

Joanna Jensen - FW: Resend: Scoping meeting to address desalination facilities and brine dis...

From: "Mary E. Webb" <maryewebb@charter.net>
To: dgregorio@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: 3/6/2012 9:30 AM
Subject: FW: Resend: Scoping meeting to address desalination facilities and brine dis...
CC: JJensen@waterboards.ca.gov
Attachments: ACE Scoping_15_17_49.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional.pdf; CCSD wants to lift moratorium.docx; Cambria director Alternatives.docx; hudzinski.pdf

Cambria's desal project was just denied a drilling location on the beach Dec. 9, 2011 by the CCC after being denied in San Simeon in 2006.

The Cambria CSD had already paid for an EIR for Desal therefore they and the Army Corps are moving forward without a description of a project, without an actual location for a project, or location for intake and outfall pipes. How can that be?

The Lobbyist tells the CCSD they can change wording from Desal to "water projects" and the CCSD thinks it can use the Desal money for 'alternate' water projects. In the meantime we're getting an EIR for desal for a town of 6,000 people who are actively and happily recycling.

At the same time, the CCSD is talking about alternatives to Desal esp recycling and conservation. The CCSD now is considering lifting the water moratorium based on conservation, even though we are considered a Level 3 Severity for water inadequate to meet the needs of the current population. CCSD believes they can just add hook ups and charge \$25,000 to \$35,000 for the privilege, even though we've been in a water moratorium for 12 years with no new water supply addition in all that time.

The hook up money would help pay for the conservation supposedly – although all money ends up paying for desalination lobbyists, consultants and engineers in the end.

A Desal Scoping session will be held March 15 in Cambria. What is happening here and why does this project live on no matter how many denials it has received from the Ca Coastal Commission the past 19 years?

Mary Webb

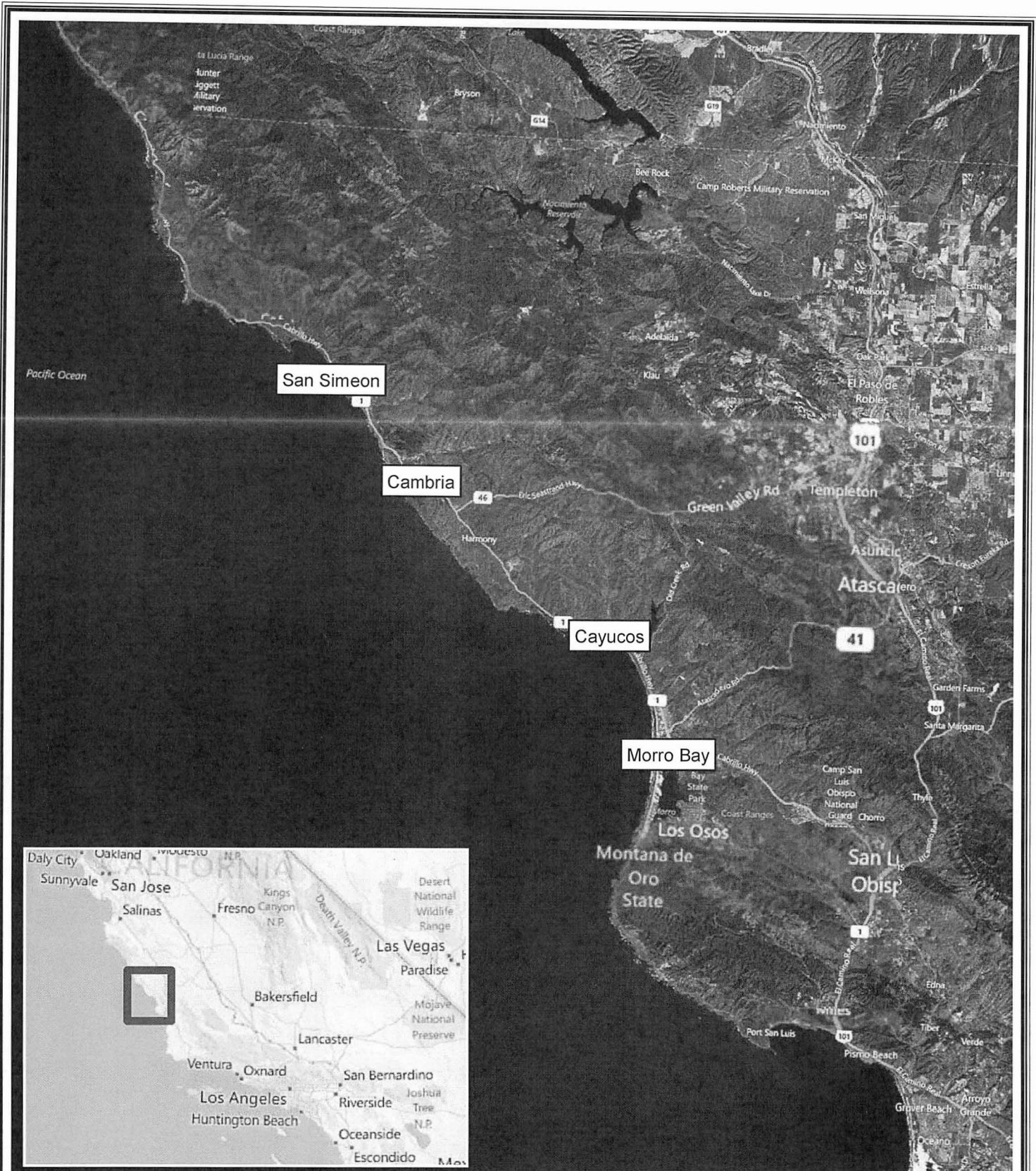
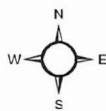


Figure 1
Cambria Water Supply
Project Vicinity Map



1:400,000



BILLING CODE: 3720-58

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers,

Intent to Prepare A Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Cambria Water Supply Project, San Luis Obispo County, CA

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Cambria Community Services District (CCSD), the non-Federal sponsor under a Project Cooperation Agreement dated March 27, 2006, intend to jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to study, plan, and implement a project to provide for a reliable water supply for the community of Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. The relatively remote location of Cambria has resulted in the area relying solely upon local groundwater for its current water supply. The groundwater supplies from the Santa Rosa and San Simeon groundwater basins no longer are adequate to meet existing demand under extreme drought conditions or to meet projected future demand in most years.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 24, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Kathleen Anderson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Anderson, (818) 776-9049 Ext. 2106; or E-mail at kathleen.s.anderson@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps intends to prepare a joint EIS/EIR to assess the environmental effects associated with the proposed project. CCSD is the state lead agency for the EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1. Authorization. The proposed project would be conducted in accordance with Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-580), as amended, which states in part:

“ ... **(a) IN GENERAL-** The Secretary is authorized to provide assistance to non-Federal interests for carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects described in subsection (c), including waste water treatment and related facilities and water supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities. Such assistance may be in the form of technical and planning and design assistance. If the Secretary is to provide any design or engineering assistance to carry out a project under this section, the Secretary shall obtain by procurement from private sources all services necessary for the Secretary to provide such assistance, unless the Secretary finds that (1) the service would require the use of a new technology unavailable in the private sector, or (2) a solicitation or request for proposal has failed to attract 2 or more bids or proposals.

(f) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE- The Secretary may provide assistance under subsection (a) and assistance for construction for the following:

(48) CAMBRIA, CALIFORNIA- \$10,300,000 for desalination infrastructure, Cambria, California.”

2. Background: Cambria, an unincorporated community, is located in the coastal region of central California, in the northwestern portion of San Luis Obispo County. Cambria lies within the Santa Rosa Creek Valley. Located along Highway 1, Cambria is approximately 35 miles north of San Luis Obispo and approximately four miles south of San Simeon. The primary transportation corridor that bisects Cambria is Highway 1, which traverses the community in a north-south orientation. Currently, Cambria has a population of approximately 6,400 permanent residents with a substantial tourist and second home population.

The CCSD provides water supply, wastewater collection and treatment, fire protection, garbage collection, and a limited amount of street lighting and recreation. The CCSD currently serves a population of about 6,400 as well as a large number of visitors to the Central Coast and covers approximately four square miles. The relatively remote location of Cambria has resulted in the area relying solely upon local groundwater for its water supply.

3. Proposed Project. To study, plan, and implement a project to provide for a reliable water supply for the community of Cambria in San Luis Obispo County, CA.

4. Alternatives. Potential water supply alternatives were compiled from studies conducted by the CCSD over a period of more than ten years identifying and evaluating potential sources of additional potable water for CCSD. The alternatives initially being

considered for the proposed project include seawater desalination, local and imported surface water, groundwater, hard rock drilling, and seasonal reservoir storage.

5. Scoping Process.

a. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project will be fully evaluated. Resource categories that will be analyzed include: physical environment, geology, biological resources, air quality, water quality, recreational usage, aesthetics, cultural resources, transportation, noise, hazardous waste, socioeconomics and safety.

b. The Corps intends to hold a public scoping meeting(s) for the EIS/EIR to aid in the determination of significant environmental issues associated with the proposed project. Affected federal, state and local resource agencies, Native American groups and concerned interest groups/individuals are encouraged to participate in the scoping process. Public participation is critical in defining the scope of analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR, identifying significant environmental issues in the Draft EIS/EIR, providing useful information such as published and unpublished data, and knowledge of relevant issues and recommending mitigation measures to offset potential impacts from proposed actions. The time and location of the public scoping meeting will be advertised in letters, public announcements and news releases.

c. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the environmental or socioeconomic impacts of the proposed project by submitting comments, suggestions, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements to (see **ADDRESSES**) or the following e-mail address:

kathleen.s.anderson@usace.army.mil.

d. The project will require concurrence by the California Coastal Commission with the federal Coastal Consistency Determination in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act, as well as certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Depending upon the recommended alternative, the project may also require additional real property rights for construction and operation of a facility, and compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

6. Scoping Meeting Date, Time, and Location. The Public Scoping Meeting will take place on March 15, 2012, 7:00PM to 9:00PM, Veterans Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428.

7. Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR. The Draft EIS/EIR is scheduled to be published and circulated in September 2012. Pursuant to CEQA, a public hearing on the EIS/EIR will be held by the CCSD following its publication.

February 15, 2012

R. Mark Toy, P.E.
Colonel, US Army
Commander and District Engineer
Los Angeles District

Feb. 17, 2011

District eyes lifting hookup moratorium

Can Cambria's services district lift a nearly decade-long moratorium on issuing new water connections before a new water source is online?

The Cambria Community Services District's counsel is expected to address that debate during the board of directors' meeting that starts at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, in the Veterans Memorial Building, 1000 Main St.

Board President Muril Clift said in an e-mail interview Feb. 11, "It is my hope we get a clear understanding of the steps necessary to lift the moratorium. It is my hope we can allow a small number of intent to serve letter to be released.

"The district has suffered from not having the potential revenue from the fees associated with new meters. When we were discussing goals, many citizens encouraged us to find a way to update the infrastructure of the water and wastewater system. Allowing a few homes to be started over the next few years could provide those needed funds to meet the concerns of our citizens regarding an aging infrastructure."

The board initiated the moratorium in November 2001 on a 4-1 vote, based on its declaration of an official water-shortage emergency six months earlier. There was much to be done before the ban would be lifted, directors said then, including completion of a long-delayed water master plan and further research into securing a new source of water that's not dependent on rainfall.

Since then, the board approved capping the town's residential water connections at 4,650 and put a "hard line" boundary around properties in the district, which would require a vote of the people for any expansions.

Directors inked an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to partner on the desalination project chosen as a supplemental water source, obtained a pledge of \$10.3 million in federal funding and a \$3 million credit for money the district has already spent, meaning it would not have to put up that money as part of a required 25 percent local funding match.

The California Coastal Commission called a halt to the district's plans to test for the ability to pull seawater from near the mouth of San Simeon Creek; a similar plan near the ocean end of Santa Rosa Creek has been on hold due to State Park constraints on drilling a test hole in a nature preserve there.

When the district might lift the moratorium on new connections has been a topic of discussion through the decade. It's also why, when Ilan Funke-Bilu was a director, he announced at every month's meeting how many days the moratorium had been in place.

Since Funke-Bilu left the board in 2008, former North Coast Advisory Council chairwoman Amanda Rice has taken up the cause, announcing the tally each month.

At the Feb. 24 meeting, she'll announce that the moratorium has been in place for 3,388 days, or 484 weeks.

—*Kathe Tanner*

Posted on Thu, Jan. 26, 2012

Cambria directors to put alternatives to desalination back on the table

Kathe Tanner

The Cambria Community Services District — still reeling from the California Coastal Commission's unanimous Dec. 9 vote against a series of sampling tests near the mouth of Santa Rosa Creek — is now seeking other possible locations from which to draw salty or brackish water into a desalination plant, and will also be taking a look at other possible alternatives for bringing stable new water supplies to town.

CCSD directors and staff said Jan. 19 they also expect to consult soon with the district's constituents and its project partner, the Army Corps of Engineers.

Alternatives would be considered during federal-and- state level environmental studies being done for the district's desalination project that, so far, doesn't have a location from which to get salty water and into which to deposit the hypersaline brine that the desalination process produces.

Options could include, but not be limited to, concepts considered in 1994 and 2004 reports, such as reservoirs for storing rainwater, water reuse and recycling programs or exchanging water rights from the Lake Nacimiento Reservoir for water from Whale Rock Reservoir.

Meetings coming

The Corps is to host a scoping meeting to present the desalination project concept and its alternatives to the public, perhaps as early as late spring, although no date has been set, according to Bob Gresens, the district's engineer.

However, there may be a meeting soon between district representatives and Coastal Commission staffers, Tom Luster, the commission's environmental scientist, said in an emailed response to The Cambrian on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

"We haven't heard from the Corps about what their next steps might be," Luster wrote, "though we are going to meet with the CCSD next week to talk about possible next steps."

Before the commission's December vote, the Corps had planned to test soil, sand and water samples from just below the mean high-tide line near Shamel Park and a state parks natural reserve area around the lower reach of Santa Rosa Creek. The testing could have helped show if conditions below the ocean's floor could yield enough salt water for the desalination plant.

In 2010, State Parks wouldn't permit a previous plan to perform those tests on its property there, saying under its reading of regulations governing preserves such activities are not allowed.

Options

A round-robin discussion between district directors, staff and audience members at the Jan. 19 meeting produced ideas to be considered by the district or the Corps, including:

- Hosting a free-flowing conversation between the board and its constituents in a workshop, to make sure all ideas, even remotely plausible ones, are being considered and investigated. That meeting would be held in advance of the Corps' scoping session;
- Having Corps scientists investigate using wire-wrapped screen intakes or similar alternatives to be placed on rather than below the ocean's floor, or reconsider the viability of drilling for salt water from an Lshaped "flag lot" the district owns on Lone Palm Drive, north of San Simeon Creek;
- Making sure any alternatives are reviewed with today's technology and costs, rather than relying on studies and estimates done in 1994 and 2004; and
- Accepting or deleting a "quality-of-life" increase to 18 units every two months for basic water use per residential customer. Director Muril Clift has been urging the district to examine in depth that concept in the Water Master Plan, in part because doing so could help determine "how much water the district ultimately will need" from its alternative water source.

If, for instance, the shortage is much less than originally projected, "We don't need to build the Taj Mahal for 100 acre feet" of new water, Clift said.

Board President Allan MacKinnon said, "We have to bring the alternative water supply (issue) to a head ... need to look at parameters of 2012 versus 2004. Perhaps the parameters should change," and the Corps could consider a project other than desalination.

Gresens said changing the project would require redoing the project-cooperating agreement between the district and the Corps, a lengthy process, but not an impossible one.

Joanna Jensen - RE: FW: Resend: Scoping meeting to address desalination facilities and brine dis...

From: "Mary E. Webb" <maryewebb@charter.net>
To: dgregorio@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: 3/6/2012 1:25 PM
Subject: RE: FW: Resend: Scoping meeting to address desalination facilities and brine dis...
CC: JJensen@waterboards.ca.gov

Thanks for writing back Dominic,

Based on your email, then, I would request that prior to the installation of any new intake or outfall pipelines (whether it's desal or not) in any area for any new water supply project the following criteria must be met:

1. Recycling and tertiary Treatment of wastewater should be fully implemented before adding new intakes/outfalls into the Ocean
2. Eliminating intakes/outfalls should take precedence over installing new ones. Ie – the town of San Simeon (just 4 miles north of the possible Cambria Desal location at San Simeon Creek) has an outfall that has been cited repeatedly for water quality violations to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Cambria could build an RO plant instead of Desalination, to tertiary treat wastewater from both Cambria and San Simeon thereby eliminating the outfall at San Simeon.
3. Desalination should be the last resort – and independent verification is needed to prove all other water supply alternatives, conservation and recycling have been exhausted.
4. Regional Desalination should be implemented prior to Desal for a small town like Cambria
5. the agency must provide actual customer billing data before claiming their community is out of water and the data must be independently verified.
6. prove to the Water Board that all requirements of all MOU's especially the Urban Water Management Act and the California Urban Conservation Council Best Management practices have been implemented and evaluated and that all required documents are up to date.
7. All environmental documents and new regulations, park locations must be identified and independently verified before siting new pipeline locations.
8. All recommended instream flow studies and habitat conservation plans must be in place and fully funded before adding growth thru new water supplies.
9. All other recommended environmental mitigations must be implemented and fully funded prior to adding growth thru additional water supply. (Cambria Forest Management Plan never funded).
10. Baseline studies for the Marine Protected Areas need to be completed with species identified, maps created and impacts of brine discharge assessed.

I think that's about it. Long story short – we've been thru a 19 year nightmare here and want to drive a silver spike thru the heart of this Desal Zombie, wrap it in garlic and seal up the tomb.

Mary Webb

From: Dominic Gregorio [mailto:dgregorio@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Webb, Mary E.

Cc: Jensen, Joanna

Subject: Re: FW: Resend: Scoping meeting to address desalination facilities and brine dis...

Ms. Webb

Thank you for the explanation of the process and status of the Cambria desal project. I want to assure you that the State Water Board's Desal Policy, for which you were just notified of the scoping meeting, is not a permitting or siting effort, and does not permit or site individual projects. Instead it will provide water quality objectives and implementation requirements for any desalination project, to be protective of the marine environment. Individual projects, if approved by the Coastal Commission and Regional Water Boards, would ultimately have to implement the desalination policy requirements when it is adopted (and effective). However the policy (water quality control plan amendments) will not specify which projects get permits or not.

Sincerely,

Dominic Gregorio,
Environmental Program Manager
Ocean, Wetlands and Watershed Section
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
916-341-5488
DGregorio@waterboards.ca.gov