

## **The Sustainable Water Facility Is Capable of Producing Clean Safe Potable Water**

Opponents of the Sustainable Water Facility have argued for years, perhaps as early as when the plant was constructed in 2014, that the facility can't produce potable water to supplement Cambria's natural water supplies. Their persistence in claiming that the SWF doesn't work seems to be based on the notion that because the facility hasn't been used for a few years, it is incapable of producing water. The claim is misplaced. The SWF has produced substantial quantities of clean safe drinking water in the past and it can do so again, when needed.

At an October 4, 2018 regular meeting of the CCSD Board of Directors, former Chief Engineer Bob Gresens presented a chart of Cambria Community Services District Gross Water Production, by Source, from 2007 through 2018. **The chart demonstrates that the Advanced Water Treatment Plant (the water processing core of the SWF) produced 68.92 acre-feet of water in 2015 and produced another 23.07 acre-feet in 2016.** The CCSD also reported this data to regulatory agencies, particularly the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The SWF can, and does, produce water but because of limitations in its current emergency operating permit, the facility has not been called into operation for the last few years. In addition, the CCSD regularly maintains the SWF, including the reverse osmosis filtration system, so that it is ready when needed.

## **C4H2O Supports the CCSD's Pending Application for a Flexible Regular Operating Permit**

The current emergency operating permit allows the CCSD to use the SWF only AFTER the District has declared a Stage 3 water shortage. For reference, a Stage 3 water shortage is what gripped Cambria during the extraordinary drought from, at least, 2012 through 2014 when we had to limit flushing toilets, save shower water and cutoff our landscaping irrigation, among other severe measures. C4H2O supports the CCSD's pending application for a flexible regular operating permit which will allow the District to use the SWF to AVOID Stage 3 water shortages, not just react to them.

Obtaining a flexible regular operating permit will also give the District latitude in preserving the San Simeon Creek aquifer from saltwater intrusion and subsidence and protect the natural habitats that depend on a healthy aquifer and lagoon for life.

It just makes common sense to use the SWF for the greater benefit of the Cambria and the environment around us and not just when we are in the midst of a horrific drought.