

Rokke, Jon@Waterboards

From: Bill Currin <bcurren@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Rokke, Jon@Waterboards
Subject: Comment Letter - Cambria WDR Update

Dear Mr. Rokke;

I am writing in support of the Cambria *EWS Project*, as detailed in the RWQCB "DRAFT STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9-10, 2019," prepared on January 15, 2019.

As a long-time resident of California, a geologist, a steward of the environment and a property owner in Cambria, I see only positives in the ability of the CCSD to operate the EWS Project on an as needed basis.

I do not see the EWS Project as environmentally neutral, but positive. There are clear advantages to keeping the aquifer at bank-full conditions, as this promotes dry year and year-round flow to San Simeon Creek. Another significant advantage is the ability to provide "mitigation" water to the San Simeon Lagoon. A positive outcome of the Project already realized is the reduction of nitrogen in water being placed in percolation ponds and into the aquifer (when the EWS Project is in operation). Water recycling is a key benefit of the EWS Project, whereby partially treated effluent and brackish water is recovered, cleaned via reverse osmosis and injected into the aquifer.

As needed operation of EWS Project is a best-in-class way of dealing with the enormous year to year variations in precipitation. During the winters of 2013-16 state hydrologist were measuring the "mud pack" in the Sierra Nevada, in contrast to today's (2018-19) totals in excess of 150% of average. Human existence needs predictability in water supply, while not treading harshly on the ecosystems that supports us, the flora and fauna. Natural and man-made water storage is extremely limited: snow that falls this year in the Sierra and the water that fills the aquifers this winter and spring is mostly depleted by the beginning of the next water year.

The EWS Project, conceived in the throws of a severe drought, benefits residents and the environment through its ability to adapt water supply to large year to year precipitation variations. For these reasons, I support Cambria *EWS Project* and the RWQCB recommendations.

Best Regards,

Bill Currin