



DISCUSSION ITEM STAFF REPORT

ITEM 8A. Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Cambria Community Services District Request to Discuss Potential Use of San Simeon CSD Ocean Outfall for Brine Disposal

Recommendations:

1. Provide direction to staff in response to Cambria CSD request.

Discussion:

Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) has expressed interest in exploring potential use of the San Simeon CSD (SSCSD) ocean outfall for the disposal of brine generated by the Cambria CSD Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).

Brine disposal is the most significant cost component of WRF operation. CCSD currently hauls brine to south SLO county for discharge. Use of the SSCSD ocean outfall for CCSD brine could provide financial benefits for both agencies, and reduced truck trips would have environmental benefits for several communities.

Discharge of hauled saline waste (brine) is an authorized use of the SSCSD ocean outfall under the existing permit. Implementation of this permitted use would be subject to additional approvals and compliance requirements. CCSD has indicated their intent to support and fund technical studies, environmental review and supporting documentation required to proceed with this effort.

At this time, CCSD is requesting continued dialogue with SSCSD and other agencies to refine technical assumptions, develop an equitable, cost-recovery framework, and identify a mutually acceptable path forward. If your Board agrees further discussions are appropriate, staff will engage with CCSD and other agencies to document regulatory requirements, operational needs, and financial considerations, as well as environmental factors and other information. The item will be returned to your Board for discussion and decision once additional information is assembled. Any potential agreement would be subject to approval by the Board of Directors for CCSD as well as SSCSD and regulatory agencies.

Staff recommends continued discussion with SSCSD and requests the Board provide direction for staff follow up.