



**CAMBRIA COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT**

MEETING	TIME & DATE	LOCATION
Fire Protection Committee	10:30 AM Thursday, August 20, 2026	Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428

AGENDA

Regular Fire Protection Committee Meeting

Date & Time: 10:30 AM, Thursday, August 20, 2026

Location: Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428

**Virtual Access (Zoom): Please click the link to join the webinar: [HERE](#)
Webinar ID: 849 2706 4037
Passcode: 390217**

Copies of the staff reports or other documentation relating to each item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the CCSD Administration Office, available for public inspection during District business hours. The agenda and agenda packets are also available on the CCSD website at <https://www.cambriacsd.org/>. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or if you need the agenda or other documents in the agenda packet provided in an alternative format, contact the Confidential Administrative Assistant at 805-927-6223 at least 48 hours before the meeting to ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made. The Confidential Administrative Assistant will answer any questions regarding the agenda.

1. OPENING

- 1.A Call to Order**
- 1.B Establishment of Quorum**
- 1.C Chair Report**
- 1.D Committee Member and Staff Communications**
- 1.E Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may now address the Committee on any item of interest within the jurisdiction of the Committee but not on its agenda today. Future agenda items can be suggested at this time. In compliance with the Brown Act, the Committee cannot discuss or act on items not on the agenda. Each speaker has up to three minutes.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3.A Consideration to Approve the January 13, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and April 16, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

- 4.A Receive Presentation Regarding Public Opinion Research and Polling for Potential**

Fire Protection Revenue Measure

4.B Discussion and Prioritization of Fire Protection Needs

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

6. ADJOURN



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2026, 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 Fire Department, located at 2850 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428, on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM

1. OPENING

Chairperson Gray called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

A quorum was established.

Committee members present: Tom Gray, Arthur Chapman, and Ronald De Luca.

Committee members absent: Tony Safford, Gordon Heinrichs, and Bruno Gonzalez.

Staff present: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Fire Chief Michael Burkey, and Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3. REGULAR BUSINESS

3.A Tour of the Cambria Fire Department. No formal action of any kind was taken.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson Gray asked for any future agenda items. There were none.

5. ADJOURN

Chairperson Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2026, 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, January 15, 2026, 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, Gordon Heinrichs, and Bruno Gonzalez.

Staff present: General Manager Matthew, McElhenie, Fire Chief Michael Burkey, and Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson.

1.C Election of Vice Chair and Secretary

Committee member Chapman nominated Tony Safford as Vice Chair.

The motion was seconded by Committee member De Luca.

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

Bruno Gonzalez volunteered to be secretary.

Committee member Safford nominated Bruno Gonzalez as Secretary.

The motion was seconded by Committee member Chapman.

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

1.D Chair Report

There were none.

1.E Committee Member and Staff Communications

There were none.

1.F Ad Hoc Committee Reports

The Fire Protection Committee created an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Committee members Heinrichs and De Luca to work with staff on CIP and finances.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment noted.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3.A Consideration to Approve the November 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Chapman moved to approve the minutes.

Committee Member Safford seconded the motion.

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

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.A Discussion Regarding Cambria Fire Station Apparatus Bay: Health and Safety Considerations for Modernization & Upgrades

Chief Burkey discussed the need for action to be taken ASAP.

Recommended move equipment to a safer location not in apparatus bay but indoors possibly the large conference room. Possibly build an outdoor building to house gym equipment in the future. Ventilation for server room to be installed to help prevent any possible overheating.

4.B Discussion Regarding Cambria Fire Station Upgrades to Address Aging Infrastructure and Current Standards and Review Capital Improvement Project List

The Ad Hoc Committee will prioritize CIP needs with a focus on priorities and the financial impact.

4.C Review and Discussion of Fire Protection Funding Outlook, Including Update on Feasibility of Benefit Assessment

The general manager discussed the need for funding through a parcel tax that would generate needed revenue to fund CIP projects.

Timing of such funding would need to be determined by a consultant firm on feasibility and timing for the future election cycle 26/27.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

Chairperson Gray asked for any future agenda items. The following items were suggested:

- Cancer screening and mental health were discussed and looked into possible PFA-free turnouts for the future.
- Look into health and wellness programs to address the need for cancer prevention and mental well-being.
- Action to be taken by Chief Burkey to research what other departments are doing and bring back recommendations.
- Talked about possible evacuation signage being made to direct traffic to Highway 1 for people who may not know. County officials to be contacted.

6. ADJOURN

Chairperson Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2026, 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, April 16, 2026, 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

No quorum was established.

Committee members present: Tom Gray, Arthur Chapman, , Bruno Gonzalez.

Staff present: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Fire Chief Michael Burkey, and Administrative Department Manager Denise Fritz.

1.C Chair Report

1.D Committee Member and Staff Communications

1.E Ad Hoc Committee Reports

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. CONSENT AGENDA

**3.A Consideration to Approve the January 13, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes and
January
15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member moved to

Committee Member seconded the motion. Unable to be voted on

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

4. REGULAR BUSINESS

4.A Discussion and Consideration of Recommendation to CCSD Board Regarding Fire Department CIP List in 2026-27 CCSD Budget

Committee Member moved to postpone vote until quorum was established

Committee Member seconded the motion.

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

4.B Staff Presentation and Discussion on Maintaining Advanced Life Support (ALS) Designation

Committee Member moved to - no motion was made due to lack of quorum

Committee Member seconded the motion.

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

4.C Discussion and Consideration of Recommendation to CCSD Board Regarding Fire NBS Special Parcel Tax Quote for Services

Discussion was presented by Sara Mares COP of NBS government finance group.

Discussion was online and presented ideas about Tax Parcel possibilities to fund Fire Department future needs. Ballot initiative was also discussed with focus being on what would be supported and how long of a time frame would be needed.

Committee Member moved to - No vote was taken but discussion was productive.

Committee Member seconded the motion.

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

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

Discussion was presented that the Fire Department look into pay for service for medical responses to help offset the cost of ALS service.

Chief Burkey was presented with possible leads to obtain information and report back to the committee on findings.

Chairperson Gray asked for any future agenda items.

6. ADJOURN

Chairperson Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Fire Protection Committee

AGENDA NO. **4.A.**

FROM: Matthew McElhenie, General Manager
Michael Burkey, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: August, 20, 2026

Subject: Receive Presentation Regarding Public
Opinion Research and Polling for
Potential Fire Protection Revenue
Measure

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the Fire Protection Committee receive a presentation from Jessica Polsky-Sanchez of EMC Research regarding the role of public opinion research and polling in evaluating the feasibility of a potential dedicated revenue measure for fire and emergency response services. Following the presentation, the staff recommends that the Committee discuss how public opinion research can inform the Committee's subsequent discussion regarding prioritization of the District's fire protection needs. No recommendation regarding a specific tax amount, funding mechanism, ballot measure, or expenditure plan is requested as part of this item.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with receiving the presentation. Should the District elect to pursue professional public opinion research or polling, the scope and cost of those services would be considered separately and would be subject to the appropriate District authorization and budget process.

DISCUSSION:

The Fire Protection Committee is evaluating the long-term needs of the Cambria Fire Department, including staffing, emergency response equipment, fire prevention, firefighter safety and training, communications, evacuation preparedness, fire station improvements, and long-term financial sustainability. As part of that process, the Committee will be discussing how these needs should be prioritized and how the District may ultimately address the funding necessary to provide sustainable fire and emergency response services.

Staff has begun preliminary discussions with EMC Research, a public opinion research and consulting firm that works with public agencies evaluating the feasibility of potential revenue measures. Jessica Polsky-Sanchez of EMC Research will provide the Committee with an overview of how professional research and polling can help evaluate community awareness and priorities, voter understanding of the District's needs, potential support for dedicated funding, sensitivity to funding levels, and the overall feasibility of a potential revenue measure.

This information is important before the District or Committee begins publicly defining a specific tax amount, expenditure package, or detailed description of what a future measure would fund. Professional polling can help the District understand community priorities and voter attitudes rather than making assumptions about which needs, funding levels, or approaches are

most likely to receive community support.

The presentation is intended to provide context for the Committee's separate discussion regarding prioritization of the Fire Protection Needs Master List. The Committee's role is to identify the operational and community needs it believes are most important. Public opinion research provides a different type of information by helping determine what voters understand about those needs, which services they consider priorities, whether they would support additional funding, and what level or structure of funding may be feasible.

At this stage, staff recommends maintaining flexibility regarding the structure of any potential revenue measure. Publicly committing to a particular tax amount, duration, or detailed expenditure allocation before polling is completed could unnecessarily narrow the District's options before community priorities and willingness to support a measure are understood. The purpose of polling is not simply to determine whether voters support or oppose a tax; properly structured research can help identify the service priorities, funding levels, accountability provisions, and other considerations that are most important to voters.

Receiving the presentation will help ensure that the Committee's subsequent prioritization discussion and any future consideration of dedicated fire protection funding are informed by both identified operational needs and reliable information regarding community priorities and voter sentiment.

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Fire Protection Committee

AGENDA NO. **4.B.**

FROM: Matthew McElhenie, General Manager
Michael Burkey, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: August 20, 2026	Subject:	Discussion and Prioritization of Fire Protection Needs
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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Fire Protection Committee:

- Review the consolidated Fire Protection Needs Master List;
- Discuss the relative importance and urgency of the identified needs;
- Rank the major fire protection need categories in order of priority; and
- Provide direction to staff regarding the Committee's priorities for future planning, budgeting, grant opportunities, and potential dedicated revenue discussions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the Committee's discussion and prioritization of the Fire Protection Needs Master List.
- Individual priorities identified by the Committee may have significant future operating or capital costs. Any expenditure or funding recommendation would return through the appropriate District budget and Board approval process.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past year, the Fire Protection Committee and District staff have identified a broad range of operational, personnel, equipment, facility, prevention, preparedness, and long-term financial needs associated with providing sustainable fire and emergency services to the Cambria community.

Previous Committee discussions identified sustainable staffing and employee compensation as a significant need, along with a dedicated Fire Marshal, emergency response equipment and vehicles, communications and alerting systems, community preparedness, fire station improvements, and evacuation planning.

Additional review has expanded the list to include firefighter health and occupational safety, training and succession planning, continuity of operations, long-term equipment replacement, financial reserves, and grant matching.

The purpose of this discussion is not to determine funding amounts or select a particular funding mechanism. Rather, staff is requesting that the Committee establish a clear order of priorities among the identified needs.

Establishing priorities will help the District distinguish between immediate operational requirements, important near-term investments, and longer-term capital objectives.

SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED FIRE PROTECTION NEEDS:

Staff have consolidated the detailed needs lists into the following major categories:

1. Sustainable Staffing and Competitive Compensation

Maintain appropriate daily staffing, recruit and retain qualified firefighters and paramedics, support the District's share of SAFER-funded positions, reduce reliance on overtime and callbacks, and provide seasonal staffing when necessary.

2. Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction

Provide adequate resources for defensible-space inspections, fire-code enforcement, business and plan review, wildfire prevention, public education, and consideration of a dedicated Fire Marshal position.

3. Apparatus, Vehicles and Emergency Equipment

Establish sustainable replacement programs for engines, the water tender, command and utility vehicles, turnout gear, SCBA, radios, EMS equipment, rescue equipment, hose, ladders, tools, and other frontline equipment.

4. Firefighter Health, Safety, Training and Succession

Support occupational medical evaluations, cancer and cardiac screening, behavioral health, exposure monitoring, physical fitness, continuing education, specialized training, officer development, and succession planning.

5. Communications, Alerting and Technology

Improve two-way radio capabilities, emergency alerting, cellular reliability, GIS mapping, evacuation tools, mobile communications, IT infrastructure, and communications resiliency.

6. Evacuation Planning and Community Preparedness

Continue evacuation-route analysis, traffic-management planning, emergency transportation planning, community preparedness programs, neighborhood outreach, wildfire education, and coordination with other agencies. This category also includes evaluation and development of additional emergency evacuation options, including the proposed southbound emergency evacuation route.

7. Fire Station Modernization and Resilience

Address deficiencies in the existing fire station, including diesel exhaust removal, SCBA facilities, PPE decontamination, living quarters, seismic and structural improvements, electrical systems, backup power, communications infrastructure, apparatus bays, accessibility, and other health and safety improvements. The District must also continue evaluating the longer-term need for substantial modernization, expansion, or eventual replacement of the existing fire station.

8. Emergency Operations and Continuity of Service

Maintain emergency operations planning, disaster supplies, mutual-aid readiness, fuel and utility continuity, backup communications, and the ability to maintain fire and emergency services during major disasters or infrastructure disruptions.

9. Long-Term Financial Sustainability and Reserves

Develop sustainable funding for apparatus replacement, facility improvements, PPE and SCBA replacement, grant matching, emergency contingencies, and other recurring or lifecycle costs. This includes establishing a five-year capital planning framework so major equipment and facility needs can be anticipated rather than addressed only when equipment reaches the end of its useful life.

DISCUSSION:

The comprehensive needs inventory demonstrates that the Fire Department's needs extend beyond any single piece of equipment or capital project. Sustainable fire protection requires adequate personnel, reliable equipment, prevention activities, training, emergency preparedness, resilient facilities, and a financial structure capable of maintaining those services over time. At the same time, the District has limited financial resources and cannot reasonably address every identified need simultaneously. Prioritization is therefore necessary.

Staff recommends that the Committee consider several factors when ranking the categories:

- Impact on firefighter and public safety;
- Impact on the District's ability to maintain emergency response;
- Urgency of the need;
- Consequences of delaying the investment;
- Existing funding availability;
- Availability of grants or outside funding;
- Whether the need represents a recurring operating expense or one-time capital expense; and
- Whether the expenditure reduces future operational or financial risk.

The Committee may also wish to distinguish between core service needs and long-term community resilience investments. For example, maintaining adequate staffing, functioning apparatus, PPE, SCBA, and emergency communications directly affects the Department's ability to respond to an emergency today. Fire station replacement or construction of an additional evacuation route may represent substantial long-term priorities but require significantly greater planning, permitting, outside funding, and implementation time. This distinction may help the Committee establish a practical sequence for future investment.

PROPOSED PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE:

Staff recommends that each Committee member rank the following categories from 1 through 9, with 1 representing the highest priority:

Rank	Fire Protection Need
—	Sustainable Staffing and Competitive Compensation
—	Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction
—	Apparatus, Vehicles and Emergency Equipment
—	Firefighter Health, Safety, Training and Succession
—	Communications, Alerting and Technology

- Evacuation Planning and Community Preparedness
- Fire Station Modernization and Resilience
- Emergency Operations and Continuity of Service
- Long-Term Financial Sustainability and Reserves

Staff can compile the individual rankings to identify the Committee's collective priorities. The Committee could also identify the categories as:

Tier 1 - Immediate/Core Service Priority: Needs necessary to maintain current emergency response capability and firefighter/public safety.

Tier 2 - Near-Term Strategic Priority: Needs that should be addressed over the next several budget cycles to improve reliability, prevention, preparedness, and resilience.

Tier 3 - Long-Term Capital/Community Resilience Priority: Major capital projects and initiatives requiring substantial planning, funding, interagency coordination, or outside financial assistance.

Using both a numerical ranking and priority tiers would allow the Committee to recognize that several needs may be important while still providing clear direction regarding which needs should be addressed first.

RELATIONSHIP TO FUTURE FUNDING DISCUSSIONS:

Establishing priorities is an important step before determining the appropriate level or structure of any future dedicated fire protection funding.

The Committee's prioritization should identify what the community's most important fire protection needs are before assumptions are made regarding the amount, structure, or specific allocation of a potential funding measure.

If the District later evaluates a parcel tax, special tax, benefit assessment, or other dedicated revenue source, professional public-opinion research and polling can then help determine community priorities, voter understanding, acceptable funding levels, and how potential measure language should be structured.

Accordingly, the Committee's action at this stage should focus on identifying and ranking needs rather than recommending a specific tax amount or committing publicly to a particular allocation of potential future revenue before that research has been completed.

CONCLUSION:

The District has identified substantial fire protection needs ranging from daily staffing and frontline equipment to evacuation planning and long-term fire station improvements. Because available resources are limited, establishing an order of priority will help guide future budgeting, grant applications, capital planning, and discussions regarding potential dedicated fire protection revenue.

Staff recommends that the Committee review the consolidated categories, establish a preliminary ranking and priority tiers, and provide direction to staff regarding the Committee's highest fire protection priorities.