

## CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors

AGENDA NO. **3.A.**

FROM: Jerry Gruber, General Manager

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Meeting Date: December 19, 2017      Subject: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF  
ADOPTION OF A POLICY REGARDING  
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS  
DURING BOARD MEETINGS

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends the Board discuss and consider the adoption of a policy regarding electronic communications during meetings of the Board of Directors.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the Board adopting such a policy.

### **DISCUSSION:**

President Rice has requested that this item be placed on the December 19, 2017 special meeting agenda. She indicated that her concerns are the result of seeing Board Members texting during the special meeting on December 11, 2017.

It is not uncommon for cities and other local agencies to have policies regarding texting and the use of electronic communications by members of their legislative bodies during meetings. Based upon newspaper reports, the cities of Huntington Beach, Anaheim, Escondido, San Jose, Milpitas, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Moreno Valley and Stockton have policies banning, limiting or discouraging the use of cell phones and tablets during meetings. For a local example, the following is an excerpt from a policy used in the City of Arroyo Grande that was adopted in 2010,

...City Council Members shall not use electronic devices or Electronic Communications at any time during a meeting of the City Council at which he or she is in attendance to access the internet or to receive or send emails, text messages or other communications.

Such a policy typically includes exceptions for emergency communications. In this regard Arroyo Grande's policy includes the following exception,

The limitations on use of electronic devices and Electronic Communications during meetings contained herein shall not apply to the receipt of telephone calls or text messages from family members in the event of an urgent family matter. A Council Member wishing to respond to such a message during a meeting shall do so during a recess or shall excuse him or herself from the meeting to place the return call or text in a manner that does not disrupt the meeting.

If the Board wanted to adopt a similar policy, it can be done by minute action and does not need to be included in the Board of Directors Bylaws unless the Board wants to do so.

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BOARD ACTION:    Date \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Denied: \_\_\_\_\_

UNANIMOUS: \_\_\_ RICE \_\_\_ FARMER\_\_\_BAHRINGER \_\_\_ WHARTON