



REGULAR MEETING

July 16, 2025
6:00 pm ZOOM CONFERENCE

1. Roll Call - Establishment of Quorum

Present: Christina Galloway, Jennifer Lawson, Jeff Bloom, Ted Key, Cecilia Montalvo, Kermit Johansson, Valarie Carr, Brian Glusovich, and Karen Chrisman.

Absent: Kristine Fox, Jeff Kwasny, and Brandy Cole.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Agenda
- b. Minutes
- c. Treasurer

Approval of Items a and b above were considered in one motion due to their routine and non-controversial nature. Galloway moved to approve, Lawson seconded, Council approved. There was no financial activity since the June meeting.

3. Public/Council Comment: Several attendees gave public comments. Topics covered included road safety for people and animals, the possibility of speed limit reduction in both residential and business areas in Cambria, and the tentative participation of the CCSD in a Zero Liquid Discharge pilot program for the disposal of brine waste.

4. County and Local Agency Reports

- a. **Law Enforcement:** Commander Darren Gennuso of the Templeton CHP was absent from the meeting. Commander Hank Abbas of the SLO County Sheriff's Office reviewed his written report, which was appended to the agenda. Cmdr. Abbas also reported on the recent stabbing incident in the East Village, which is still under investigation, and advised attendees on ways to protect themselves in potentially dangerous situations.
- b. **County Supervisor:** Supervisor Bruce Gibson was absent from the meeting. His Chief of Staff, Blake Fixler, reported the San Simeon CSD dissolution is progressing. In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Fixler will encourage Public Works Department personnel to attend a future NCAC meeting and report on speed limits and signage. In response to a question from the audience about the procedure for changing speed limits, Mr. Fixler said the state controls such changes, and the Public Works Department conducts studies to provide specific information and data to the County prior to any change. There was

discussion about next steps for attendees interested in lower speed limits. A member of the audience expressed his opinion that Supr. Gibson and Mr. Fixler should understand that most Cambrians are against any offshore wind projects.

- c. **Cambria Fire Safe Focus Group:** David Pierson was absent from the meeting. The minutes of the June 25, 2025 meeting were appended to the agenda.
- d. **Land Use Committee – Atlas Towers Update:** Chair Galloway, a member of the LUC Committee, gave an overview of a change to this project, details of which were appended to the agenda. Glusovich moved to send to the County a letter of approval for the change, Johansson seconded, Council approved.
- e. **Fire Season Preparation Presentation:** Retired Cambria Fire Chief Bob Putney focused his presentation on suggested minimum contents for a go- or bug-out bag, using a list from the CCSD Fire CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Mr. Putney also gave tips on how to store water for use in emergencies. The list is available on the CCSD website as part of a letter to the community dated 7/19/25 from the Fire Department; Mr. Putney will also share the list with Chair Galloway for inclusion on the NCAC website. Current Cambria Fire Chief Michael Burkey shared other useful websites: readyslo.org and readyforwildfire.org.

MEETING BREAK

- f. **CCSD:**
 - i. **CCSD Liaison Report:** CCSD Board of Directors member Harry Farmer provided an oral report in which he summarized the CCSD's recent meetings. Topics covered included ZLD (zero liquid discharge) for brine waste disposal, updated usage hours for the WRF, and the independent auditor's report. Mr. Farmer also reported that a special meeting will be held July 17th to discuss next steps for non-compliant properties in the weed abatement program; the contract on the Stuart Steet water tanks will also be considered at the meeting.
 - ii. **CCSD General Manager Report:** CCSD General Manager Matthew McElhenie provided an oral report. Topics covered included a visit by Utilities Department Manager Jim Green and others to observe a ZLD project in Coalinga which could become a pilot project for Cambria's WRF, and the status of non-compliant properties for weed abatement. In response to a question from the audience, Mr. McElhenie said the performance of the CCSD's new electric vehicle is satisfactory, and an electric tractor has also been purchased. In response to a question from the audience, Mr. McElhenie explained how general fund and enterprise funds reserves can be spent. He also reported that the Stuart Street water tanks project manager will give a presentation at a future NCAC meeting.
 - iii. **CCSD Fire Chief Report:** Fire Chief Michael Burkey summarized his written report, which was appended to the agenda. Chief Burkey also discussed evacuation/emergency topics, including animal evacuation plans, and encouraged attendees to obtain the Wildfire Action Plan, which is available at the fire station and on the CCSD website. There was discussion about the level of staffing at the Fire Department. CCSD GM McElhenie said the staffing level is sufficient, even with the end of the SAFER grant; Chief Burkey added that funding is constantly evaluated to ensure adequate staffing. Mr. McElhenie and Chief Burkey also announced the recent purchase of a new Type 5 Wildland Skeeter Brush Truck, which is not only smaller and lighter than the Fire Department's other engines, but it also is highly maneuverable and off-road capable in remote terrain.
- g. **Cambria Community Healthcare District:** CCHD Board of Directors President Cecilia Montalvo and Don Sather, a member of the CCHD's Facility Project Ad Hoc Committee, discussed the New Ambulance Station Concept Design Package, which was appended to the agenda and is also available on the CCHD's website. The package should be submitted to the County Planning and Building Department in early August; it will be evaluated by the LUC after referral by the County. Ms. Montalvo also said that, as a result of the closure of

some pharmacies in the County, the CCHD will compile information on the kinds of prescriptions that should be available in Cambria and nearby; this information will be made available to Cambrians.

6. Reports from Standing Committees and Special Interest Representatives:

- a. **Agriculture Report:** No report.
- b. **Transportation Report:** No report.
- c. **Outreach Committee:** No report.
- d. **Environmental Report:** Environmental Representative Chair Galloway gave an overview of the Greenspace Strawberry Canyon Wildfire Risk Reduction and Forest Health Project, which was appended to the agenda.
- e. **Business Report:** No report.
- f. **Correspondence Report:** No correspondence.

7. New Business: Several attendees announced upcoming events: a REACT Alliance celebration in Morro Bay on Saturday, July 19; a fundraiser for the Cambria skatepark at the Cambria Historical Society on Saturday, July 19; and a lecture on local wildlife presented by Roy Dunn at the Unitarian Universalist Community of Cambria on Sunday, July 20.

8. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Chrisman
Recording Secretary