simeon was not included in Cambria's Build Out Reduction program and current CSD Directors are in talks with San Simeon to transfer water to that area for future growth? Potential growth-inducing impacts must be considered for those communities that receive the water, as well as those where the desalination plants will be located. The transfer of water from Cambria to San Simeon has a major effect on future planning for the entire North Coast Area, but was not considered and evaluated in public documents that are meant to guide us in enacting these plans.

In addition to meetings between Cambria and San Simeon CSD's regarding future desalination, Supervisor Bruce Gibson offered to be a "friendly broker" between the District and Cambria CSD with regard to the District being able to benefit from Cambria's pending desalinization project. (April 8, 2009 San Simeon minutes). In August San Simeon minutes the headline was "San Simeon is Joining efforts with Cambria on Desal Project"!

In light of this new information and discussions, and the promise that desalination will not be growth inducing a full scale Build Out Reduction task force should begin for the village of San Simeon, as was done in Cambria. Citizens must be able to see the total overall impacts desalination and population growth will cause in our area and identify funding to mitigate these impacts. Cambrians should not be paying for new services needed in San Simeon from the effects the increased population growth caused by desalination will have on our rates, on area schools, on fire services and healthcare services.

Citizens should know this: we are being put on notice that, lacking specific language in planning documents preventing such action, growth will not be restricted to Cambria when excess capacity is already being built into the desal equation. The price tag on Cambria's BRP is 38 million and no funding has been identified. Without specific data we have no way of knowing what San Simeon BRP will cost or how it will be funded. As desal skeptics have been saying all along – we have not yet arrived at a the true, total cost of ocean desalination, but we do know costs continue to rise and now BRP and associated costs for San Simeon must be added to this mounting debt.

Sincerely,

Mary Webb
Cambria Ratepayer

PS - I understand the CCSO Gen. Manager does not retain email correspondence. Please include my letter and any attachments as part of the public record on this matter.

Cc: Bruce Gibson, SLO County Supervisor
Rep. Lois Capps, Congress
San Simeon Services District
Interested parties

CA Coastal Commission
Cambria BRP Committee
SLO County Planning