

From: [Streamline](#)
To: [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: New form submission received: Written Public Comments
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:21:04 AM

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Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Christine Heinrichs
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
	7F Water Meter Installation bids, pages 244-367. The goal is to get water meters installed. The water department planned to do it in house, but realized that was not possible. So an RFP was issued to solicit bids, to install 3,500 meters at a per-piece cost. They got five bids. General Manager McElhenie recommends that the board accept the low bid, \$62 per meter, \$217,000, from Grace Environmental Services. CEO Charles Grace has

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violated the public trust at San Simeon to such an extent that he was fined \$75,000 for self-dealing and \$4,500 by the Fair Political Practices Commission. The Court forbade him from ever working for San Simeon again because of his violations of self-dealing and conflict of interest laws. District Policy 2135, section 1.12 states: Ethical Conduct in Procurement A. Ethical conduct in managing the CCSD's procurement activities is essential. Staff must always be mindful that they represent the District and the Board of Directors and share a professional trust with other staff and the public. The board should act with good sense and reject this bid from a party who is morally and ethically of poor reputation, so much so that he has been legally barred from working in a neighboring community. Cambria can and must hold itself to a higher standard. The board is responsible to keep Cambria safe from this level of businessman. GM McElhenie's ability to value any amount of money over the moral failures and contracting risks of engaging with GES reveals his failure to grasp Cambria's well-being as primary. Perhaps his other full-time position has distracted him from appreciating the importance of having good work done in Cambria. The staff hasn't adequately examined the bids to make an informed recommendation to the board. Because staff did not evaluate the other bids carefully, the report presented in this agenda item is inaccurate and misleading. The form is somewhat confusing, with incorrect dates in its own Project Schedule, all in 2024. Grace lists an address in Thousand Oaks. Do Grace and his workers propose to commute to Cambria? Will he subcontract the work out? Will Cambria be paying for local lodging? Two of the bids are incomplete. Did the staff follow up with the contractors who provided incomplete bids? Did they ask what the contractor based the per unit price on? How long does it take the district to install these meters? At a quarter of a million dollars, would it make more sense to hire regular workers to install them? Be its own contractor? AAAA Engineering is local, in Atascadero, and has performed a project for the city. Easy to check on their experience. AAAA BIDS \$89 per unit, \$311,500. Laurel Ag & Water, Bakersfield, specified \$74.26 per unit, but erred in calculating the total for 3,500 meters, which is \$259,910, not \$371,313.50, which is the amount to install 5,000 meters at that per unit price. Brough Construction of Arroyo Grande's bid is somewhat incomplete, bidding a per unit price of \$150 per unit but not a total price, which would be \$525,000. Seamair Construction of San Luis

Obispo bids only a per unit price, \$222.13, which would be \$777,455. When you hire a contractor, you add the costs of the contractor's overhead and profit. If the district will be supervising, especially if additional quality control is required for Charlie Grace, how much advantage will contracting this work out be? Grace Environmental Services is not an acceptable contractor. Take the message from the court and do not hire him in Cambria. Let him find work elsewhere. It doesn't matter, because he has disqualified himself with his record of violating the law. Please defer consideration of this contract until you have adequate information on which to base a sound decision. The district has several options other than hiring a known bad actor, at any price.

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Subject: New form submission received: Written Public Comments
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Written Public Comments

Full Name:	Christine Heinrichs
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
	Please pull Item 6F, the change in grant application policy, for separate discussion. This should be a regular agenda item, not on the Consent Agenda. Apparently the board preferred not to hear from the Policy Committee, disbanded in November, on shifting decision making from the board to GM McElhenie. This policy change would allow GM McElhenie to apply for grants without informing the board, even those that commit the district to matching

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funds. No board review or approval required. The board would be allowed to rubber stamp grant applications after the fact. How often does the short timing issue come up? If there's a grant that requires immediate attention, the board can be called into special session to consider the application. It's not wise for the board to relinquish its responsibility, and that of future boards, to Mr. McElhenie, on the chance that some grant timing might be inconvenient. The board, the elected representatives, need to retain this important oversight. Please deny making this change. Thank you.

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