



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Press Release: SWF Production for 2015

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New Water Facility Produced Nearly 69 Acre-Feet in 2015, Cambria CSD Reports

Production Report Also Notes Improvements in Aquifer Management and Protection of San Simeon Creek Lagoon Environment

CAMBRIA, CA – The Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) today released a report on production during 2015 by its Sustainable Water Facility (SWF), which first went into operation in January of that year.

The SWF produced a total of 22.47 million gallons, or 68.93 acre-feet, of high-quality potable water during 2015. This water was injected into the San Simeon Creek Aquifer, the primary water source for Cambria residents and businesses (see chart below for details).

The facility achieved this production with its operation limited to weekdays and, in general, to no more than 40 hours per week. It started up on January 20, 2015 and ran for all or part of eight months during the year, on 112 days in all, until shutting down for the season on December 31. To increase total output, the facility is capable of operating on more days and, if necessary, around the clock.

The CCSD noted other aspects of SWF operation that have benefited Cambrians and their environment:

- The SWF has enabled the CCSD to manage its two aquifers – San Simeon Creek and Santa Rosa Creek – more efficiently. In the fall months, output from the SWF made it possible to increase the production from San Simeon Creek wells while relying less on Santa Rosa Creek water. In August (before the SWF startup on Sept. 20), the CCSD was drawing 61% from Santa Rosa Creek wells and 39% from San Simeon Creek wells. In the three full months of fall operation – October, November and December -- the shares of production from the two aquifers were reversed, with 61% from San Simeon Creek wells and 39% from Santa Rosa Creek wells.
- The SWF has provided CCSD operators with a more efficient means of managing groundwater levels in the San Simeon Creek Aquifer during the late summer and early fall. This is the time of greatest potential for development of a reverse hydraulic gradient, in which the groundwater level is higher at the treated wastewater effluent ponds than at the upstream potable-water wells. Before the SWF was built, operators would prevent this reverse gradient by pumping brackish water from the effluent pond area into the ocean. This practice lowered the amount of stored fresh groundwater available upstream and wasted potentially

treatable brackish water. Now, operators are able to capture the brackish water, treat it, and inject it into the potable well field for reuse.

- While in operation, the SWF improves local groundwater quality through its inherent design, which serves to remove salts, nitrates and other impurities from the extracted water before the treated water is re-injected back into the ground for reuse.
- In addition to producing potable water, the SWF delivered about 100 gallons a minute of micro-filtered secondary treated wastewater into the San Simeon Creek Lagoon during periods when San Simeon Creek was not flowing. As a result of this activity, which delivered nearly 7 acre-feet of this mitigation water during 2015, the lagoon was maintained in a healthy state with fresh, clear water.

Chart of monthly production:

Month	Days of Operation	Potable Water to San Simeon Creek Aquifer via Injection Well		Mitigation water to San Simeon Creek Lagoon	
		Million gallons	Acre-feet	Million gallons	Acre-feet
January	8	1.81	5.55	0.33	1.01
February	18	4.68	14.35	0.34	1.03
March	20	4.07	12.49	--	--
April	13	2.48	7.61	--	--
May	--	--	--	--	--
June	--	--	--	--	--
July	--	--	--	--	--
August	--	--	--	--	--
September	8	1.20	3.68	0.03	0.09
October	16	2.63	8.07	0.36	1.10
November	12	2.05	6.29	0.40	1.23
December	17	3.55	10.89	0.82	2.52
<i>2015 Totals</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>22.47</i>	<i>68.93</i>	<i>2.28</i>	<i>6.98</i>

About the SWF

Cambria’s Sustainable Water Facility, originally known as the Emergency Water Supply project, was constructed in 2014 to provide near-term emergency drought relief and to ensure a stable long-term water supply for the Cambria community. Its operation is currently governed by an emergency Coastal Development Permit (CDP) issued in May 2014 by San Luis Obispo County. The CCSD is in the process of obtaining a regular CDP that would enable it to run the SWF for maximum efficiency and environmental benefits, without the need to impose Stage 3 water use restrictions on CCSD customers.

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