

Date: May 28, 2022

To: Harry Farmer, Chairperson Policy Committee

Re: Needs Assessment for Climate Change Policy

Dear Chairperson Farmer,

This request is the result of a discussion and motion which occurred during the Policy Committee's Regular Meeting on May 26, 2022. The committee voted to request that you forward a Needs Assessment for a climate change policy to the CCSD Board of Directors as outlined in the CCSD Bylaw 1.7.3(b). The Bylaw states, "The Policy Committee shall ...identify potential areas of policy needs not currently addressed in the CCSD Policy Handbook, and develop needs assessment regarding impact due to lack of policy and immediacy of need. The Committee Chair shall provide the needs assessment to the Board members for consideration."

The following information outlines the need for a CCSD Climate Change Policy:

As of May 2021, the scientific community is in agreement that we are now in a climate emergency. The latest reports on sea rise from the California Coastal Commission explain the alarming encroaching tide line that will challenge all coastal communities. Recognition of this and other threatening conditions for the planet and our local environment are part of the climate emergency. Recognition of the potential impact of sea level rise on fresh water storage capacity of the San Simeon and Santa Rosa Creek aquifers and on the associated water supply and waste treatment infrastructure is apparent.

Leadership in environmental stewardship while providing water and sewer services to meet the needs of the community's residents, businesses and guests lies within the purview of the CCSD, as does meeting water needs with production, storage, and efficient equipment for energy reduction practices throughout the system.

The District has already made some efforts to continue reducing electrical consumption, carbon emissions, waste generation and disposal. There appears to be a need to initiate further efforts in the following areas:

1. Prioritizing renewable power for office buildings, water treatment plants, equipment and tertiary systems.
2. Choosing electric and hybrid vehicles for purchase and/or leasing as equipment needs arise.
3. Actively encouraging and monitoring implementation of water saving fixtures throughout the community.
4. Assessing the environmental impact of utilization of recyclable products in the everyday activities of the CCSD.
5. Partnering with other agencies to enhance forest management, including defensible space monitoring.
6. Supporting Cambria's Dark Skies Initiative.
7. Exploring alternative green power sources for the community.

Our unique community of Cambria needs the CCSD Board of Directors to provide leadership in this very important realm which could begin with the adoption of a policy addressing how the District and Cambria's citizens can be active in preserving and conserving our precious environment.