



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Cambria CSD Says Water Project Tracer Test to End on Sept. 29; Well Levels Remain Adequate

Cambria, CA – The Cambria Community Services District today confirmed that the “tracer test” to determine the safety of its Emergency Water Supply (EWS) project is scheduled to end on Sept. 29, at that time, delivery of drinking water to CCSD customers will resume from wells in the San Simeon Creek aquifer.

Until then, water from these wells will continue to be diverted to an injection well as part of the tracer test, which tracks the re-injected water to see how fast it travels back to the drinking-water wells. The purpose of the test is to ensure that travel time is long enough to ensure safe operation of the EWS facility.

During the tracer test, the CCSD has been relying on wells in the Santa Rosa Creek aquifer. As of September 15, the water level in SR3 and SR4, the CCSD’s current production wells there, stood at 18.55 and 21.35 feet above sea level, respectively. This is down from levels that are typical of this time of year, but not at a level low enough to raise the near-term risk of a loss of water supply. The level is adequate to cover the community’s needs between now and the resumption of water delivery from the San Simeon Creek wells.

Also, the level of the downstream Windsor Boulevard monitoring well has been gradually increasing, signifying a lowering risk of saltwater intrusion. On Sept. 15, the well was at 3.28 feet above sea level.

The San Simeon Creek wells near normal levels for this time of year, averaging 10.94 feet above sea level. They are expected to be adequate for Cambria's needs until the EWS is on line as long as current conservation efforts continue. The facility is due to be completed in mid-November.

"Cambrians have done a great job in helping our efforts to prevent a water shortage disaster with truly heroic efforts to save water," said CCSD General Manager Jerry Gruber. In August, water consumption was down 43% from the same month of 2013, marking the fifth consecutive month with year-over-year drops of 40% or more. "This achievement is remarkable, and it has involved considerable hardship and expense to residents and businesses alike," he added. "The good news is that the Emergency Water System will soon be on line to give the community a much needed boost to its supplies to ensure that basic needs of health and fire safety are being met."