
New form submission assigned to you: Written Public Comments

From Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>

Date Thu 4/23/2026 7:52 AM

To Haley Dodson <hdodson@cambriacsd.org>



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT

Written Public Comments

Full Name:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Written Public Comment:	<p>I am urging the CCSD Board of Directors to immediately and unequivocally prioritize the fire department and its operational needs above discretionary spending on parks, recreation, and open space projects, including the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, the Cambria skatepark, the East Ranch Community Park, and any additional parks and recreation developments. Public safety is not optional. Fire protection should never be competing for attention or funding with recreational amenities, yet that is exactly what is happening under this board's watch. That is not a minor oversight. It is a fundamental failure of priorities. It's a failure of this board. While this board continues to devote time, energy, and resources to non-essential projects, the fire department, the single most critical service you are responsible for, remains in a position where it must compete for adequate funding and attention. That is unacceptable. Cambria firefighters respond without hesitation when lives, homes, and</p>

property are at risk. They operate in extreme, dangerous conditions and serve every member of this community without exception. And yet, despite that reality, their needs are treated as one priority among many, instead of the priority. Parks, recreation, and open space have value, but they are discretionary. Emergency response is not. When budgets are tight and decisions are difficult, the distinction between essential and optional should be obvious. This board's current approach suggests that distinction is being ignored. The continued willingness to advance projects like a skatepark or expanded park amenities, while fire service needs remain under-prioritized, reflects a troubling disconnect from the core responsibilities of governance. These are not equivalent choices, and they should not be treated as such. If this board votes against prioritizing fire service needs, then it should be willing to state that position clearly and publicly, not obscure it behind process or competing project discussions. Because that vote will communicate, in plain terms, that emergency services are not your top priority. And if that is the position, it should be acknowledged openly to the very firefighters who put themselves on the line for this community. A board that cannot or will not, treat emergency services as its highest priority has no business directing the budget, policies, or a fire department. Public safety must come first. Parks and recreation must come last.

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Written comment April 23 Item 3B

From Christine Heinrichs <christine.heinrichs@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/23/2026 7:34 AM

To BoardComment <boardcomment@cambriacs.org>

To the Board:

On Item 3B, the board would be wise to hold this important discussion but defer action on the resolution until the public has more time to consider this policy and comment. The agenda, posted the minimum 24 hours prior to the meeting, allows too little time for the public to reflect on this restrictive measure.

It's unfortunate that the board disbanded the Policy Committee last year. The public lost that opportunity to discuss this major issue. The board could also refer it to the Finance Committee for additional discussion and a recommendation that weighs Cambria's needs and resources.

The item focuses on increasing revenue, ignoring the other significant side of the financial equation, expenditures. The board continues to fund expensive administrative expenses, such as HR counseling and legal expenses, bottled water for the staff, and initiate additional expenses, such as the recent commitment to nearly a quarter million dollars for the OpenGov computerized asset management system.

Personnel expenses are worthy of scrutiny. The district is top heavy on administrative expenses, while starving the Facilities and Resources department. Your discussion should include reducing General Manager McElhenie's \$200,000 plus benefits compensation, since he still retains another full-time job. Perhaps it's time to find another general manager, who supports Cambria's Fiscalini Ranch and other public parks and open spaces.

The Elephant in the Room is the EWS/SWF/WRF, with a budget of more than a million dollars in an enterprise fund. This is public money, being spent in the public's name. This project should be eliminated before cutting support to other public projects.

I disagree with the board's priorities. I will oppose any increase in public revenues to the district until the board shows its support for public projects and Cambria's unique features.

Please scrutinize why it is that Cambria cannot afford the amenities commonly provided by local government. Even Cambria's Trash/Recycling/Planters were provided free to the district by a nonprofit. Thank you for having this discussion to begin examining where Cambria's money is being spent.

Christine Heinrichs
Cambria

Sent from my iPad