

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ossana Terterian](#)
Subject: Meeting comments
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:02:16 PM

Please include. Thanks.

Item 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

CDM Smith settlement: It's not a win. This \$1.7 million barely pays for the over \$300,000 in legal costs and decommissioning of this misbegotten project. It doesn't cover the initial construction costs, including the blower fans, which I understand are now rusting in the WWTP yard. The original purpose of the impoundment pond was to manage the brine waste produced by the Emergency Water Supply project. Lacking the impoundment pond, the district has not finalized plans for disposal of the brine waste. Remember the impoundment pond plan, the blower fans were going to evaporate the water, and then the dried silt could be disposed of? Until State Parks told you that it could cost \$35 million to move its campground if the district operated the blowers? At any rate, disposing of the brine waste now will be via truck either to the South County disposal site, where it will be dumped into the same ocean as here, but outside the National Marine Sanctuary. So while it is legal there, it's still using the ocean as a contaminated waste dump. Or to the Kettleman City Hazardous Waste Facility. Both of these involve substantial cost for trucking and to pay for disposal. The South County site has a permit for a limited amount of waste, and accepts waste from other agencies, so not all the waste generated could go there. Depending on how much the EWS is operated. Other fanciful solutions involve running a pipeline to San Simeon and dumping the waste directly into the marine sanctuary, which is unlikely to get approval from other agencies. It would also cost about a million dollars a mile to build the pipeline. The money the district receives from this award should be set aside as reserves for future brine disposal payments.

Item 6A Utilities report:

I don't see any update on the progress of the EWS CDP in either the general manager's or the utilities manager's reports. None of the required documents requested by the county has been filed since the original filing in July 2020. Please include an update with your report on what is being done to complete this permit application, now coming up on seven years since it was required. I recognize that Mr. Dienzo is new to the district since this project started, but Mr. Gray was the district's public information officer at the time and should have adequate history of the project. Bob Gresens was kept on the district payroll as a retired annuitant in the event his knowledge was needed to testify in the CDM Smith lawsuit, and he could be consulted. Please keep the board and the public informed as to the progress of this permit application.

Friday morning the County planning Department will meet to discuss the Hadian and Bookout permits, which were approved by the district. In an email to the county last week, Coastal Commission staff attorney Brian O'Neill wrote: "Our office has not changed our opinion that new connections in Cambria cannot be found consistent with the LCP and must be denied. During the last Commission denial of a Cambria project, several Commissioners expressed strong frustration that the County and CCSD continue to approve projects when the Commission's direction has been overwhelmingly clear. These two projects, if approved, are very likely to be appealed and denied. We would strongly encourage the County and the CCSD to focus on securing a new sustainable water supply for the community, rather than continue to waste staff time and energy on individual projects that have very little chance of success."

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Christine Heinrichs