

Dear Ms. Bean, Chair Marcus, and Board Members:

I am writing to request that Cambria be exempted from additional mandatory conservation requirements. We have already implemented restrictions beyond those proposed. Cambria gets its water from wells and has no outside sources. Due to the near certainty of the drying up of the wells, in early 2014 the Cambria Community Services District restricted residential water usage to 200 cu. ft. per resident per month or 50 gallons per day. The consequences of exceeding the allotments are draconian. The CCSD has stated that the water to a property will be shut off if the residents go over their allotment for two months in a row. The result was an immediate 40% drop in water usage to 40 gallons per person. Perhaps there should be a Tier 0, with no additional conservation requirements, for those districts which have already substantially exceeded the target and which are already in Tier 2. Extraordinary efforts should not go unrewarded.

Cambria also invested \$3 million in a project to inject treated waste water back into the aquifer seaward of one of the existing supply wells. Cambria constructed a brackish water desalinization plant to treat the injected water. The project was completed in about nine months, including all the regulatory hurdles. It has been nominated for the best brackish water treatment plant completed in 2014 in a worldwide competition for desalinization plants.

Individually our conservation measures have been extreme. My family of two adults has cut its water usage to 35 gallons per day by taking short showers every other day, putting bricks in our toilet tanks, reducing the number of dishes we need to wash, even using the toilets less often. We stopped all landscape watering. As a consequence all of our non-drought resistant landscaping has died, including four of the five pine trees on our property. Those who have maintained their landscaping have done so by trucking in water. One man waters his plants by using the water captured in buckets while taking his showers. Another by moving her washing machine outside and using the outflow to water her plants. The town closed all the public toilets last summer. That's a bummer for a tourist town.

Cambria is nestled in a forest of Monterrey pines. Last year because of the drought and disease, forty percent of the pines died, leaving us in extreme danger of a catastrophic fast moving fire. It is highly probable that even a one or two acre fire would reach the uncontrollable stage before any outside aid could reach us. There will be mandatory removal of all dead and dying trees. Once again the cost will be borne by the Cambria residents, because the political machinery moves too slowly to help us.

In closing I ask that Cambria be exempted from any external restrictions. We are way out in front of what you have requested in your Fact Sheet. The water usage of the example Smith family would support two families in Cambria. The Jones family uses as much as 30 of us. With the water from a Tier 9 family we could start a building boom.

On the other hand, if you are giving out grants to communities which are at the cutting edge of conservation, we certainly could use the help.

Thank you for your time,
Russell Salsbury

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