



SAN SIMEON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Board of Directors

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the San Simeon Community Services District (SSCSD) was held on Thursday, March 05, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Coast Unified Board Room, located at 1350 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428, and via Google Meet.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the San Simeon Community Service District Board of Directors was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Karina Tiwana.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Karina Tiwana, Director Holly Le, Director Michael Donahue

Absent: None

Staff Present: Suzanne Watkins, Primary Lead SLO County/CalWARN
Ruth Montgomery, Clerk
Nubia Goldstein, Legal Counsel - White Brenner LLP
Brandon Jacka, FRM

Public Attendees: Several community members attended both in person and virtually.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was held at 06:02 p.m. by Chair Tiwana.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA) (6:03 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.)

The Chair opened the floor for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. No members of the public provided comments, either in person or online.

5. NON-DISTRICT REPORTS: (6:05 p.m. – 6:06 p.m.)

A. Sheriff's Report

Commander Abass wasn't attending the meeting.



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6. DISTRICT STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS (6:06 p.m. – 6:29 p.m.)

A. Staff Reports:

i. **County of SLO CalWARN Report** – Update on CalWARN Response

Ms. Watkins reported that County Public Works continues focusing on:

- The posting error with the January disbursements attachment on the agenda was corrected and updated online.
- Financial management practices remain consistent with adopted board policies, including budget approvals, contract oversight, and financial reporting.
- Due to a mid-month rate increase, the District intended to issue two bills in one month; however, billing software limitations required an alternative approach.
- Customers will receive one bill at the previous rate with a separate adjustment reflecting the new rate for the latter portion of the month.
- Bills beginning in March will reflect the new rates for the full billing cycle.
- The NBS dissolution study has reached approximately 31% of the contract amount billed. A draft report is nearing completion but is currently behind schedule.
- Staff from the County, LAFCO, the Coastal Commission, Cambria CSD, and NBS held a coordination meeting to restart the working group addressing dissolution planning requirements.
- The study will evaluate financial obligations, infrastructure requirements, wastewater treatment replacement, site restoration obligations, and potential funding sources to inform future decisions by governing agencies.
- No Board questions were raised.



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ii. **FRM Operations Report** – Summary of February Activities

Presenter: Brandon Jacka, FRM

- Well #2 failure (Feb. 13): Repaired and returned to service after bacteriological testing confirmed water quality compliance.
- Turbidity spike (Feb. 18): Managed through flushing procedures; water quality remained compliant.
- Filter cartridges: Replaced on February 20.
- pH permit violation (Feb. 4): Believed to be due to sampling practices. Staff is evaluating procedures and may implement in-house pH testing.
- Reporting: Emissions inventory materials report filed with the Air Pollution Control District.
- A maintenance item mistakenly included in the previous report related to San Simeon Creek Campground was clarified as unrelated to the District.
- Water shutoff incident (Feb. 26): A break occurred during meter replacement. Water service was temporarily shut down for 2–3 hours while repairs were completed. Water quality samples confirmed safety before restoring service.
- Four meters remain scheduled for replacement, including three residential meters and one motel meter.

iii. **District Financial Summary** – Summary of January Financials.

Presenter: Suzy Watkins

- Financial performance continues to track positively compared to the prior year and the approved budget.
- The current negative balance of net income of approximately \$77,000 includes \$51,000 in depreciation, which is a non-cash expense.



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- The District's actual cash position is therefore stronger than reflected in the accounting statement.
- One additional draw from operating reserves is anticipated due to timing differences in tax revenue distribution and implementation of new rates.

iv. **District Counsel's Report** – Summary of February Activities.

Presenter: Nubia Goldstein, District Counsel, provided an update regarding the District's CalPERS contract termination process:

- The Board previously approved a resolution to transmit a notice of intent to terminate the contract with CalPERS.
- CalPERS has provided contact information for former employees and beneficiaries as required by statute.
- Actuaries are currently calculating the formal termination liability, which will determine the final cost.
- This calculation may take up to 60 days.
- Once the amount is received, it will be presented to the Board for informational purposes.
- The Board retains the option not to terminate the contract.
- Any termination decision must occur within one year of the resolution's adoption.

Public Comments for this section:

Mery Webb (Cambria resident): addressed the Board regarding the dissolution process and asked questions about coordination meetings among agencies involved in planning discussions. The Chair and staff clarified that these meetings are staff-level coordination meetings intended to gather information and ensure that regulatory, operational, and financial requirements are addressed before any proposals are presented to governing boards.

No further public comments were made.

The Chair concluded the discussion and returned to the agenda.



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7. CONSENT CALENDAR (6:29 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.)

Items presented for approval

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes for the Meeting on February 19, 2026.
- B. Review and Approval of January Disbursements Journal
- C. Adoption of Resolutions Requesting Consolidation with the November General Election and Adopting Regulations for Candidate Statements
- D. Authorization to Proceed with Fence Repair Project
- E. Ratify Staff Approval of Emergency Repair Work to Well 2

Public Comment on Consent Calendar:

Julie Tacker commented regarding the disbursement journal, noting that two checks totaling approximately \$90,000 appeared to have only one signature despite a Board resolution requiring two signatures. She encouraged the Board to follow the dual-signature requirement to ensure transparency and good financial practice during the dissolution process.

Motion:

Director Donahue made a motion to approve all consent calendar items as presented. Director Le seconded the motion.

Roll call to vote

AYES: Chair Tiwana, Director Le, Director Donahue

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed unanimously (3-0)

8. BUSINESS ITEMS (6:35 p.m. – 7:03 p.m.)

- A. Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Cambria Community Services District Request to Discuss Potential Use of San Simeon CSD Ocean Outfall for Brine Disposal

Suzy Watkins explained the item was intended solely for discussion and transparency, with no request for a decision or agreement at this time. She noted that any future concept would require detailed analysis of financial, operational, and regulatory considerations and approval by both agencies. Staff indicated that, at a minimum rate and volume, the



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concept could potentially generate approximately \$100,000 annually in top-line revenue, which could help address capital needs without further impacting ratepayers.

Board Discussion:

Director Michael Donahue stated that he believed the matter should be addressed after the District's dissolution and not beforehand. He indicated he was not in favor of pursuing the discussion at this time but expressed support in principle for potential future cooperation with Cambria, including allowing access to the District's brine disposal infrastructure, possible collaboration on sewage treatment, and providing water to Cambria if appropriate. He stated that the District currently has limited capacity and that pursuing the concept at this time would be premature.

Chair Tiwana stated the item was only for exploration discussion and information gathering, and that any proposal would be returned to the Board for full consideration before any action.

Public Comment

Several members of the public provided comments regarding the proposal, including:

Matthew McElhenie, General Manager of Cambria CSD, spoke regarding the item. He explained that discussions occurring at the county level with LAFCO related to the dissolution process include high-level and staff-level operational conversations involving various agencies, including State Parks and the Coastal Commission. He stated that Ms. Watkins has been participating in those discussions in a staff capacity.

This request was exploratory and aligned with Cambria's strategic plan to investigate brine disposal options. He noted the potential arrangement could reduce Cambria's disposal costs while providing revenue to San Simeon CSD.

He also clarified that the previously mentioned revenue estimates would reflect peak operational conditions, with actual revenues likely to vary depending on how frequently the desalination facility operates.

Tina Dickerson, a Cambria resident, questioned how the item came before the Board and expressed concern that the discussion was premature.

Mary Webb, speaking as an individual, stated that San Simeon CSD's wastewater treatment plant is subject to Adoption Order No. R3-2022-0003, which requires relocating the plant inland and likely removing the existing ocean outfall. She expressed concern that discussing additional brine discharge to the outfall would be premature.



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Ms. Webb noted that organizations, including Greenspace and the Cambria Fishing Club, previously submitted letters opposing brine discharge to the outfall due to environmental concerns and existing marine protections. She provided copies of correspondence for the Board's consideration.

Julie Tacker, community member, recommended postponing discussions until after dissolution and raised concerns about the District's capacity to evaluate the proposal.

Hank Krzciuk, a San Simeon resident, expressed concern about pursuing the discussion while the District does not currently have a general manager. He stated that Susie Watkins serves as the CalWARN manager representing the County for emergency operations, and that her role does not include responsibilities such as the proposed study. He also noted that there are outstanding infrastructure issues, including repairs to the ocean outfall, and expressed concern about the District's capacity to take on additional work.

He stated that the issue appeared complex and could require significant time and resources, and recommended postponing consideration of the matter until after dissolution. He also commented on other administrative matters, including the status of an audit and financial reporting.

Michael Hanchet: An additional speaker encouraged the Board to allow exploratory discussions to gather information on a potential regional solution.

Board Direction

Following the discussion, the Board considered whether to direct staff to continue exploratory discussions on the topic.

District Counsel Nubia Goldstein advised that the purpose of the item was to obtain direction from the Board. She stated that while a motion and vote could be taken to provide direction, the matter was not a final action, and that direction could also be given by consensus of two directors if the Board wished staff to explore the matter further.

Motion:

Director Le made a motion to refer the matter to the staff for further discussion if necessary. The chair seconded the motion

Roll call to vote

AYES: Chair Tiwana, Director Le

NOES: Director Donahue



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ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Counsel Clarification

District Counsel Nubia Goldstein clarified that the purpose of the agenda item was to obtain direction from the Board on whether staff should explore the potential concept further or not at this time. She explained that any final action or decision approving a formal request would require approval by three directors. However, because the item before the Board was only to determine whether staff should explore the possibility, it did not constitute a final action.

9. BOARD COMMENTS (7:03 p.m. – 7:04 p.m.)

Director Donahue noted that the Board is currently operating without the most recent monthly financial reports due to staff capacity limitations and that the timing of meetings makes it difficult for staff to prepare the reports in time for Board review. The Board member requested that an item be placed on a future agenda to consider moving regular Board meetings to the second Thursday of the month to allow additional time for preparation of financial information. No further Board comments were made.

10. ADJOURNMENT (7:04 p.m.)

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2nd, 2026.