



## Press Release

March 2, 2016

For immediate release

### **Cambria CSD Updates Count of Valid Rate Increase Protests**

#### **Total Is Revised Downward to 971, Representing One-Fourth of Customers**

CAMBRIA, CA – After careful tabulation, the Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) reported today that it received 971 valid protests regarding the increase in water and sewer rates that takes effect on March 1, 2016. The updated total excludes duplicate, invalid and questionable protests among the 1,223 protests that had been received by the February 12, 2016 deadline.

The revised total represents just under a quarter (24.7%) of the CCSD customer base. Under the State's Proposition 218 procedure, opponents needed protests from a majority of customers – 1,969 for water service or 1,915 for sewer service – to block the new rates.

Most of the excluded protests (184) were duplicates from the same parcel. Another 17 were invalid. These either were unsigned or did not include a valid address or assessor's parcel number, and in one case did not include a name or address. Questionable protests, the validity of which could not be determined by the CCSD, totaled 51. If all these had been found to be valid, they would bring the total share of valid protests to 26.0% of customers.

The total number of protests, at 1,223, is slightly higher than the 1,219 reported at the February 12 public hearing on the new rates. The difference is due to several protests that were found to represent more than one parcel with water or sewer connections.

Under State law, protests will be kept on file at CCSD headquarters and will be available for public inspection until February 12, 2018 -- two years after the hearing date.

The impact of the new water and sewer rates will vary by levels of water consumption. For a residential customer using 3 units per month (about 75 gallons a day), total water and sewer charges will rise about 24%, from \$67.85 to \$84.47.

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