

Agenda No. 9.A

September 23, 2010

Peter Chaldecott, CCSD Director

THE SEARCH FOR WATER

**CCSD SUPPLEMENTAL
LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Per past Board direction, this is part 1 of 3 presentations

1. History and Background – Today's subject
2. Alternatives Considered – Oct. meeting
3. Costs and financing – Nov. meeting

Cambria's Quest for Water

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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1862-1864

The Great Drought occurs. "...the creek dried up and cattle were driven over cliffs to end suffering.**

1898-1899

Second worst drought in Cambria history. Slows completion of coastal rail route through SLO County.*

1959

Cambria County Water District is formed.

1960

Monterey County's Weyerling Fire spreads to Nacimiento and Cambria. Fire halted within one mile of Hearst Castle.

1972

- California Coastal Commission voted in by State with jurisdiction over coastal access, view shed and resources.
- Coastal Commission requires Cambria set aside a minimum 20% of resources for Visitor Serving Facilities (hotels/restaurants/campsites).

Mid 1970s

Major drought results in over-pumping Santa Rosa Creek. Subsequently, CCSD acquires land adjoining lower San Simeon Creek to provide additional potable water to Cambria.

1988-1991

- Major drought causes CCSD and residents to adopt stringent conservation methods.
- Results in immediate 35% reduction in water consumption.
- Most restrictions still in force two decades later.

1993-1994

CCSD directors vote to pursue seawater desalination to provide reliable water supply to Cambria.

1889

Major fire burns down Cambria's business district. Only 6,000 gallons of water available for fire fighting.

1966-1967

- Cambria residents call for election to request powers to provide Cambria with "water for domestic use, irrigation, sanitation, industrial use, fire protection and recreation."
- SLO County creates a services district with five elected directors to perform many public-benefit functions except land use planning.
- CCSD consolidates responsibilities of five existing special districts, expanding service area to current one.**

1976

- The Cambria Community Services District (CCSD), a multipurpose special district, was formed under Community Services District law.
- CCSD now provides water and sewer, fire protection, operation/maintenance of Vets Hall, public restrooms and other facilities, as well as ownership and management of the 440-acre Fiscallini Ranch Preserve.

1991

CCSD Residential Water Wait List is closed.

1986

CCSD Residential Water Wait List is formed.

1996

Seawater desalination plant is fully permitted and ready for construction bids.

1997

Proposed desalination design considered inadequate by new board of directors; permits allowed to lapse.

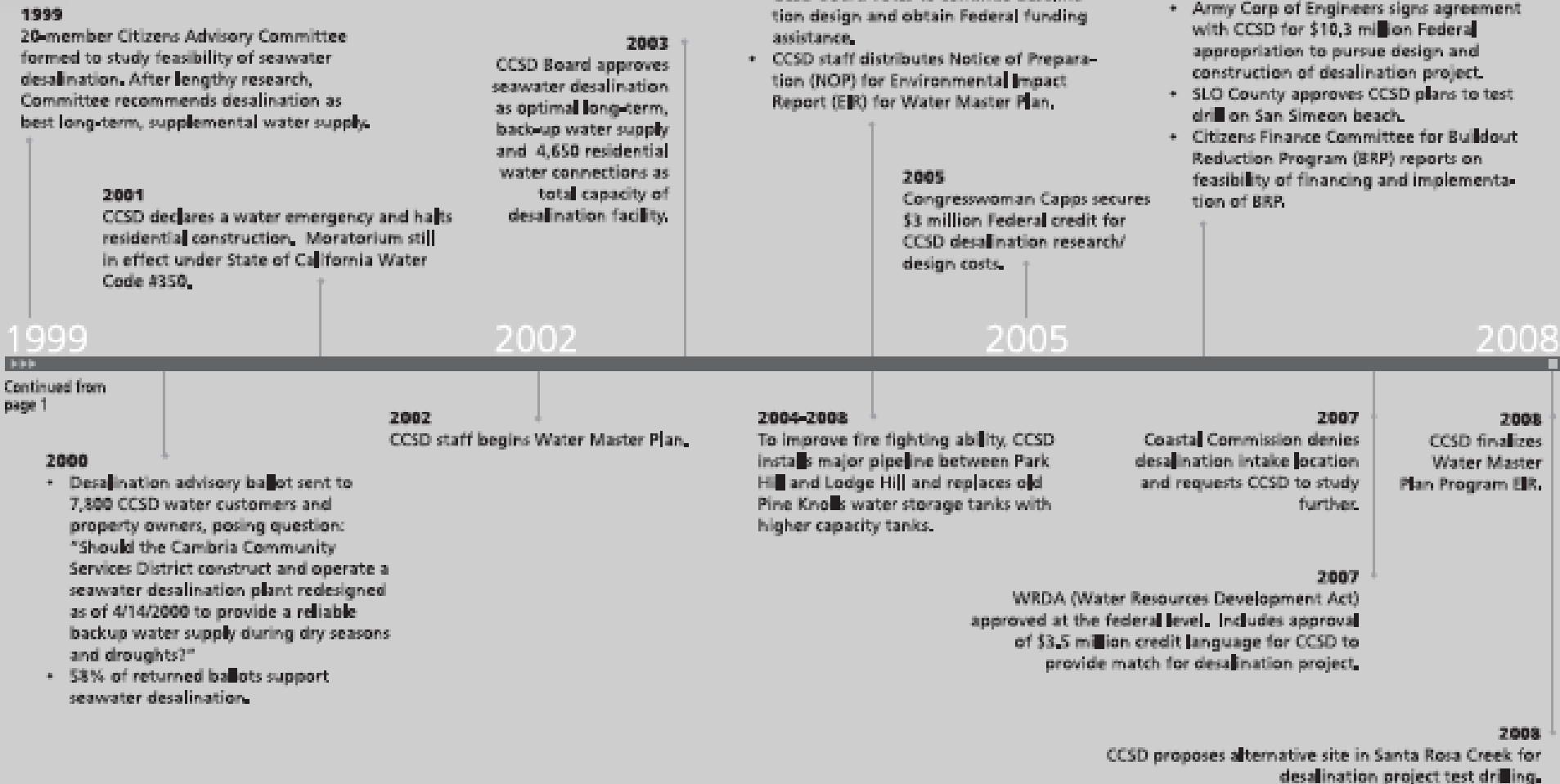
*Dan Krieger, CAI, PO, historian

**Agencies combined: Cambria Community Services District: water and wastewater for Moonstone Beach Drive area; Cambria County Water District: water and sewer for most of community; Cambria Fire Protection District: fire protection for entire community; Cambria Garbage Disposal District: refuse collection and disposal for entire community; San Luis Obispo County Service Area No. 6: street lighting services for portion of community.

Cambria's Quest for Water

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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CCSD proposes alternative site in Santa Rosa Creek for desalination project test drilling.

Desalination Background

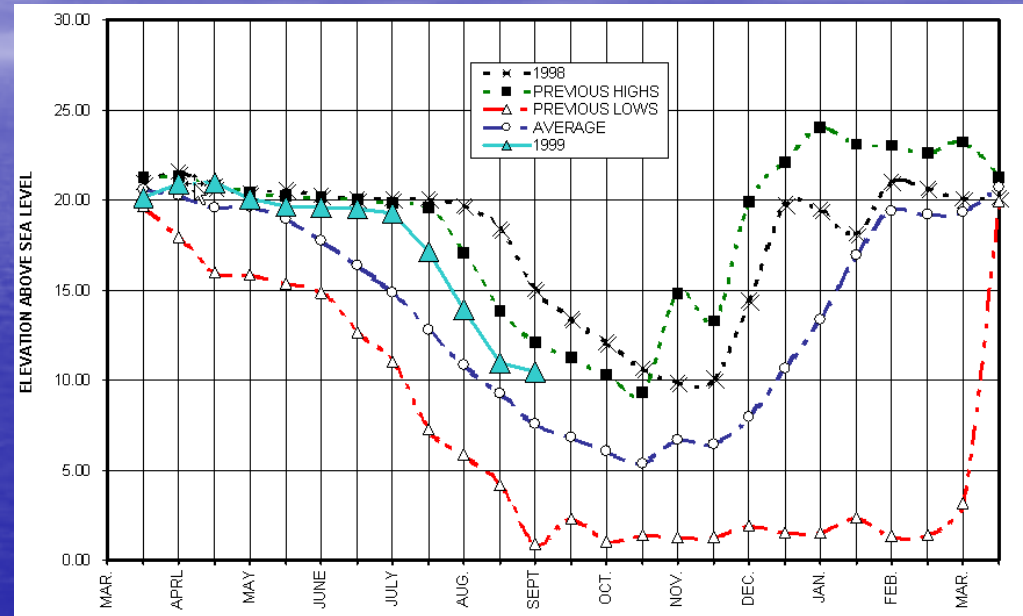
- Mid 1990s – original desalination project designed
- 1999-2000 – value engineering of earlier design
- 1999 - Local Citizen's Committee confirms support
- 2000 – Advisory ballot supports desalination
- 2001 – 2004 Draft Water Master Plan Reports:
 - Potable water distribution improvements, recycled water, & long-term supply
- 2006 – WRDA Project Cooperation Agreement with Army Corps; \$10.3 million Federal, with 75/25 Federal/Local participation
- 2008 – WRDA, \$3 million local credit authorization

Why we are pursuing desalination

- Reliable supply during dry seasons & drought
- Additional source enhances fire protection
- Maintains threatened & endangered species

Reliable Supply During Dry Seasons & Drought

- No imported water source
- Dry season demand increases (e.g., tourism) at a time when local supplies are diminished.
- Dry season and winter recharge vary - without recharge (multi-year drought), saltwater intrusion could occur.
- Drought surcharge penalties used to curb demand



Aquifer level vs. Month

From the Governor Advisory Drought Planning Panel Oct. 2000

- "Critical water shortage Contingency Plan"
- On Page 3-10 titled "Rural Self-supplied water users" .. (That's Us)

"Past droughts demonstrated that self-supplied water users in rural areas experience the greatest public and health impacts. There are virtually no existing programs to assist such users"

Added Water Source During Fire

Recent picture from Kern
County Fire Dept...



Cambria has a long urban-wildland fire interface

May never have enough water for a major conflagration, however,

- Desalinated water has an infinitely sized storage reservoir for its supply source (I.e., The Pacific Ocean)
- Would augment existing aquifer water, which could already be at low levels due to fire season typically coinciding with the driest periods.

Environmental Concerns

- Water is a shared resource



- Critical habitat for steelhead rules out certain supply approaches, such as in-stream dams
- Steelhead recovery planning could further limit aquifer use

Questions?