

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors

AGENDA NO. **3.C.**

FROM: Jerry Gruber, General Manager

Meeting Date: May 29, 2014

Subject: Consideration of a Resolution
Authorizing the Board President
to Execute a Letter to the San Luis
Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Opposing Hydraulic Fracturing in San
Luis Obispo County

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Cambria Community Services District ("District") adopt a Resolution authorizing the Board President to execute a letter to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors opposing hydraulic fracturing in San Luis Obispo County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking", is a gas and oil resource extraction process where wells are drilled vertically and horizontally deep under the earth's surface and typically uses water, chemicals and sand injected under very high pressure to crack shale and other rock in order to extract gas and oil.

Proponents of this technique point to the economic benefits from the vast amounts of formerly inaccessible fuels the process can extract. Opponents point to environmental risks, including the contamination of ground water, depletion of fresh water due to the amount of water used in the fracking process, air and noise pollution, the migration of gases and hydraulic fracturing chemicals to the surface, surface contamination from spills and flow-back, and potential increases in earthquake activity.

However, there is substantially varying positions regarding the safety of fracking and staff found it difficult to find truly impartial studies. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently preparing an extensive study on fracking at the request of Congress, but it is not yet complete. Fracking is not currently prohibited in the unincorporated area of the County, including Cambria. Due to the highly technical nature of this technique, District staff does not have the expertise to provide an adequate analysis or specific recommendation on this topic,

however, staff does believe that the environmental concerns raised by the opponents of fracking are far reaching and may have serious impacts on our environment and natural resources. Accordingly, staff is recommending that fracking be prohibited in San Luis Obispo County until further research and analysis into its impacts on the environment and related health and safety risks have been completed. Attached is a copy of information regarding fracking prepared by the Association of California Water Agencies.

Attachments:

- Resolution 20-2014 & Exhibit A
- Fracking Fact Sheet by the Association of California Water Agencies

BOARD ACTION: Date _____ Approved: _____ Denied: _____

UNANIMOUS: ___BAHRINGER___ROBINETTE___THOMPSON___CLIFT___RICE___

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2014

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE
BOARD PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE A LETTER TO THE SAN LUIS OBISPO
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, commonly referred to as “fracking”, is the fracturing of rock by a pressurized liquid wherein water is typically mixed with sand and other chemicals and injected at high pressure into a wellbore to create small fractures and fluids such as gas and petroleum migrate to the well; and

WHEREAS, opponents of fracking have indicated that this process has serious environmental risks including contamination of ground water, depletion of fresh water, air and noise pollution, the migration of gases and hydraulic fracturing chemicals to the surface, surface contamination from spills and flow-back and potential increases in earthquake activity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Cambria Community Services District (“District”) finds that these risks have far reaching consequences and that the health, safety and welfare of our community depends on safeguarding the environment and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the District Board further finds that based on the serious risks associated with fracking, it is in our community’s best interests to prohibit such activities within San Luis Obispo County in order to protect the health and quality of life for all of our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cambria Community Services District hereby authorizes the Board President to execute and forward a letter in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors opposing hydraulic fracturing in San Luis Obispo.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____, day of June 2014.

James Bahringer, President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Timothy J. Carmel
District Counsel

ATTEST:

Justine Harris,
Interim District Clerk

CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

DIRECTORS:

JIM BAHRINGER, President
GAIL ROBINETTE, Vice President
MURIL N. CLIFT
MICHAEL THOMPSON
AMANDA RICE



OFFICERS:

JEROME D. GRUBER, General Manager
JUSTINE J. HARRIS, Interim District Clerk
TIMOTHY J. CARMEL, District Counsel

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May 29, 2014

VIA FACSIMILE 805-781-1350

Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
County Government Center, Room D-430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: *Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)*

Dear Supervisors:

I write on behalf of Cambria Community Services District ("CCSD") Board of Directors to express our concerns of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and its potential environmental effects, including contamination of ground water, depletion of fresh water, risks to air quality, noise pollution, the migration of gases and hydraulic fracturing chemicals to the surface, surface contamination from spills and flow-back, and the health effects of these.

The adverse health and environmental effects of fracking activity in the unincorporated areas are potentially far reaching, as a result of shared resources, water, air, roadways and fault line. The CCSD, on behalf of its citizens, calls on the County Board of Supervisors to take a proactive approach in adopting a countywide prohibition on fracking that protects the health and quality of life of all our residents.

Thank you for your consideration in promptly addressing this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Jim Bahringer
CCSD Board President

cc: CCSD Board of Directors