



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE: CCSD EWS STARTUP

January 22, 2015

Cambria Emergency Water Supply Plant Goes Online

Production Milestone Follows State Board's Approval of Insurance Plan, Comes Less than a Year After Project's Start

CAMBRIA, CA – The Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) today announced that its Emergency Water Supply (EWS) project has begun producing potable water for CCSD customers. Production started shortly after 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, less than a year after the CCSD Board initiated the design, engineering and construction of the EWS project.

Treated water from the EWS is now being injected into the San Simeon Creek aquifer, where it will recharge the wells that supply most of Cambria's drinking water.

This milestone comes after an approximately two-month start-up period following completion of the facility last November. During this time, the CCSD commissioned and tested the EWS, as well as submitting an operations, monitoring and maintenance plan (OMMP) and other documents required under permits issued by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The project was cleared to go into production mode after the last of these documents -- a Financial Assurance Mechanism – was approved by the RWQCB on Friday, January 16. This consists of performance bonds covering the potential costs of post closure and corrective action at the facility's brine evaporation pond. The costs of the two bonds equal 2% of the Corrective Action Plan estimate which is \$3,500,000. The annual cost to the CCSD for these two bonds is \$70,000.

During this initial production phase, the CCSD expects the EWS to operate 10 hours a day, four days a week, for up the three months. The EWS prime contractor, CDM Smith Constructors Inc., will run the plant primarily in order to optimize its operation and to train CCSD staff. Following that, the decision to continue water production will depend on drought conditions and the state of the San Simeon Aquifer. Under terms of the emergency Coastal Development Permit that authorized its construction and operation, the EWS is allowed to run only when Stage 3 water conservation restrictions are in effect.

The EWS is a brackish-water treatment facility that processes groundwater through microfiltration, reverse osmosis, UV sterilization and advanced oxidation. It produces about 300 gallons per minute, or 1.3 acre-feet per day, of potable water.

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