



MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2025, SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A special 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 Tuesday, July 8, 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, David Pierson, Arthur Chapman, Ronald De Luca, Tony Safford, and Gordon Heinrichs.

Staff present: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Fire Chief Michael Burkey, Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson, Fire Captain Greg McGill, Fire Captain Craig Brooks, Fire Engineer Kayla Graves and Fire Engineer Christian Evers.

1.C Chair Report

There was no Chair Report.

1.D Committee Member and Staff Communications

General Manager McElhenie reported on the mailing to Cambria residents of a document describing the new Weed Abatement Ordinance and other fire protection topics.

Chief Burkey reported on the chipping event sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Fire Safe Council.

Following Regular Business, Committee member De Luca reported on a conversation he had with Scotty Jalbert, director of San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services, in May. The discussion covered evacuation planning and the roles of County OES, other agencies and the CCSD.

1.E Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There were no Ad Hoc Committee Reports.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment in person or online.

Written comment was submitted by Cambria Firefighters Local 4635.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.A Consideration to Approve the May 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Pierson moved to approve these Minutes as written.

Committee Member Safford seconded the motion.

The motion was approved: 5-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstain; 0-Absent

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.A Discussion and Consideration of Appointing an Ad Hoc Committee for a Preliminary Study to Assess the Feasibility of a Benefit Assessment Measure on the June or November ballot in 2026

[This item was taken up after Item 4.B]

The item was introduced by Chief Burkey and General Manager McElhenie, who provided a summary of fiscal needs in areas such as staff retention, equipment and wildfire evacuation.

Public Comment:

Cheryl Cashman
Craig Brooks
Christian Evers

Committee Member Safford moved to appoint Member Pierson as an ad hoc committee member of one to conduct a preliminary study to assess the feasibility of a benefit assessment measure on the June or November 2026 ballot, and report to the Board of Directors.

Committee Member DeLuca seconded the motion.

The motion was approved: 5-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstain; 0-Absent

4.B Discussion of Cal Poly Student Reports on Updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Cambria, and Consideration of Appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Reports and Make Recommendations for an Updated CWPP

Committee Member Pierson introduced the report and explained each of the classes study groups submitted its own plan which can be used to prepare and updated plan for Cambria. Putney explained a new 3 year Firewise Community Action Plan is needed. The current plan is on The Firesafe Council website.

Committee Member Heinrichs moved to appoint an ad hoc committee of himself and Committee Member De Luca to committee to work with former Fire Chief Bob Putney to produce a draft update of the CCWP for review at the Sept. 18, 2025, meeting of the Fire Protection Committee.

Committee Member Safford seconded the motion.

The motion as approved: 5-Ayes; 0-Nays; 0-Abstain; 0-Absent.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

In Future Agenda Items, Chief Burkey asked for a future Committee discussion of updating the regulation of open fires.

6. ADJOURN

Chairperson Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.