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To Haley Dodson <hdodson@cambriacs.org>



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT

Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Matt Jaffe, Secretary PROS Committee
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Written Public Comment:	<p>To the Board, While it's tempting to describe the prospect of establishing the East Ranch Community Park as a once-in-a-generation opportunity, considering this project's prolonged history it is more likely to become a once-in-three-generation opportunity for Cambria. If it is ever built. I would encourage the Board to do everything within its power to continue to move this project forward as expeditiously as possible. The prospect of future maintenance costs is a real issue but the Community Park has been specifically conceived in a manner to demand "minimal maintenance requirements." The potential costs are not an insurmountable obstacle, nor should they be used to stall the project, which in the not overly ambitious in scope.. What's harder to quantify in a dollar-and-cents manner are the project's benefits to both Cambria residents and visitors to the community. But these benefits are real. Cambria is open space rich and park poor and the Community Park site has a long history as a recreational destination, most notably when the</p>

annual Cambria Rodeo and Barbecue drew crowds that numbered in the thousands. (In fact, the name "Rodeo Grounds Community Park" would be one way to connect the future park with the location's deep history.) That said, the future park will never see the kind of crowds that the rodeo drew. Instead, it will serve as a more modest community gathering place for soccer games, barbecues, and other weekend activities. But nothing will happen without the Board's enthusiastic and energetic support. The project's challenges are surmountable so long as there's a sincere commitment to getting this park done.

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According to the CCSD Draft Project Description for the Santa Rosa Creek Trail and Stream Bank Restoration Project, *“The Project would provide a long-term solution for protecting the CCSD’s sewer trunk line and protecting the Santa Rosa Creek trail by restoring this portion of the creek corridor. The Project would prevent further undermining of the streambank from large-scale winter flood events and facilitate long-term vegetation re-establishment and habitat enhancement.”*

The Board must take quick and deliberate action, and approve the project as proposed by the CCSD Staff, to deal with the erosion of this section of streambank, which was exacerbated by the high flows of the Winters of 2005, 2017 and 2023.

This is a clear and present example of the CCSD’s primary responsibilities to **maintain** the Santa Rosa Creek streambed, when changes in the streambed occur that threaten the safety of the CCSD facilities and the Cambria community. However, the risks and potential real damage and devastation that the Santa Rosa Creek can cause are an order of magnitude greater than this current project area. The highly combustible eucalyptus trees and other invasive plants and trees spreading uncontrolled within the creek, are an ever-increasing threat to our entire community.

On behalf of all of the businesses and residents who work, live, and play along main street, and park hill, I again urge this Board to direct staff to prepare and submit a Plan, modeled after this Santa Rosa Creek Restoration Project, to address **all** of the maintenance issues along the Santa Rosa Creek, from the eastern edge of the Ranch, to the outflow to the Creek’s confluence with the Pacific Ocean.

This next Santa Rosa Creek Plan needs to be a comprehensive, Flood and Fire Risk Mitigation and Management Plan. Because, if not, the Flood and Fire Risk in Cambria will **continue to** increase. Only a comprehensive streambed remediation and management plan, directed by this Board, and implemented by CCSD Staff, in coordination with the appropriate State, County, and local stakeholders and regulatory bodies, will secure the necessary funding and approvals to begin implementing the needed remedial actions as soon as possible.

I ask you to make development of the Santa Rosa Creek Flood and Fire Risk Mitigation and Management Plan a part of the Strategic Planning Process, direct Staff to initiate the Plan development, and put this item on the next Board Agenda for open discussion with this community.