

Rokke, Jon@Waterboards

From: Clive Mettrick <clive@busreslab.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Rokke, Jon@Waterboards
Subject: Comment Letter - Cambria WDR Update

Importance: High

My wife and I are part-time residents of Cambria. We spend the lion's share of our time in Houston, but head to Cambria when the Houston heat becomes unbearable in the summer. I trust that this does not render my opinion any less valid. Indeed, perhaps my opinion should be given greater weight, because most part timers are not as well versed in the water issues facing Cambria. I have taken the time to understand what Cambria's water needs are and how the EWS is key to solving those needs.

During our first summer in Cambria, we were in the middle of a severe drought. There were severe restrictions on water usage (which only made sense, given that the EWS was only a pipe dream then). We showered with buckets in the bathtub, and then used the water we captured in sometimes unsuccessful attempts to keep the plants in our yard from dying. We lost many plants and a couple of trees that year and the next. Many days we could not shower at all. We (yes, this is a bit disgusting) didn't flush the toilet each time we used it. It was a horrible situation.

Of course, most Cambrians also rose to the challenge and conserved whatever water they could. It was a stop-gap measure. All California residents should practice water conservation, but what we had to do was extreme and not a long-term solution to Cambria's water problems. Our population is aging, and asking octogenarians and older folks to carry buckets of water around on an ongoing basis is ridiculous. (We aren't octogenarians yet, but we hope to be someday.)

The most important thing to ensuring Cambria's future and the welfare of its residents is obtaining a permanent permit for the Emergency Water Supply (EWS), so that it can be used whenever needed, without having to rely upon the judgments of whatever politicians happen to be in power during the next drought. One of the keys to the approval of the EWS's permanent permit is the RWQCB's approval of the proposed new brine-disposal method.

I understand that the Central Coast Regional Water Control Board's staff has been working closely with the CCSD staff on changes to Order No. R3-2014-0050. I applaud the hard work that has gone into this and want to do whatever I can to ensure that these efforts are fruitful. This letter is my attempt to help.

Unfortunately, you will receive letters to the contrary. It is important to understand just what is going on here. There are a handful of very loud individuals in Cambria who have an ulterior motive; that is, to prevent any growth to Cambria. They view the EWS as a threat, because if Cambria has an adequate water supply, they fear someone may someday be able to build a house on the land that they purchased with the understanding that they would someday be able to build. The opponents have every right to feel the way they do, but they do not have the right to try to drown out the opinions of the majority of Cambrians, who strongly support a permanent permit for the EWS.

While I have been away, I've been monitoring the weather in Cambria closely from a 1600-mile distance. We've had a bit of luck with the rain this year, and I'm very happy about that. However, we cannot count on such good fortune in the future. We have an Administration in Washington blind to the fact that man-made climate change is causing weather extremes, including exacerbating the droughts we will experience. We cannot rely on Washington for solutions to our problems. We need to make our own luck, and our best hope at this is pushing the peanut forward and getting the EWS a permanent permit.

Please, PLEASE do whatever you can to keep this project on track. Listen to the RWQCB Staff's recommendations to keep us moving forward.

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