Approved on January 15, 2026

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025, REGULAR FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A regular meeting of the Fire Protection Committee of the Cambria Community Services District was held at the Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall, located at 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428, on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10:30 AM

1. OPENING

1.A Call to Order

Chairperson Gray called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

1.B Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established.

Committee members present: Tom Gray, Arthur Chapman, Ronald De Luca, Tony Safford, and Gordon Heinrichs. David Pierson was absent.

Staff present: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson, and Fire Captain Craig Brooks.

1.C Chair Report

Chairman Gray reported that committee member David Pierson is resigning his membership on the committee effective November 21, 2025. Mr. Gray praised Mr. Pierson for his leadership in the Cambria Firesafe Focus Group and his dedication to making Cambria a firesafe community by helping to obtain grant funding for and managing fuel reduction projects throughout the community. He said the application process to replace Mr. Pierson will open immediately.

1.D Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

There were no subcommittee reports.

1.E Committee Member and Staff Communications

Mr. De Luca inquired about the status of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Mr. Gray said there may be an updated draft ready in in January for review by the Committee to review.

Mr. Heinichs asked if anyone is pursuing planning for evacuation routing. Mr. Gray reported staff is seeking an easement on Rancho Marino and adjacent private properties for an emergency evacuation roadway that would be improved and maintained with access limited to officially authorized emergencies, opened only for maintenance and not opened for recreational access from the public. Staff will come to the Board of Directors with a progress report in the near future.

Captain Brooks reported that the Fire Department is preparing a priority list of items in the fire station requiring replacing and upgrading to meet current standards for the Board of Directors budgeting process.

Mr. Safford commended the work of staff in acquiring the grant funding for a replacement fire engine. Mr. McElhenie described the process for disbursing the funds as a reimbursement grant. The lead time from ordering to receiving delivery is 3-5 years.

The Committee followed with discussion of potential funding methods for fire equipment and building upgrades or replacement as well as water and wastewater facility improvements. Mr. McElhenie noted that the effort to seek a benefit assessment faces considerable legal hurdles, since such assessments are limited to specific benefits to properties rather than general benefits for the public at large.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.A Consideration to Approve the September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Member Safford moved to approve the minutes as written

Member De Luca seconded the motion.

The motion was approved: 4-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstain; 1-Absent

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.A Discussion of Proposed Updated Language Regarding Open Fire Restrictions in CCSD Municipal Code

Captain Brooks explained the proposed changes to the current Municipal Code ordinance restricting open fires.

Following discussion of standards for spark arrestor screens, Mr. Safford suggested that “functional” be added to the language for screen requrements.

4.B Presentation by Vice Chair Pierson on Proposal for Wildfire Sensor Network

Vice Chair Pierson was not present to make the presentation. Chairman Gray led a discussion of the proposal for a sensor network. The high cost of the network makes it currently cost prohibitive. Member Safford will contact the Morro Bay Fire Department for information on their sensor network. Members commented that this type of sensor network has potential value to improve the safety of the community.

4.C Discussion Regarding Potential Cambria Fire Department Facility Upgrades

Captain Brooks received a 911 call. He and his crew had to leave the meeting and was unable to give a presentation. The General Manager discussed the priorities for fire department facility and equipment improvements and replacements. It was noted that, as the costs exceed any annual budget for the District, these will be prioritized over time and included in the District budget as funds are available.

Captain Brooks returned to the meeting. He will communicate to the Chief the need to prioritize the list of improvements and replacements for inclusion in the District’s annual budgets.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

Chairperson Gray asked for any future agenda items. He discussed the idea of a special meeting of the committee to make a detailed tour of the Fire Department facilities.

6. ADJOURN

Chairperson Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.