

From: [Christine Heinrichs](#)
To: [BoardComment](#)
Subject: Written comment September 26 Special Meeting
Date: Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:09:42 AM

Item 3 Public Comment

In regard to the impetus for this Special Meeting, re-adopting the Garbage Rate Increase: The September 15 meeting was chaotic and should not carry the weight of official action.

Board members disgraced themselves with their antics. Their disregard of the public, the voters who put them into their office, revealed their contempt for Cambrians. Board members thought it was funny. Not one of them came to the Vets Hall to hear ratepayers' protests in person.

More than 60 ratepayers came to the Vets Hall, which was the site stated on the notice for the meeting. The board comfortably stayed home, on their computer screens. As staff struggled to connect the technology so that all could see and be heard, Board President Donn Howell recited "Jabberwocky" as an extended sound test. It apparently didn't occur to him to read the agenda to the assembled public, or read from the district's Strategic Plan, or anything else that might have been informative and helpful. His mirth contrasted to the public's outrage. Director Steidel offered her own poem, joining the fun.

In Christina Tobin's recording of the meeting at the Vets Hall, the public's dissatisfaction with the issue, the process and the board was audible. They weren't laughing. I am grateful to Ms. Tobin for making the recording and posting it for the public to view.

General Manager John Weigold admonished the protesting ratepayers and called the sheriff for protection. Three responding deputies decided we could all handle a spirited public meeting.

President Howell and District Counsel Tim Carmel agreed that the meeting notice telling the public to come to the Vets Hall was not what they intended. It was written by Mission Country Waste Disposal, the company asking for the rate increase. Neither of them bothered to read what the public got as the main notice. None of the board members registered any embarrassment or shame at not having read their own notice.

All board members failed to serve the voters who put them in office that day. Perhaps this experience will inspire board members to more thoughtful attention to their own business in future. After attending this meeting, I am not optimistic.

Item 5: Adjourn to Closed Session

Please advise Mr. Weigold of his rights as a contract employee and take steps to terminate his contract. He has struggled to perform his job in the past, but the accumulated problems now mount high enough that Cambria should look outside the district for another general manager.

Mr. Weigold's poor leadership at the September 15 meeting dismissed any claim he could make to district leadership. He was short-tempered with the public, initially refusing even to attempt to accommodate the Vets Hall attendees with technology. He made no effort to conceal his smirking contempt for the ratepayers who were trying to be heard at the Vets Hall. Thanks to Carlos Mendoza for stepping up to make the required connections.

The Coastal Commission's Notice of Violation is the result of years of poor water management by the district, but it has come to fruition under Mr. Weigold's leadership. It remains unresolved. Mr. Weigold has not resolved this issue. Indeed, the district has approved

a permit application for an Accessory Dwelling Unit in defiance of the Coastal Commission's ban on such units in Cambria.

Ditto the Coastal Development Permit application for thee EWS/SWF/WRF. Now, the estimate is the end of 2022, eight and a half years after construction. Is the public expected to believe that the well-paid staff has been unable to complete this permit application? Or is it being slow-walked into oblivion? Mr. Weigold is ultimately responsible for this.

The Electric Vehicle Charging Station was originally Mr. Weigold's idea, to make money for the district. Until he was told that that was illegal. The district can only recover costs, not make a profit. Then it was installed in the wrong place, a Handicapped parking place, for which he claimed no responsibility. It wasn't done in secret, it's in the Vets Hall parking lot. Moving it remains unresolved.

Mr. Weigold favors locating the Skatepark at the East Ranch, a location opposed by skateboarders and most of the general public. His leadership on that issue has also been poor.

He accepted a teaching assignment out of state, making him absent from the district for one or more days a week. Now, he proposes to promote an employee to serve as Assistant General Manager, at a significant pay increase. Which is it: That he can handle his responsibilities as a part-time general manager, or that even working full time he needs an assistant?

Please raise these issues with Mr. Weigold and weigh them as you evaluate his job performance. Thank you.

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Christine Heinrichs

From: [Donald Ruiz](#)
To: [Leah Reedall](#)
Cc: [Donn Howell](#); [Karen Dean](#); [Cindy Steidel](#); [Harry Farmer](#); [Tom Gray](#); [Tina Dickason](#)
Subject: Prop 218
Date: Saturday, September 24, 2022 12:13:02 PM

Mr. Howell and Board Members:

We are writing this letter to officially, strongly, object to Prop 218.

We were in attendance at the meeting/hearing held Sept. 15, 2022 regarding trash rate increases in Cambria.

The technical malfunctions on the date and time of the said meeting were horrendous and lasted for over 45 minutes.

Several members of the community left the meeting as they had taken time from their days to attend a meeting that was fraught with problems making it impossible for us to be heard and/or allowed to express our concerns directly to the Board. This disorganization and technical difficulties put the meeting and outcome in severe jeopardy and compromised any type of effective outcome.

We are requesting and encouraging you (and every Board Member) to re-notice the Prop 218 meeting in an effort to provide your constituents the opportunity to speak and communicate directly to the Board thus providing a fair and equal means of participation by all concerned.

We are also strongly requesting that the Board takes it upon themselves to meet with the community members face to face. In the event face to face is not an option, we are strongly requesting and encouraging this Board to take it upon themselves to ensure proper equipment and a means of communication is in optimum working order so that there is not another waste of time for all involved.

Sincerely,

Barbara and Donald Ruiz


Cambria, CA 93428



September 23, 2022

Donn Howell
President, Board of Directors
P.O. Box 65
Cambria, CA 93428
dhowell@cambriacsd.org

Via Email and Overnight Delivery

Re: Proposition 218 Concerns

Dear Mr. Howell and Board Members,

It has come to our attention that the purpose of Item 4.a. on the September 26, 2022, special meeting agenda is to discuss the Proposition 218 hearing held on September 15, 2022, for trash rate increases in Cambria.

We understand that there were such severe technical malfunctions that many members of the public were not able to be heard. These members came to 1000 Main Street to personally voice their concerns over the rate increases and, possibly, to submit written protests. The candor in Item 4.a. regarding non-compliance with the Brown Act is appreciated. Given, among other potential concerns, that members could not be heard and were so heavily disoriented by the malfunctions, HJTA feels the Proposition 218 process was compromised as well.

We encourage you to re-notice the Proposition 218 hearing and to provide effective means for public participation. Incidentally, we also encourage you to review your franchise agreement with Mission Country Disposal. As you are likely aware, the recent Supreme Court decision in *Zolly v. City of Oakland* disapproved of franchise fees for trash service and acknowledged that customers have standing to challenge them.

Kind regards,

Laura E. Dougherty
Director of Legal Affairs

CC: Karen Dean “kdean@cambriacsd.org”; Cindy Steidel “csteidel@cambriacsd.org”; Harry Farmer “hfarmer@cambriacsd.org”; Tom Gray “tgray@cambriacsd.org”; Leah Reedall “lreedall@cambriacsd.org”; “boardcomment@cambriacsd.org”.

From: [John F. Weigold IV](#)
To: [Leah Reedall](#)
Subject: Fwd: September 26,2022
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 9:56:17 AM

FYI

Best, John

John Weigold
General Manager
Cambria Community Services District

(O) 805-927-6230

(M) [203-912-5652](tel:203-912-5652)

Begin forwarded message:

From: mahala burton [REDACTED]
Date: September 26, 2022 at 9:37:02 AM PDT
To: "John F. Weigold IV" <jweigold@cambriacsd.org>
Subject: September 26,2022

September 26,2022

Attention General Manager and Board members

Subject: MCD Waste Collection rate increase

I am not opposed to the rate increase. I recognize Cambria is a rural community that may not have alternative waste companies to choose from and that California a state with 40 million people has federal and state laws that impact the fees and are no fault of the board.

The level and quality of service MCD provides for my home and family fulfills our needs and I have no complaints. I do not want service reduced to bi -monthly .

With the new rate increase and after the 6 month extra charge my daily rate will be about \$1.30 ..per day.

I do not find this prohibitive nor profit mongering by MCD.

I will add that any suggestion that bullying of the board or staff is acceptable behavior is nonsense and should be dispelled and never tolerated under any circumstances.

Regards,

Mahala Burton