

3/7/2019

John Rokke, Water Resource Control Engineer
Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Mr. Rokke:

This letter is in response to the Cambria WDR update. To begin, I support the changes the Board has formulated. There are so many issues surrounding this Emergency Water System but I focus here on a small number.

First, the amounts of hazardous chemicals that are going to be included in the water used to mitigate the extraction from the San Simeon Lagoon: Sodium Bisulfite is a known toxin to fish. Using Sodium Bisulfite in the de-chlorinating process will introduce cumulative amounts that will surely be deadly to newborn fish in the nursery. I am aware that ordinance allows for these low levels to be released, but we do not know yet how the dewatering of the Lagoon will affect that threatened species habitat and we do know that the chemistry will accumulate given the volume of 57,000 gallons each operation day for six months each year.

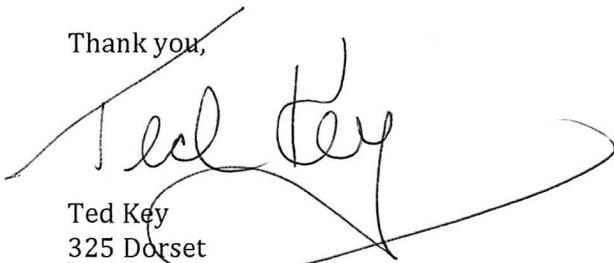
In addition, placing MF system flush water into the earthen percolation ponds allows for seepage, and subjects the local area to dangerous chemical accumulations over time. I will not discuss each of the other chemicals, as their MSDS points out the dangers in them. We do not yet know what chemicals are used for the de-scaling.

Cambria CSD has an epic record of failure to create reports and due diligence on this project. How can we trust that more failures won't occur and that the CCSD will report/respond to them in a timely manner such as the effluent pond failure reported by a citizen that forced their report? Our town nearly lost our water source with MBTE intrusion and now we're contemplating these risks. There's no room for error in our fragile environment! This AWTP is absolutely an Emergency Stage Three drought system. It should be operated only under those conditions. We must only subject these delicate ecosystems minimally.

I agree with President Wolfe who said at a Watsonville meeting "this project was way too ambitious for our small town." We should have, and still will, at some point, need to build the 700 acre foot reservoir on Mr. Warren's non-blue line drywall canyon, which is still available to us. With millions of available state grant money we should get started.

Again, I support the changes your board suggests and know that none of those changes shuts the system down permanently. Sadly, this whole affair continues to absorb way too much of your staff time.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Key", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom of the signature.

Ted Key
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