



**STANISLAUS LAFCO
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer
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Modesto, California 95354
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Chair Jim DeMartini, County Member
Vice Chair, Bill Berryhill, Public Member
Terry Withrow, County Member
Amy Bublak, City Member
Michael Van Winkle, City Member
Richard O'Brien, Alternate City Member
Brad Hawn, Alternate Public Member
Vito Chiesa, Alternate County Member

**AGENDA
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
6:00 P.M.
Joint Chambers—Basement Level
1010 10th Street, Modesto, California 95354**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBSERVE THE MEETING AND ADDRESS
THE COMMISSION AS DESCRIBED BELOW.**

- This meeting will be open to the public. Effective August 26, 2020, pursuant to the order issued by Governor Newsom and consistent with guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health, social distancing and face coverings are required for in person attendance at the meeting. The chamber's audience seating capacity will be limited to approximately thirty (30) persons.
- You can also observe the live stream of the LAFCO meeting at:
<http://www.stancounty.com/sclive/>
- In addition, LAFCO meetings are broadcast live on local cable television. A list of cable channels is available at the following website:
<http://www.stancounty.com/planning/broadcasting.shtm>
- If you wish to provide a written comment, please submit your comment (include Agenda Item Number in the subject line), to the Clerk at lafco@stancounty.com. Public comments will be accepted by email until the close of the public comment period for the specific item. You do not have to wait until the meeting begins to submit a comment. All comments will be shared with the Commissioners and placed in the record.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. Introduction of Commissioners and Staff.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

This is the period in which persons may comment on items that are not listed on the regular agenda. No action will be taken by the Commission as a result of any item presented during the public comment period.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence addressed to the Commission, individual Commissioners or staff will be accepted and/or considered unless it has been signed by the author, or sufficiently identifies the person or persons responsible for its creation and submittal.

- A. Specific Correspondence.
B. Informational Correspondence.

1. CALAFCO Quarterly – June 2020.

2. Letter from Pamela Miller of CALAFCO dated August 11, 2020, regarding cancellation of the 2020 CALAFCO Conference.

- C. "In the News."

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

6. CONSENT ITEM

- A. **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW NO. 2020-01 AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE NO. 2020-01 – DEL PUERTO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT, WESTSIDE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT AND OAK VALLEY HOSPITAL DISTRICT:** The Commission will consider the adoption of a Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update for the Del Puerto and Westside Community Healthcare Districts and Oak Valley Hospital District. This item is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3). (Staff Recommendation: Approve the update and adopt Resolution No. 2020-04.)

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Designation of Voting Delegate and Alternate for the Annual CALAFCO Business Meeting. (staff Recommendation: Designate a voting delegate and alternate.)

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Members may provide comments regarding LAFCO matters.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Commission Chair may announce additional matters regarding LAFCO matters.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Officer regarding current staff activities.

- A. On the Horizon.

11. CLOSED SESSION – EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, a closed session will be held to consider the following item: Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Title: LAFCO Executive Officer

12. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Set the next meeting date of the Commission for September 23, 2020.
- B. Adjournment.

LAFCO Disclosure Requirements

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions: If you wish to participate in a LAFCO proceeding, you are prohibited from making a campaign contribution of more than \$250 to any commissioner or alternate. This prohibition begins on the date you begin to actively support or oppose an application before LAFCO and continues until three months after a final decision is rendered by LAFCO. No commissioner or alternate may solicit or accept a campaign contribution of more than \$250 from you or your agent during this period if the commissioner or alternate knows, or has reason to know, that you will participate in the proceedings. If you or your agent have made a contribution of more than \$250 to any commissioner or alternate during the twelve (12) months preceding the decision, that commissioner or alternate must disqualify himself or herself from the decision. However, disqualification is not required if the commissioner or alternate returns the campaign contribution within thirty (30) days of learning both about the contribution and the fact that you are a participant in the proceedings.

Lobbying Disclosure: Any person or group lobbying the Commission or the Executive Officer in regard to an application before LAFCO must file a declaration prior to the hearing on the LAFCO application or at the time of the hearing if that is the initial contact. Any lobbyist speaking at the LAFCO hearing must so identify themselves as lobbyists and identify on the record the name of the person or entity making payment to them.

Disclosure of Political Expenditures and Contributions Regarding LAFCO Proceedings: If the proponents or opponents of a LAFCO proposal spend \$1,000 with respect to that proposal, they must report their contributions of \$100 or more and all of their expenditures under the rules of the Political Reform Act for local initiative measures to the LAFCO Office.

LAFCO Action in Court: All persons are invited to testify and submit written comments to the Commission. If you challenge a LAFCO action in court, you may be limited to issues raised at the public hearing or submitted as written comments prior to the close of the public hearing. All written materials received by staff 24 hours before the hearing will be distributed to the Commission.

Reasonable Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, hearing devices are available for public use. If hearing devices are needed, please contact the LAFCO Clerk at 525-7660. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Clerk to make arrangements.

Alternative Formats: If requested, the agenda will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12132) and the Federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Notice Regarding Non-English Speakers: Pursuant to California Constitution Article III, Section IV, establishing English as the official language for the State of California, and in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure Section 185 which requires proceedings before any State Court to be in English, notice is hereby given that all proceedings before the Local Agency Formation Commission shall be in English and anyone wishing to address the Commission is required to have a translator present who will take an oath to make an accurate translation from any language not English into the English language.



STANISLAUS LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 24, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeMartini called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. Chair DeMartini led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
- B. Introduction of Commissioners and Staff. Chair DeMartini led in the introduction of the Commissioners and Staff.

Commissioners Present: Jim DeMartini, Chair, County Member
Bill Berryhill, Vice-Chair, Public Member
Terry Withrow, County Member
Michael Van Winkle, City Member
Amy Bublak, City Member
Richard O'Brien, Alternate City Member
Brad Hawn, Alternate Public Member

Staff Present: Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer
Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer
Jennifer Vieira, Commission Clerk
Alice Mimms, LAFCO Counsel

Commissioners Absent: Vito Chiesa, Alternate County Member

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair DeMartini asked if there were any Public Comments. LAFCO Executive Officer stated that numerous emails had been received by Staff prior to the meeting and hardcopies have been provided to the Commission. The emails were regarding the City of Modesto's proposed Urban Limit Line. The following are hardcopies given to the Commission at the meeting: Dayl Crook, Alan Cover, Krissie Bergstedt, Lani Turner, Leslie Doty, Linda and John Brughelli, Lisa Braden, Mary Brush, Robin Braden Hennings, Valerie Goldstein, Vito Ruggirello, Vincent Lucchesi, the Hunnicutts, and Denny Jackman.

The Executive Officer stated that two additional emails were received from Stephanie Bergstedt and Lina Alldredge and will be forwarded to the Commission electronically.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the April 22, 2020 Meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Berryhill, seconded by Commissioner Bublak and carried with a 5-0 vote to approve the Minutes of the April 22, 2020 meeting by the following:

Ayes: Commissioners: Berryhill, Bublak, DeMartini, Van Winkle and Withrow
Noes: Commissioners: None
Ineligible: Commissioners: Hawn and O'Brien
Absent: Commissioners: Chiesa
Abstention: Commissioners: None

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Specific Correspondence.

None.

B. Informational Correspondence.

1. Letter from Mayor Brandvold, City of Modesto, regarding Urban Limit Line, dated June 9, 2020.
2. Letter from Sara Lytle-Pinhey, LAFCO Executive Officer, to Ted Brandvold, City of Modesto Mayor, dated June 23, 2020.
3. CALAFCO 2020 Board Nomination Packet.

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW NO. 2020-02 AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE NO. 2020-02 – ORESTIMBA CREEK AND SAND CREEK FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICTS:** The Commission will consider the adoption of a Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update for the Orestimba Creek & Sand Creek Flood Control Districts. This item is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3). (Staff Recommendation: Approve the update and adopt Resolution No. 2020-07.)

Motion by Commissioner Van Winkle, seconded by Commissioner Withrow and carried with a 5-0 vote to adopt Resolution No. 2020-07, by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners: Berryhill, Bublak, DeMartini, Van Winkle and Withrow
Noes: Commissioners: None
Ineligible: Commissioners: Hawn and O'Brien
Absent: Commissioners: Chiesa
Abstention: Commissioners: None

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. **SCHEDULE OF FEES AND DEPOSITS UPDATE:** The Commission will consider approval of an updated schedule of fees and deposits. (Staff Recommendation: Adopt the updated Schedule of Fees and Deposits.)

Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer, presented the item with a recommendation of approval.

The Executive Officer stated there were no public comments received for this item and no emails.

Motion by Commissioner Berryhill, seconded by Commissioner Van Winkle and carried with a 5-0 vote to adopt Resolution No. 2020-08, approving the application, by the following vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners: Berryhill, Bublak, DeMartini, Van Winkle and Withrow
Noes:	Commissioners: None
Ineligible:	Commissioners: Hawn and O'Brien
Absent:	Commissioners: Chiesa
Abstention:	Commissioners: None

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. **CITY SPHERES OF INFLUENCE REPORT:** (Staff Recommendation: Accept and file the report.)

Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer, presented the item with a recommendation to accept and file the report.

The Commission accepted the report.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner DeMartini stated that the LAFCO response letter to the City of Modesto was well written. He hopes that the City of Modesto will follow the correct LAFCO procedure.

10. ADDITIONAL MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

None.

11. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. On the Horizon. The Executive Officer informed the Commission of the following:
- Staff is anticipating a potential Sphere of Influence application from the City of Modesto related to their proposed Urban Limit Line.
 - Staff is recommending canceling the July meeting as there are no public hearings scheduled.

12. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair DeMartini announced that the next meeting will be August 26, 2020.
- B. Chair DeMartini adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

NOT APPROVED

Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer

News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

June 2020

A message from the Executive Director

So much has changed in our world since the last Quarterly Report in February of this year. Each of us have dealt personally with changes and health matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic; we've professionally dealt with

keeping LAFCo business going while striving to keep ourselves, each other and our communities healthy and safe; and been faced with understanding and responding to the fiscal fallout of the pandemic and the recent calls for racial and social justice...it can all overwhelm us if we let it.

This Quarterly Report will begin differently. We are highlighting the good news in our CALAFCO family first, followed by Association updates. Happy reading!

Welcome New LAFCo Family Members

We welcome two new babies to the CALAFCO family!

San Mateo LAFCo Mgmt. Analyst Rob Bartoli and his wife Michelle welcomed (10 days early) **Luca Robert Bartoli** on March 30, 2020. Luca weighed in at 7 lbs., 11 oz. The family is all well, healthy and enjoying the comforts of home.



Not to be outdone, Napa LAFCo Executive Officer Brendon Freeman and family welcomed **Noah Campos Freeman** into the world on April 6, 2020. Noah tipped the scales at 8 lbs., 11 oz. upon his release from quarantine. Mom Isabel, Noah and Dad are all doing fine. Although neither set of parents are getting much sleep right now!

Congratulations to the Freemans and Bartoli's on bringing two future LAFCo EOs into the world!

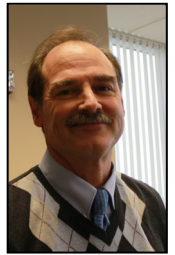
Congratulations on Upcoming Retirements

We want to congratulate two long-time LAFCo leaders on their upcoming retirements. Their contributions to CALAFCO and to LAFCos statewide are far too numerous to list here. Needless to say, they both leave huge shoes to fill and will be greatly missed. We wish them both all the best in their retirement!

After a distinguished near 20-year career with Sonoma LAFCo, Asst. EO **Carole Cooper** is retiring at the end of June. Carole spent 12 years on the CALAFCO Legislative Committee and was the recipient of the CALAFCO Project of the Year Award as part of the team that revised the definition section of CKH, and received the Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award.



San Luis Obispo LAFCo EO **David Church** is also calling it time to retire. David has been with his LAFCo for almost 19 years and will be retiring in July. David also spent a number of years contributing to CALAFCO on the Legislative Committee and as the Deputy EO representing the coastal region for four years. David received several CALAFCO Achievement Awards including the Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award and the Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award.



LAFCos in the News

Tuolumne LAFCo Adds Special Districts

For the first time since 2012, special districts have been added to a LAFCo! CALAFCO acknowledges the hard work of **Tuolumne LAFCo** and congratulates them on adding special districts to their LAFCo. This is no easy feat and their process was a long one. We will learn more about it from EO **Quincy Yaley** in our next edition of *The Sphere*. As of today, 31 of the 58 LAFCos have special district representation. Way to go Tuolumne LAFCo!

Santa Clara LAFCo Receives Award for Communication and Outreach Plan

Earlier this month, **Santa Clara LAFCo** received the American Planning Association - California Northern Chapter's "Award of Excellence - Communication Initiative" for their communication and outreach plan. The APA highlighted the plan as one of the outstanding winners for its "fresh ideas that are transferable to other communities and represent guidebooks toward a more inclusive, accessible and equitable planning future."

Los Angeles LAFCo Receives Award of Excellence

In May, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded it's "Award of Excellence: Hard Won Victories" for "Rescuing the Sativa Water System" to **LA LAFCo**, the County of Los Angeles, and the SWRCB for their collaborative work on the Agency.

CALAFCO congratulates **Tuolumne**, **Santa Clara** and **Los Angeles** LAFCos on their achievements!



News from the Board of Directors

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CALAFCO BOARD UPDATE

The CALAFCO Board met February 21 and May 1. Here is a summary of the actions taken by the Board at these respective meetings.



February 21

As a follow up to the December 2019 meeting, the Board continued the discussion of transitioning the two primary contractors to employees to comply with AB 5. In executive session, the Board accepted the retirement announcement of Executive Director Pamela Miller, developed a recruitment plan and timeline and discussed the transition.

The Board considered the Tulare LAFCo proposed dues structure. After much discussion, they unanimously approved the convening of an ad hoc committee sometime in the summer to once again look at the dues structure that was adopted by the membership in October 2019. It is likely that this ad hoc committee will also include several member LAFCos outside of the Board.

Other actions the Board took at this meeting included:

- ✓ Reconfirmed no CPI increase (pursuant to Bylaws) for the FY 2020-21 LAFCo dues;
- ✓ Approved a request from Contra Costa LAFCo to prepare and file an amicus brief
- ✓ Conducted the annual dashboard review of the 2019 Strategic Plan objectives; and
- ✓ Accepted a series of reports including the 2020 conflict of interest filings, quarterly financial and investment reports, and the legislative report.

May 1

After careful consideration, the Board adopted a balanced budget for FY 2020-21. There are several notable differences in this budget as compared to past budgets, including:

- The Annual Conference revenue and expenses were adjusted for a smaller attendance and for a break-even model due to the pandemic;
- We are now budgeting for employer expenses such as employer's insurance, payroll services and payroll taxes, workers' compensation and overtime for the Administrator which is a non-exempt position; and
- For the first time, the operational costs of the Association are covered by member LAFCo dues, so there is no budget deficit. This is a result of the membership approving the new dues structure at the October 31, 2019 annual business meeting.

The Board also received a report from the Executive Director (ED) Recruitment Committee on the progress of the recruitment. During this report current ED Pamela Miller shared that given the uncertain times we are currently in and will be facing for the unforeseen future, she did not see

this is not a good time for a change in leadership for the Association and offered to stay on as the ED. The Recruitment Committee then took this under advisement.

Other actions taken by the Board at the May 1 meeting included:

- ✓ Received and filed the quarterly financial and investment reports;
- ✓ Received and filed the Legislative Committee report; and
- ✓ Received a verbal update on the Annual Conference from the Conference Chair and Program Chair.

All Board meeting packets are posted on the CALAFCO website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAMELA MILLER STAYING WITH CALAFCO

As was announced in early June, Pamela Miller will be staying with the Association as Executive Director. To comply with the requirements of AB 5, both Pamela and Jeni Tickler, CALAFCO's Administrator, will be transitioning to employee status effective September 1. Both will remain as part-time employees.

2020 STAFF WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Staff Workshop

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CALAFCO's Staff Workshop was cancelled. The workshop was scheduled for March 25-27 in Newport Beach. As it turned out, this was the right call, and done ahead of the March 19 stay-at-home order issued by the Governor.

CALAFCO staff was able to negotiate a revision in the facility contract to avoid a cancellation fee of over \$36,000. The workshop for 2020 has been booked at the same facility with only a slight increase in the food and beverage minimum and room rates. Further, all deposits (hotel, bus, boat, and caterer for the mobile workshop) were successfully moved forward to next year without penalty.

We wish to thank our Workshop hosts, *Imperial* and *Orange LAFCos* and their staff who worked so hard to prepare a fabulous workshop, and Program Chair *Gary Thompson*. His team did such an outstanding job that the program as planned will be moved forward to the 2021 Workshop.

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference is currently scheduled for October 21-23 in Monterey at the Hyatt Regency. Due to the ongoing restrictions on gatherings because of COVID-19, and due to shrinking local agency budgets, CALAFCO staff is currently exploring viable options for the Conference. The Program Planning Committee is already hard at work and planning session topics that are extremely relevant for the times. Details about the Conference will be announced as soon as a decision is made. We want to thank Conference Chair

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Jane Parker and Program Chair *Christine Crawford*, as well as the entire program planning team for their work thus far.

Your Board's top priority is ensuring the health and safety of all of you, our Association members, your families, and those at the hotel facility. Our decision will be based with that in mind as priority #1.

CALAFCO UNIVERSITY

Under the leadership of *Martha Poyatos*, the format of the CALAFCO



University is being revised. For the remainder of the year, we will be offering all CALAFCO U sessions virtually. We are currently planning a series of short online sessions including LAFCo 101 for staff, Clerk 101 (to include Public Records Requests and BOE info), and a LAFCo Primer for Commissioners. This series will be offered at no cost to all member LAFCo staff and commissioners, and will be recorded and placed online for on-demand access to our members. A number of other courses are also being planned, so keep an eye open for announcements coming soon.



CALAFCO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This has been a legislative year like no other given the pandemic. As we have been reporting, the Legislature went into recess to comply with the Governor's stay at home orders and was out for several months without bills moving. Upon return, both houses adopted revised calendars and cut

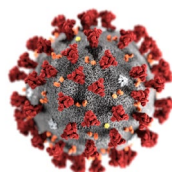
back their bill count significantly.

As you are all aware, the state is now grappling with a \$54 billion deficit and Legislators are having to make difficult decisions on how to close that deficit gap. One thing is certain – even if there is federal funding assistance, local governments throughout the state will be operating in fiscal crisis for several years to come.

As a result, the CALAFCO legislative priorities for the year have all but vanished. The LAFCo funding bill not be moving forward and our work with the Protest Provisions Rewrite Working Group has been put on pause. Staff hopes to reconvene that working group in late summer.

CALAFCO'S COVID-19 RESPONSE AND MEMBER SUPPORT

As all of you were forced to quickly pivot and revise the way you conduct business in March, so was CALAFCO staff. We have been working remotely since mid-March and monitor the office mail and voicemails. Both Pamela and Jeni continue to do everything as usual, just from home.



Seeing a need to support LAFCo staff as they navigated the difficult waters of caring for themselves, their commissions, and the public so that business would be seamless, CALAFCO began hosting weekly meetings for Executive Officers and another for Clerks. These meetings create a space in which LAFCo staff can discuss the unusual issues they are dealing with, share ideas and collectively develop solutions. Over three months later, the meetings are now transitioning to bi-weekly.

CALAFCO staff also issued a number of special bulletins to the full membership over the past several months, sharing critical information and resources as appropriate. In addition, we are sharing a variety of resources and educational opportunities from other resources on things like conducting virtual meetings, fiscal impacts of COVID, etc.

Seeing a need for remote meeting resources for our member LAFCos, CALAFCO offered our toll free conference calling system for you to conduct your meetings and in May purchased several Zoom licenses, one specifically for use by our member LAFCos to conduct your meetings virtually at no cost to you.

We hope you have found these resources useful and we will continue to work in providing you the support you need.

CALAFCO ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

We successfully migrated to a new email server at the end of February and are happy to report the transition was seamless and has resolved all of CALAFCO staff's email issues.



The CALAFCO website is being updated to enhance the library archives and member forms sections. So far over the past several months the following updates have occurred:

- ✓ CALAFCO University session archives are fully updated with all prior CALAFCO U session materials online
- ✓ Attorney General Opinions section is fully updated with all AG Opinions posted
- ✓ CALAFCO Directories have all been indexed, reorganized and updated
- ✓ In CALAFCO Publications, The Sphere section has been fully updated with a more usable indexing
- ✓ In the Resources section, all of the Useful Weblinks have been updated.

Future updates (some currently in progress) include a full update and re-indexing of the Forms Library and updating of the LAFCo litigation section.

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CALAFCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION PERIOD OPEN

The nomination period for the 2020 CALAFCO Board of Directors election is open. Nominations are being accepted through 5:00 p.m. September 22, 2020. Nomination packets were emailed to all LAFCo EOs, are placed on the CALAFCO website, and hard copies will be mailed to each LAFCo office.



CALAFCO Associate Members' Corner

This section highlights our Associate Members. The information below is provided to CALAFCO by the Associate member upon joining the Association. All Associate member information can be found in the CALAFCO Member Directory.

Our last edition featured our Gold Associate Members. In our next several editions we will highlight our Silver Associate Members.

Berkson Associates **Berkson Associates**

provides clear, concise analysis for preparation of governance studies including district formation, consolidation and dissolutions. Extensive experience completing incorporation studies. Expertise also includes market analysis, public agency budget forecasting and demographic/housing analysis in support of MSRs. For more information, contact **Richard Berkson** at richard@berksonassociates.com. You can also visit their website at www.berksonassociates.com.



Santa Ynez Community Services District



SANTA YNEZ
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Founded in 1971, **the Santa Ynez Community Services District** provides wastewater collection and transportation and street lighting, serving approximately 688 wastewater connections. Effluent collected by the District is treated at the City of Solvang wastewater treatment plant. For more information about the District, visit their website at www.sycsd.com, or contact the Secretary/Treasurer **Wendy Berry** at wendy@sycsd.com.

Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc.

RSG is a creatively charged counterpart to California public agencies. They work with the people responsible for vibrant places and propel them to their goals. Better Communities. Bolder futures. To learn more about them visit their website at www.webrsg.com or contact **Jim Simon** at jsimon@webrsg.com.



City of Fontana



City of Fontana is responsible for managing the City's annexation program, which includes coordinating annexation meetings, meeting with landowners and developers concerning the benefits of annexation, preparing Plans for Services, overseeing preparation of environmental documents pertaining to rezoning and annexation, and presenting them to the Planning Commission, City Council and LAFCo for review and consideration. In addition, oversee the preparation of out-of-agency service agreements for sewer and other municipal services. Visit them at www.fontana.org.

CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to continue highlighting you in future Quarterly Reports.

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee meeting – July 17, 2020 via conference call
- ❖ CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting – July 24, 2020 – Location TBD



The full revised CALAFCO 2020 Calendar of Events can be found on the CALAFCO website. It is being updated regularly as events and meetings are cancelled or changed.

All CALAFCO Board and Legislative Committee meeting packets are available online at www.calafco.org.

Your CALAFCO Board and Staff wish all of you a safe and healthy summer. We continue to face both known and unknown challenges. As we do, keeping ourselves, our families, our work teams, and our communities healthy and safe remains a priority. Please, be well.



August 11, 2020

Dear CALAFCO Membership:

As a follow up to our announcement last month that the 2020 in-person Annual Conference has been canceled due to the pandemic, we want to share an update on events and recent decisions made by the Board. We want to thank those of you who provided feedback as we requested – it was given great consideration during the thoughtful discussions and decision-making process.

No Virtual Conference Event

The Board unanimously decided not to hold a formal, virtual Conference event. After careful research, it was clear the use of a professional virtual event firm to support this model would likely create a financial loss for the Association. At a time when all of us are working to tighten up financials, we felt this was a responsible decision (along with a number of other reasons supporting this decision).

Other Virtual Options – Feedback will be Requested

The Board directed staff to get feedback from the membership on the interest level of attending stand-alone virtual sessions for several specific session topics as identified by the Conference Program Planning Team. The level of interest to attend a 90-minute session will determine whether CALAFCO will hold one or more of those sessions.

You are requested to take 1 minute and respond to the Survey Monkey request for feedback as to your interest level of attending any one or all of those sessions BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

The session topics are:

- *Tackling pension and OPEB obligations – how should agencies be handling them, including your LAFCo*
- *The “new normal” – recession outlooks and impacts*
- *LAFCo in a proactive role – working with agencies as a local government champion for solutions and rebuilding communities in crisis*

Board of Directors Elections

As you have been advised, elections will be conducted via email ballot. The Elections Committee will meet on October 22 to count the ballots and verify results. An email announcement will be made shortly thereafter. Please see all election information provided to you in letters dated June 19 and July 7, 2020. This information is also posted on the CALAFCO website.

Annual Achievement Awards

The Board unanimously approved taking a one-year hiatus of the Annual Achievement Awards this year. With the assistance of staff, the Awards Committee will use this time to review and revise the awards program. This includes looking at streamlining award categories, creating clear selection criteria for each category and revising the nomination process. The Committee's recommendations will be brought before the full Board for consideration and adoption, then provided to the membership as adopted.

Given no awards this year, the 2021 awards will allow for consideration of work done in 2020 and 2021. This will be the only year this exception will be made.

Annual Business Meeting

No decision has been made yet on whether there will be an Annual Business Meeting. Our Association Bylaws and Policies do not require one, and CALAFCO is researching the law to determine if one is required as a 501(c)3. Watch for an announcement on an Annual Business Meeting coming soon. If one is to be held, it will be held virtually with stringent participation guidelines, and be scheduled for the same date and time the in-person one would have occurred – October 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Regional Roundtables

CALAFCO will host regional roundtables for each of the four regions, likely the same week the Conference would have occurred. Watch for announcements on that to come soon.

If you have questions, please let Executive Director Pamela Miller know. You can reach her at pmiller@calafco.org.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you for your unwavering leadership and the integrity you continue to demonstrate as local government leaders every day, and especially in difficult times such as these.

Yours sincerely,



Mike McGill
Chair of the Board



Pamela Miller
Executive Director

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CORRESPONDENCE – IN THE NEWS

Newspaper Articles

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- Modesto Bee, June 18, 2020, “Turlock moves ahead with river treatment plant. Big rate hikes are already under way.”
- West Side Index, June 18, 2020, “Mosquito agencies gear up control efforts.”
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- West Side Index, July 9, 2020, “Four ambulance board seats on ballot.”
- Modesto Bee, July 16, 2020, “Modesto mayor’s proposal for urban limit line won’t make November ballot.”
- Patterson Irrigator, July 16, 2020, “Planning Commission sends Transportation Infrastructure Master Plan to City Council with recommendations.”

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, June 17, 2020

18-home Hatch Road subdivision receives 3-1 approval

By Jeff Benziger

The Ceres Planning Commission approved a plan to build 18 single-family homes north of Hatch Road between Moffet Road and Wallin Way.

In a 3-1 vote the commissioners approved vesting tentative subdivision map, and Planned Community Development Plan (PCDP) to subdivide 1.67 acres on Hatch Road for 18 homes ranging in size from 1,390 to 1,630 square feet. Commissioner Dave Johnson did not vote because of a conflict of interest.

The Olive Villas project is proposed by Gary Rogers of Madera.

In 2001 the general plan was amended to allow for the continuation of the business park or a senior housing facility.

Originally the Olive Wood/Hatch Road Professional park site was intended to be built as a 20,452 square foot professional office complex consisting of seven buildings on seven lots with parking and access easements. Although the seven lots were created, only three of the seven buildings were constructed to date. The original plans were to tear down a house on the site – now vacant and recently burned in a fire – and build a 17,852-square-foot expansion of the office complex, consisting of six additional buildings or developing a senior housing project, consisting of 13 detached dwellings. The second phase never came to pass.

When the city was approved about changing the plan to develop 30 townhome dwelling units within six buildings, city staff foresaw significant problems with not enough space for amenities, guest parking and emergency vehicle access. The developer reworked the project for 18 single-family homes – a project the city could support at the staff level.

Proposed are 10 single-story single-family, three-bedroom, two-bath homes; and eight three-bedroom townhomes which are two-story and sized at 1,630 square feet. The development would be subject to a Homeowners' Association (HOA) and CC & R's (Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions).

Upon the demolition of the burned out home, the developer will be removing the two existing driveways along Hatch Road and replacing it with a deceleration lane along Hatch Road leading to a private roadway to serve the subdivision. A 12-foot wide stamped concrete median island at the Hatch Road entrance will restrict turning movements to right in, right out, and left in only from the subdivision. The project will also be accessible through the existing Olive Woods office complex parking lot. A total of 66 parking spaces will serve the project. Restrictions will dictate that garages must be used for vehicle parking.

As a buffer zone between Hatch Road and the homes closest to Hatch Road will be a park strip with a children's play area and barbecue area and guest parking area just west of the new entrance and landscaping and a dog park on the east side.

All of the units will have a 10-foot deep backyard, Rogers told the commission.

"These things are going to look really nice," said Rogers. "They're going to fit in with the neighborhood."

Despite the commission's approval, the Ceres City Council must approve the master plan amendment.

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, June 24, 2020 (continued)

Commissioner Gary Del Nero expressed concerns that traffic will be allowed to turn into the neighborhood from eastbound Hatch by making a left turn. He mentioned two fatal crashes that occurred in the area in recent months.

Benjamin Penfield of JMP Homes said projects he's built have requirements that homeowners maintain their homes.

"We will make a strict HOA policy that they have to keep it up to a certain thing, they can't let it run down," said Penfield. "I do a lot of these projects up and down the Valley. I've probably done 20 or 30 of these and so every project that we've done ... 10 years, 20 years down the road it still looks the same as it was day one and I set it up that way on purpose."

Commissioner Laurie Smith commented that the single-story homes look simple and wondered why they weren't designed to look more visually interesting.

Neighbor Zach Zamaroni asked if the block wall separating the project from the existing houses could be constructed at seven-foot tall instead of six foot. Rogers said he would go seven feet.

The homes may sell between \$275,000 and \$325,000.

Smith said she had concerns about the project's effect on traffic and traffic safety, and she expressed concerns about the looks of the homes and how they may look decades later. She cast the lone vote against the project.

Turlock moves ahead with river treatment plant. Big rate hikes are already under way

By John Holland

Turlock is pressing forward with a new water treatment plant on the Tuolumne River, aimed at reducing its use of wells.

The City Council voted 5-0 on June 11 to continue partnering with Ceres on the project, which could be ready in 2023. Both cities have already launched the series of rate hikes that will cover most of the \$202 million cost.

The Turlock council had taken several votes in recent years in favor of the project. It met again last week to consider an alternative offered by Modesto.

The larger city proposed selling surplus water from the treatment plant that has operated on the Tuolumne since 1995. Demand on this plant has been less than projected, thanks to water conservation efforts and slowing population growth.

The Turlock council declined the offer, which would have cost more and taken longer to deliver than the new treatment plant. A rough estimate put the cost at \$495 per acre-foot from the new plant and \$557 from the existing plant, said William Wong, director of utilities for Modesto. An acre-foot is 326,000 gallons.

His estimate did not account for the 10-mile distance between the existing plant and the proposed plant, meaning extra pipeline costs.

The Turlock council decision cleared the way for a June 29 vote by the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority to move into detailed design and construction, said Robert Granberg, the project's general manager. Its board is made up of two council members each from Turlock and Ceres.

The authority has already chosen CH2M Hill, part of a Colorado-based company, to do this work. Construction could start in February 2021 and finish in June 2023, Granberg said.

PROJECT DISCUSSED SINCE 1980S

Turlock and Ceres are among the many Central Valley cities that get their water entirely from wells. The groundwater can run short during drought. Wells also can be shut down if they fail to meet state standards for drinking water.

Modesto officials credit the existing Tuolumne treatment plant with helping to recharge aquifers in and near the city. It was built by the Modesto Irrigation District, and also supplies farmers in the surrounding area.

A plant for Ceres and Turlock has been pursued off and on since the late 1980s, sometimes with other cities in their vicinity. Cost and other concerns put off the idea.

The Turlock Irrigation District has already agreed to sell some of its Tuolumne supply to the plant, to be built near the Geer Road bridge over the river. The intake system – perforated pipes under the streambed – are already in place.

The plant will filter and sanitize the river water, then send it through a pair of new pipelines. One will go about five miles south to Turlock, the other about four miles west to Ceres.

RATE HIKES ALREADY UNDER WAY

Turlock and Ceres approved multi-year water rate increases to cover most of the treatment plant cost. A typical customer in Turlock, using an average of 300 gallons a month, will see an increase from \$30.76 in 2017 to \$68.54 in 2022.

Rate increases could be reduced or canceled in the future thanks to the lower-than-expected cost of the plant, originally set at \$278 million. Granberg said this resulted from the detailed analysis by engineers involved in the project.

Both cities will put some of the rate hikes into upgrading the wells that will remain part of their systems.

The cities also are using \$35 million in state and federal grants on the treatment plant. They continue to seek grants and expect to soon line up a low-interest loan from the state.

MORE WATER FOR SALMON

The partners note another benefit: Higher flows for salmon. Water for TID farmers is diverted at La Grange Reservoir. The project will allow some of that water to run for about 25 more miles before being taken for human use.

Turlock and Ceres had other partners in the treatment plant that came and went over the years, such as Hughson, Keyes, Denair, Hilmar and Delhi. Granberg said they could get back into it in the future by covering their share of the costs.

Modesto also had been part of the Ceres-Turlock project, to supply customers just south of the river. Reduced demand projections prompted it to withdraw.

Mosquito agencies gear up control efforts

Mosquito abatement districts which serve the western reaches of Stanislaus and Merced counties are gearing up their annual detection and eradication campaign against the insects.

Early season mosquito populations in the Gustine and Newman areas have been normal, managers of the Turlock and Merced County mosquito abatement districts recently told *Mattos Newspapers*, but there are concerns about what the summer may hold in terms of West Nile Virus activity.

David Heft, general manager of the Turlock district noted that virus activity has been detected in the Turlock area. The virus was discovered earlier than ever, he added.

Virus activity has not been confirmed in the Newman area, he said, but the district is still in the early stages of its monitoring program.

"The late rains plus high temperatures may be what is driving the increase in West Nile Virus activity," Heft recently commented. "We won't know more until we can put out some more traps and get more data before we can start making any definitive conclusions."

Merced County has not yet detected virus activity in its sampling this spring, said Rhiannon Jones, general manager of the countywide abatement district. That it has not been detected in sampling doesn't necessarily mean the virus is not present, she cautioned.

Jones said that, while population levels are normal, warmer temperatures allowed mosquito populations to establish sooner than expected.

Looking ahead, Jones said, "it is expected to be a hotter year than average, which will mean we will most likely see higher mosquito populations, for a longer period of time, and more virus activity to correspond with that."

The Turlock district is continuing to detect the presence of the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Newman, Heft said, though in low numbers.

Those mosquitoes are a health concern because they can carry diseases such as Zika, Heft said, and are a nuisance because they are active in the daytime hours, live in close quarters with humans and are aggressive biters.

The Turlock district is continuing to closely monitor for *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, he said, and will conduct an outreach campaign to help raise awareness.

"Our activities will be to encourage the public in getting involved, learn about this mosquito and help us detect it early in neighborhoods," Heft stated. "We have not detected *Aedes aegypti* anywhere else in the county besides Newman, but we continue our aggressive surveillance program to detect it as early as possible. Eventually, we expect *Aedes aegypti* to become widespread."

Heft agreed with Jones that overall the mosquito populations have been typical in the Newman area to date.

"We didn't have the river flooding we had last year, so populations have been normal," he pointed out.

IN THE NEWS – West Side Index, June 18, 2020 (Continued Page 2)

Jones and Heft are emphasizing to residents the importance of eliminating standing water in which mosquitoes can breed and taking precautions against exposure to the insects.

"The more pro-active the citizens are with eliminating standing water, reporting mosquito populations and taking preemptive measures, the more they reduce their exposure to mosquitoes," Jones commented.

Given the coronavirus pandemic, Heft said, keeping West Nile Virus transmission to the lowest possible point is essential.

While mosquitoes have not been shown to transmit the coronavirus, Heft wrote in a March 23 Facebook post, "mosquito-borne viruses, such as West Nile, could certainly negatively impact an individuals immune responses to the coronavirus."

Both agencies are handling service requests, and encourage residents to report mosquito problems.

Service requests can be submitted online through each agency's website. The Merced County Mosquito Abatement District may be reached at 722-1527. The Turlock Mosquito Abatement District may be reached at 634-1234.

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, June 24, 2020

Hearing over proposed project next to River Oaks delayed to July 27

By Jeff Benziger

Because of expected high interest, a public hearing over plans to develop a vacant parcel over the fence from River Oaks Golf Course's driving range was delayed from Monday until July 27.

In March the Ceres Planning Commission voted 4-1 to rezone the property south of the driving range and approved a tentative map and site plan for a proposed commercial development. Owners of the golf course say the development of the neighboring property threatens the viability of the recreational facility.

The Ceres City Council will need to weigh in on an amendment to the MRCSP. That hearing will now be held next month.

City Manager Tom Westbrook said that the applicant and his representative know the importance of holding the hearing when council meetings are once again open to physical attendance of audience members rather than conduct it on Zoom. The city expects to have public be able to attend meeting in-person starting next month – subject to restrictions like social distancing and the wearing of masks.

"They didn't feel that Zoom was going to be the appropriate method to take public testimony for that item," said Westbrook. "Also, the applicant's representative is concerned about COVID impact that may have so they wanted to make sure that it was pushed back far enough so that we could actually hold an open session in the Council Chambers."

There are no guarantees that the state won't change restrictions in coming weeks and months. Westbrook said it's possible that the hearing may have to be postponed again.

Vice Mayor Linda Ryno said the Community Center was likely big enough to accommodate a socially distanced – and possibly masked – crowd but that an overflow area could be set up via closed circuit TV in the large assembly room.

"We can't keep holding off important things like this because of Zoom and if we have the ability to open the meeting think we should try that."

Councilman Bret Durossette suggested holding the July 27 meeting in the largest room in the center because of the large turnout expected to weigh in on both sides.

Owners of the golf course have been protesting Surjit Singh's proposal to build a commercial strip mall on 2.16 acres over the net from their driving range near Hatch Road. Singh plans to develop three retail commercial buildings sized at 3,500, 4,835 and 14,160 square feet.

The project site is zoned from Mixed Use (MX)-2 through the Mitchell Road Corridor Specific Plan which allows limited commercial like professional offices. Singh owner the Punjab Plaza at Central Avenue at Pine Street elected to request an amendment of the MRCSP designation to Community Commercial (CC) to allow more of a wider range of commercial uses.

During the 2018 update of the General Plan, Singh was one of a handful of property owners who requested General Plan designation changes. Singh's land had a Commercial Recreational designation in the former General Plan and asked that it be changed to Community Commercial. The Planning Commission and City Council approved the changing of the General Plan designation from Commercial Recreational to Community Commercial.

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, June 24, 2020 (continued)

If the council follows in the commission's footsteps, the MRCSP amendment will make the General Plan designation and the MRCSP consistent.

Golf course owners Ken and Pam Thornberry and Robert Hall are fearful that a strip mall would generally attract crime and devalue the golf course and residences within the course. Their chief concern is over errant golf balls being hit over the existing net intended to catch the balls. Some golfers are capable of sending balls over the netting with occasionally balls bouncing onto Hatch Road.

Singh has secured additional liability insurance coverage which has not satisfied golf course owners. The commission required a deed restriction to make sure future owners operate under the same insurance coverage, said Community Development Director Tom Westbrook.

The golf course staff routinely picks up errant balls in Singh's lot each week. The Thornberrys fear the course will lose its insurance if the development is approved and hinted the city could be setting itself up for liability. They have also balked at the suggestion of City Engineer Daniel Padilla that a 60-foot-tall net might block the balls, saying it won't be enough.

A petition signed by approximately 300 persons – many of them golfers – was presented to the Planning Commission urging the city to reject Singh's request.

Government agency tells Modesto to hit the brakes on putting urban limit on 2020 ballot

By Kevin Valine

The government agency that regulates cities' boundaries has raised red flags over Modesto's proposed urban limit line, saying the city is not following the normal process to set boundaries for its growth.

Mayor Ted Brandvold is leading the effort to have the city place an urban limit line on the November ballot for voter approval. The City Council will hold a Thursday workshop on this and could vote at its July 7 or July 14 meeting on whether to place the limit line on the ballot.

The Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission sent a June 23 letter to Brandvold and the City Council. "LAFCO respectfully requests the City Council direct its Staff to initiate the standard land-use planning process"

That process includes amending the city's general plan, which serves as blueprint for a city's growth, conducting an environmental review and extensive public outreach, all of which could take more than a year.

LAFCO states in its letter that following the standard process "would provide a more reasonable opportunity for engagement with affected agencies and persons ... prior to the City Council's adoption of a ULL and submittal to voters."

GROWTH AGENCY SAYS MODESTO NOT FOLLOWING RULES

Breaking news & more

City spokesman Thomas Reeves said it was too soon for Modesto officials to comment because the city just received the letter.

LAFCO is concerned that the proposed urban limit line includes land outside of what is called Modesto's sphere of influence. A sphere is a LAFCO-approved boundary outside of the city limit but where a city can expect to grow through annexations, which also are approved by LAFCO.

That land includes 1,164 acres along the west side of Highway 99 in Wood Colony, the close-knit farming community. Brandvold has talked about how Modesto needs that land for business parks and jobs and to help secure Modesto's economic future.

MODESTO 'PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE'

But many Wood Colony residents are outraged and see it as one more attempted land grab by Modesto. They say they don't believe an urban limit line will protect them, and once development starts it will not stop, eventually destroying their 151-year-old community.

"Thank you LAFCO," said Lisa Braden, a member of the Wood Colony Community Association and Municipal Advisory Council. "Once again it's the city putting the cart before the horse. I just honestly feel that's what they are doing. I'm glad LAFCO ... told them they are doing it backwards."

Modesto could put an urban limit line on the ballot then start the planning process outlined by LAFCO. But even if voters approved the urban limit, there is no guarantee LAFCO would approve Modesto's land-use changes.

IN THE NEWS – The Modesto Bee, June 24, 2020 (Continued Page 2)

Brandvold said in a text that the city appreciates LAFCO's response, and it's why the city sent 143 letters to government officials seeking input. But he did not respond to a follow-up text on why Modesto, which has planning and land-use experts, did not follow the normal process.

The agenda for Thursday's workshop states council members also will hear a presentation about and discuss a proposed residential limit line. There is no agenda report explaining this proposal. Reeves referred questions to Brandvold, who did not respond to a text about this.

Modesto moved the potential vote on placing an urban limit line on the ballot to its July 7 or July 14 meeting to allow the public to attend the council meeting after Wood Colony residents complained about being shut out of the decision.

COVID-19 COULD KEEP MEETINGS CLOSED

Modesto has barred the public from attending council meetings in person because of the new coronavirus pandemic. But the public can watch a livestream of the meetings and participate by email, which they can do at Thursday's workshop.

Modesto expects to allow the public to attend council meetings in July. But Reeves cautioned because Stanislaus County has seen a recent spike in COVID-19, which is the disease caused by the coronavirus, that might not happen.

Reeves said city officials understand the public needs to attend meetings when items of public importance are considered, but the city has to balance that against the public's health and safety during the pandemic.

Brandvold has said Modesto has until July 20 to get a ballot measure to the county to ensure it gets on the November ballot.

The public can watch a livestream of Thursday's council workshop — which starts at 10 a.m. — at <http://media.modestogov.com>. The public can send emails of no more than 250 words to ccmeetings@modestogov.com.

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, June 24, 2020

Turlock won't bail on Ceres & joint surface water plant

By Jeff Benziger

Ceres' partner in a planned surface water treatment plant project – the city of Turlock – decided last week to remain with the project.

The Turlock City Council was entertaining thoughts of backing out of the project, which would have left only Ceres undertaking the project to deliver treated Tuolumne River water to homes. Last week the council voted unanimously to proceed with the project.

The two cities form the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority (SRWA) which is expected to award a design-build contract to CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc. this month. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2021 with operations starting June 2023.

Currently, 100 percent of the drinking water supply in Ceres and Turlock comes from groundwater. However, the drinking water supply is declining, contaminant levels are increasing and groundwater quality regulations have become more stringent.

Ceres City Manager Tom Westbrook was happy to hear Turlock will remain a partner despite the fact that the Ceres City Council was willing to go it alone.

"I'm glad that it ended the way that it did," said Westbrook. "Turlock and Ceres have been working on this for a long time. A lot of resources have been expended to get to this point. We just know that day after day and year after year the state changes the water quality standards which causes us to have issues sometimes within our water filtration system."

Had Turlock decided against participation, Westbrook said he would have "hit the pause button to make sure that we could move forward with the project."

Both Ceres and Turlock will blend the new source of water with treated groundwater. Turlock will receive up to 10 million gallons per day (MGD) while Ceres has a claim of 5 MGD. Construction of the plant was originally estimated at \$278 million, with Turlock paying \$171.6 million.

Both cities have enacted a series of five-year water rate increases to help pay for the plant which is to be built near Fox Grove Fishing Access west of Geer Road.

Since the original estimates, the project cost has decreased to \$204 million with the SRWA receiving a number of grants that total approximately \$35 million. Due to the lowered total cost of the project, Turlock's water analysts said it is likely that the final year of the rate increase may not be needed.

The Turlock City Council held a special meeting to review the plans made — and potential options — when it comes to securing a reliable source of drinking water. The council heard a presentation from the city of Modesto on the possibility of obtaining treated surface water from the Modesto Regional Water Treatment Plant. The City of Turlock could either participate as a customer of the MRWTP with the City of Modesto as the water retailer, or as a partner in the MRWTP and therefore assuming future costs for "build-out capacity." Turlock city staff recommended against abandoning the SRWA project with Ceres and against seeking a contract with Modesto due to higher total costs and additional time to become operational.

Former Turlock City Council member Bill DeHart, who worked on the SRWA agreements, urged the council to stay the course with the project.

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, June 24, 2020 (continued)

"We are on the cusp of being able to satisfy the immediate need should our wells go down...I would like to encourage the council at this point to project their favorable consideration to the existing arrangement with SRWA and that we continue that relationship," said DeHart. "But never let it be said that I didn't pass along my gratitude for keeping eyes and ears open to opportunities for saving the ratepayers money."

Turlock resident Mike Melendes urged the city to stay with the project taking into consideration the amount of money that has already been spent — which is approximately \$19.4 million between both Turlock and Ceres.

"I'm super excited that you guys are moving forward on a direction," added former Turlock Planning Commissioner Nick Hackler.

He went on to say that talk of partnering with Modesto would not be in Turlock's long-term benefit.

"If we ever want to talk economic development, we have to secure two sources of water," said Hackler. "And being in control of water is really the key to anything moving forward. Right now it's not such a big issue because we've had a couple of good rain years, but that could disappear real quickly."

Turlock Vice Mayor Andrew Nosrati charged that the special meeting was politically motivated to "fulfill a campaign promise (by Mayor Amy Bublak)... as an attempt to do your best to make sure that we spend our money as wisely as possible." He then read a social media post from Bublak's November 2018 campaign where she promised to stop a water rate increase.

Bublak called Nosrati's comment was "inappropriate."

Councilman Gil Esquer said he didn't see where changing direction at this point would benefit Turlock or the ratepayers.

"My feeling is we need to get this project completed as soon as possible. My recommendation is we continue moving forward in the direction we started," said Esquer.

Councilmembers Nicole Larson and Becky Arellano also voiced support for the project.

"If you have the opportunity to maintain and own your own structure water — water is like gold in this time," said Arellano. "Having control over our own destiny and actually having the ability to offer our surrounding towns the option to join in or not is going to be huge."

Bublak defended her hesitations over the project when she said: "I will never apologize for standing up for the ratepayers...I promised that I would try and figure out how to do this and I'm always going to keep my word. It is not political. It is me having a reputation and keeping my word."

Turlock and Ceres give final OK to river treatment plant, after 30-plus years of talk

By John Holland

A vote Monday was the final approval for a Tuolumne River treatment plant serving Turlock and Ceres.

The \$202 million project, discussed off and on since the 1980s, will reduce the cities' dependence on groundwater. Both have already approved the sizable rate increases that will cover most of the cost.

The unanimous vote was by the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority. It is made up of Mayor Amy Bublak and Councilman Gil Esquer of Turlock, and Mayor Chris Viera and Councilman Bret Durossette of Ceres.

The project had paused earlier this month while Turlock considered the alternative of buying surplus water from the Tuolumne treatment plant that has served Modesto since 1995. Turlock officials decided that this option would cost too much and take too long.

WATER COULD FLOW IN THREE YEARS

The authority Monday approved a contract with CH2M Hill, part of a Colorado-based company, for detailed engineering and construction on the project. The latter could start in February 2021 and finish in June 2023, General Manager Robert Granberg said.

The cities aim to draw less from wells, which can run short during drought and fall below drinking-water standards at any time.

Each city council voted in 2017 for a series of rate hikes to cover part of the plant cost. A typical customer in Turlock, using an average of 300 gallons a day, will see an increase from \$30.76 in 2017 to \$68.54 in 2022.

Granberg said the final year of the rate increases might be reduced or canceled because the treatment plant is costing less than expected.

The cities also are using \$35 million in state and federal grants on the project. They continue to seek grants and expect to soon line up a low-interest loan from the state.

MORE WATER FOR FISH

The Turlock Irrigation District has already agreed to sell some of its Tuolumne water to the plant.

TID and its partners cite the benefit for the river fishery: Water for district farmers is diverted at La Grange Reservoir. The project will allow some of that water to run for about 25 more miles before being taken for treatment.

The water will be withdrawn through perforated pipes already installed under the stream bed near the Geer Road bridge. The authority also just completed a "wet well," an underground chamber that will hold water bound for treatment. A drone video of this work is at www.stanrwa.org.

Several cities within the TID boundaries had been part of the treatment plant discussion, but they dropped out because of cost or other concerns. They include Hughson, Keyes, Denair, Hilmar, Delhi and the part of Modesto south of the river.

They can still get the treated water someday by covering their share of the cost, Granberg said.

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, July 1, 2020

Students will be safer on Whitmore Avenue

By Jeff Benziger

Work is continuing on the Whitmore Avenue improvements between Moore Road and Eastgate Boulevard.

Construction crews from United Pavement Maintenance of Hughson were busy yesterday adding pavement at the intersection of Whitmore Avenue and Moore Road where concrete medians have been constructed.

The project involves the widening Whitmore Avenue between Moore Road and Eastgate Boulevard with asphalt overlay, and new 10-foot-wide sidewalk with curb and gutter to make for a better and safer pedestrian traffic on the student route to and from Cesar Chavez Jr. High and La Rosa Elementary School. The work also includes installing a new sewer main and sewer laterals, and water services and fire hydrants as well as storm drainage piping. A new center median down Whitmore has been constructed. To improve safety of pedestrians, signage, a pedestrian beacon signal system, solar speed flashing equipment and street lighting will also be installed.

"The main goal of this project is pedestrian improvements for the school children," said City Engineer Daniel Padilla. "Some students from the apartment complexes, if they're starting on the south side of the road, just walk in the dirt."

Those substandard conditions for pedestrians will disappear with the corridor improvements.

United Pavement Maintenance is performing the work for \$1.96 million.

Construction is expected to be completed before the 2020-21 school year begins.

The widening will bring Whitmore Avenue traffic about 10 feet closer to the front of four residential properties on the block to the south, said Padilla.

"Where students are currently walking, that's almost going to be in the same spot."

Ceres City Manager Tom Westbrook said the project have been discussed for years but were complicated by the fact that the southern side of Whitmore Avenue was in county jurisdiction. Also, one owner had to be coaxed in time into giving up 30 feet of right-of-way since the city didn't pay for the strip of property. But in exchange the owners get free curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements which generally is a homeowner cost.

The work will complement the Whitmore Ranch Specific Plan project which was recently annexed to the city for the development of up to 441 new dwelling units to Ceres south of Whitmore Avenue between Moore Road and Cesar Chavez Junior High School.

The annexation, recently approved by the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission (SLAFCO), included La Rosa Elementary and Cesar Chavez Junior High School as well as lands presently zoned for agricultural use.

The plan earmarks:

- 28 acres for the development of low-density residential uses, or 196 single-family homes with an average lot size of 5,000 square feet;

IN THE NEWS – The Ceres Courier, July 1, 2020 (continued)

- 6.6 acres for medium-density residential uses, or 85 dwelling units with an average lot size of 3,000 square feet;
- 6.4 acres for high-density apartment or condominiums that could result in 160 living units;
- 5.2 acres for open space, including a bike and pedestrian corridor leading to the junior high's western boundary.

Westbrook said the annexation was initiated and funded by Steve and Grant Alvernaz, owners of a 20-acre chunk of the project. The annexation was considered orderly because at the eastern end sit both schools which were in county jurisdiction with the city supplying sewer and water to both.

Previously the schools sat in county jurisdiction. The city committed to bring the campuses into the city limits when it originally agreed to supply water and sewer service to them.

Four ambulance board seats on ballot

A local board which historically has struggled to attract candidates for election has no fewer than four of its five seats on the November ballot.

The West Side Community Healthcare District Board of Directors oversees the operation of West Side Community Ambulance.

In addition to two vacant seats, those currently held by David Varnell and Charles Tanner are on the November ballot.

Varnell, who represents Zone 5, often referred to as the rural Gustine zone, said he will seek election to continue serving.

But Tanner, who represents Zone 3, which encompasses Stevinson, rural areas and a portion of Newman, is an appointee who lives outside that zone and therefore cannot run for the seat he now holds.

Zone 1 (rural Newman) and Zone 2 (city of Newman) are both vacant and up for election this year. Zone 2 is a short-term election for two years; the remainder are four-year terms of office.

Dennis Brazil, who represents the Gustine city zone, is the only incumbent whose seat is not on the ballot.

He encouraged community members to consider running for the board, which has been operating with the bare minimum of three members for the past two years.

"It is extremely important, especially now that we have been able to turn the district 180 degrees in the right direction," Brazil commented. "We are continuing to make the district a better place, and having good board members to make those decisions is vital to the survival of the district."

Varnell agreed.

"We've turned it around. We are going in the right direction as far as (in-house) management taking over and getting a new facility for the ambulances," he commented. "Things are really shaping up."

Maps of the board zones can be found on the West Side Community Ambulance website.

The filing period opens Monday, July 13, and continues through Friday, Aug. 7.

Those interested in running for the Zone 1 or Zone 2 seat may file with the Stanislaus County Elections Department. Appointments are required. Call 525-5201 for an appointment or additional information.

Those interested in running for the Zone 5 seat file with the Merced County Elections Office. Information about the filing process can be found in a candidate portal on the Merced County Elections Office website. Necessary paperwork may be acquired and submitted through the portal, but an in-person visit (by appointment only) is required to finalize the process. Call 385-7541 for additional information.

Those interested in running for the Zone 3 seat may file with either county's election office as the zone includes portions of each county.

Modesto mayor's proposal for urban limit line won't make November ballot

By Kevin Valine

Modesto has not done enough homework to ask voters in November to approve an urban limit line, which would put a boundary around the city and direct where growth could and could not occur.

That was the conclusion City Manager Joe Lopez and Mayor Ted Brandvold announced at Tuesday's City Council meeting in which they pulled the urban limit line proposal from the agenda, though the city also was facing serious opposition over the proposal.

Council members were expected to discuss and vote on whether to place it on the November ballot. Tuesday's meeting was the deadline for that.

"It has become evident there is a great public interest in this issue, and we need to take a little more time for additional outreach," Brandvold said at the meeting. "I look forward to continuing this process with the public, working out this outreach, along with our citizens and council."

Brandvold led the effort to put an urban limit on the ballot, despite some council members saying he had brought the council into the discussions at the last minute and opponents saying the city had not done sufficient public outreach and the city was doing its planning for an urban limit backward.

Modesto drew opposition from Stanislaus County, the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission, which regulates cities' growth, the Modesto Chamber of Commerce and Wood Colony residents.

The proposed urban limit would have carved out more than 1,100 acres in the colony, the farming community west of Highway 99, for business parks and housing. Attorney Thomas Terpstra sent the city a petition in May signed by landowners within those roughly 1,100 acres who support the urban limit line.

But other Wood Colony residents outside of the proposed limit feared it would not protect them and once growth started it would not stop.

County Counsel Thomas Boze wrote to the mayor and council July 10 that the city had failed to provide adequate outreach; to fully review the proposal's impact on the economy, traffic, infrastructure, surrounding communities and farmland; and to give the public and neighboring communities enough time to review the project.

But city officials have said Modesto would have completed all of the needed work for an urban limit.

WHY THE PUBLIC DOES NOT TRUST GOVERNMENT

Boze wrote the county is very concerned that apparently the proposal was "developed through a quid-pro-quo agreement over the future of the Wood Colony area between private interests, without the benefit of public participation or environmental review.

"... There is no better example for why the public lacks trust in government than the impression left here that this project came to be as a result of closed-door compromises. The public perception could very easily be that the public was not invited to the conversation until after the deal was struck."

Brandvold said he has been upfront and open in developing the proposal, said the public was not shut out of the process, and the city conducted extensive public outreach to the extent it could during the pandemic. "I didn't want to move forward only on the petition the landowners provided," he said. "That's why we did a survey (and additional outreach). We wanted to hear from the other side."

As it became apparent more outreach was needed he said he worked with the city manager to change course. But the mayor also did not have the votes to put the measure on the ballot.

IN THE NEWS – The Modesto Bee, July 16, 2020 (Continued Page 2)

He needed at least four of the seven council votes (including himself). But only six council members could vote. Councilman Mani Grewal could not because he owns land in the roughly 1,100 acres.

UPDATE THE GENERAL PLAN

Council members Kristi Ah You, Jenny Kenoyer, Bill Zoslocki and Doug Ridenour said Wednesday they would have voted against the proposal. They said it had been rushed and there was not enough engagement with the community.

When asked Wednesday how he would have voted, Councilman Tony Madrigal said in a text he had been holding off on a decision until after the public hearing before the council vote.

Council members at Tuesday's meeting called for Modesto to undertake a comprehensive update of the city's general plan. These plans are blueprints for how cities grow and develop. Modesto's last comprehensive update was in 1995. An update includes extensive public outreach.

Zoslocki said he wants Modesto to do a comprehensive update over the next two years. Zoslocki has advocated for this since joining the council in 2013. (The Chamber of Commerce in its letter implored Modesto to do a comprehensive update and not rely on a ballot measure to determine its land-use policies.)

"This is the only way we can start addressing how we build a tax base of properties that help pay for our expenses," Zoslocki said at the council meeting. "We can clearly see Modesto is underfunded. It has been for decades. And it's time to stop that nonsense and build a city around a general plan that generates income (revenue for the city) and produces commercial properties and industrial properties and not just houses."

The City Council in November 2019 directed staff to start developing a ballot measure for an urban limit line that could be placed on the November 2020 ballot, conduct extensive public outreach, and investigate how an urban limit would effect surrounding cities and communities as well as Stanislaus County.

But then the new coronavirus pandemic struck, and the city focused on the pandemic.

'I DON'T SEE IT AS A DEFEAT'

Still, Brandvold brought the urban limit line proposal forward a couple of months ago, and the council held three workshops from June 25 to July 9 to discuss it. He has said Modesto needs an urban limit to secure the land along Highway 99 in Wood Colony to produce jobs. He said the line would protect the farmland in the rest of the colony as well as the other areas outside of the line.

"I don't see it as a defeat," Brandvold said Wednesday about the urban limit not making the ballot. "Modesto always has had a special challenge. First preserving our agricultural heritage and (then) finding appropriate land that we can use to produce jobs."

Brandvold said he worked with former councilman and farmland preservationist Denny Jackman and Modesto land-use attorney George Petrulakis in developing the urban limit line. Brandvold said it was a good compromise between providing land for jobs and protecting farmland. But he said it became apparent that more outreach is needed.

Councilwoman Kenoyer said she was surprised when she recently learned the proposal was coming back to the council.

"We were not consulted about what we thought about the map (for the urban limit line)," she said Wednesday. "We didn't have any input. ... We were rushing to put it on the ballot. ... This was poorly planned, and the council was not part of it."

Planning Commission sends Transportation Infrastructure Master Plan to City Council with recommendations

The Patterson Planning Commission covered a robust Transportation Infrastructure Master Plan (TIMP) presented by city staff and consultant Christopher Thnay of Advanced Mobility Group (AMG).

The plan introduced a guide to identify infrastructure problem areas and present a roadmap for how the City of Patterson will handle short-term and long-term infrastructure plans to alleviate issues that may arise due to future growth.

After some lengthy discussion and deliberation, the three Planning Commission members present (Chairman Ron West, Commissioner Eric Bendix, and Commissioner Titus Linares) agreed to forward the TIMP to the Patterson City Council for further review with four recommendations to consider.

The Planning Commission proposed that:

- Roundabouts are standard practice for every intersection it is applicable
- The council review concerns about a new bridge over the San Joaquin River
- The council review concerns about the proposed South County Corridor Freeway alignment
- That potential future improvements to Zacharias Road include plans to have a grade separation or flyover above Highway 33 and the railroad to aid traffic flow.

Many of these plans, such as the South County Corridor and improvements to Zacharias Road as part of the new alignment, are decades away from becoming a reality for Patterson residents.

Since these major infrastructure projects that involve Cal-Trans and Stanislaus County are potentially years or decades away, the Transportation Infrastructure Master Plan does not depend on these projects to help alleviate traffic issues in Patterson.

Study recommendations

Overall the study produced seven recommendations for city officials to consider:

- Complete Interstate 5/Sperry Avenue Interchange Improvements-a comprehensive evaluation under CalTrans is currently underway. An improved interchange would provide very significant improvement to the city's major gateway to the I-5 freeway.
- Improve Sperry Avenue to four lanes-currently several segments are two lanes, including east of Ward Avenue to Highway 33 and west of Baldwin Road. A complete four-lane Sperry Avenue would add significant capacity to the major east-west arterial street in the city.

IN THE NEWS – Patterson Irrigator, July 16, 2020 (Continued)

- Create an advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) and develop Traffic Signal Master Plan- an ATMS system would allow the city to effectively manage the city's traffic signals, services other modes of travel and improve safety.
- Whenever it is feasible, use roundabouts in place of traffic signals.
- Establish and provide Complete Street policies for all future roadways. Adopt the recommended bike facilities plan and provide future funding for its construction. The creation of more continuous bike lanes at key destinations would encourage more people to use bikes instead of autos.
- Focus on the redesign of downtown streets based on walkable and livable principles.
- Initiate process to plan and fund the future I-5/Zacharias interchange.

Problematic Intersections

Three intersections were identified as problem areas that the city must address to relieve traffic congestion at the Sperry Avenue and Interstate 5 off interchange, the junction of Sperry Avenue and Highway 33, and Rogers Road and Highway 33.

The issues that exist at Sperry Avenue and Interstate 5, as detailed in a previous Irrigator article, must involve Cal-Trans and Stanislaus County because it is outside of the City of Patterson's jurisdiction. The intersection is due to get STOP signs to stop traffic flow on Sperry Avenue to allow for cars on the southbound off-ramp to exit the freeway at a better pace. Still, the interchange will ideally undergo a more drastic makeover in the years to come to alleviate the traffic issues.

A 10-year intersection improvement cost estimate proposed by the report stated that the improvements to 17 intersections across the city could cost an estimated \$26,524,892.

The Interstate 5 interchange represented the bulk of the cost ranging from \$11.3-14.6 million. This estimate includes a 25 percent contingency. The estimate used for the I-5 interchange was taken from an April 20, 2017 study.

Each intersection was graded based on the models used to calculate the congestion. The 10-year scenario assumed a population of approximately 28,900 residents and 21,980 jobs in Patterson.

These models attached a letter grade running from A to F for each intersection. All of the problematic intersections mentioned received a grade of E or lower during a.m. or p.m. peak hours.

The master plan's goal is to have each intersection in the city have a rating of D or higher in the short term and long term future. Anything below a D rating is considered unacceptable by limits set by the city.

Commission advocates for roundabouts

Chairman West and Commissioners Bendix and Linares all agreed that roundabouts would be a preferable solution because it would result in lower crash frequencies, crash severity and errors, and better efficiency. It would also potentially save \$5,000 per year per intersection in electricity and maintenance costs. Traffic signals would cost an estimated \$300,000 to install. Roundabouts can be installed at a much lower price and reduce expenses on maintenance.

Other benefits of roundabouts over intersections as detailed in the report include:

- Decrease crashes by 39 percent
- Crashes involving injuries decrease by 76 percent
- Crashes involving fatalities or incapacitating injuries drop by 90 percent
- Vehicle delay was reduced by 62-74 percent, resulting in savings of 325,000 hours of motorists time annually based on 10 locations studied
- Reduction in fuel consumption of 235,000 gallons annually
- Environment benefits of reduction in vehicle emissions

Roundabouts may not be the “best solution at all locations,” according to the study. Still, the commission agreed that they should be implemented whenever possible to take advantage of its cost-effectiveness and general superiority at allowing traffic flow.

Long term buildout costs

While 10-year short term costs were addressed, the report also extensively covers the estimated outlook and cost of roadway improvements in the long term.

“It is estimated that major roadway improvements would be required to accommodate the projected traffic growth due to buildout land use in the future. In general, it could be assumed four-lane roads would be required for all the major north-south and east-west arterials,” the report read. “Improvements, in general, will be roadway widening to add lanes, new traffic signal installations (or roundabouts), and additional improvements to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle use.”

The long term study noted that it’s findings assumed that major improvements contemplated at the Sperry Avenue and Interstate 5 interchange and new interchange at I-5 and Zacharias Road would both be implemented in the future. The proposed South County Corridor was assumed to be aligned generally

IN THE NEWS – Patterson Irrigator, July 16, 2020 (Continued)

along West Main Avenue, Eucalyptus Avenue and Zacharias. This was in line with the South County Corridor Feasibility Study adopted.

Long term buildout improvement costs totaled \$213,826,569 for local segments. The Sperry Avenue and I-5 interchange were again estimated at \$11.3-14.6 million. The Zacharias and I-5 interchange were estimated at \$75 million, and the South County Corridor-Sperry Avenue realignment was estimated at \$266 million. It was made clear that these are long term estimates. The funds to cover the costs are not expected to be needed now or even potentially in the short term future, but rather these estimates could be years if not decades away. The study is a long term outlook on spending.

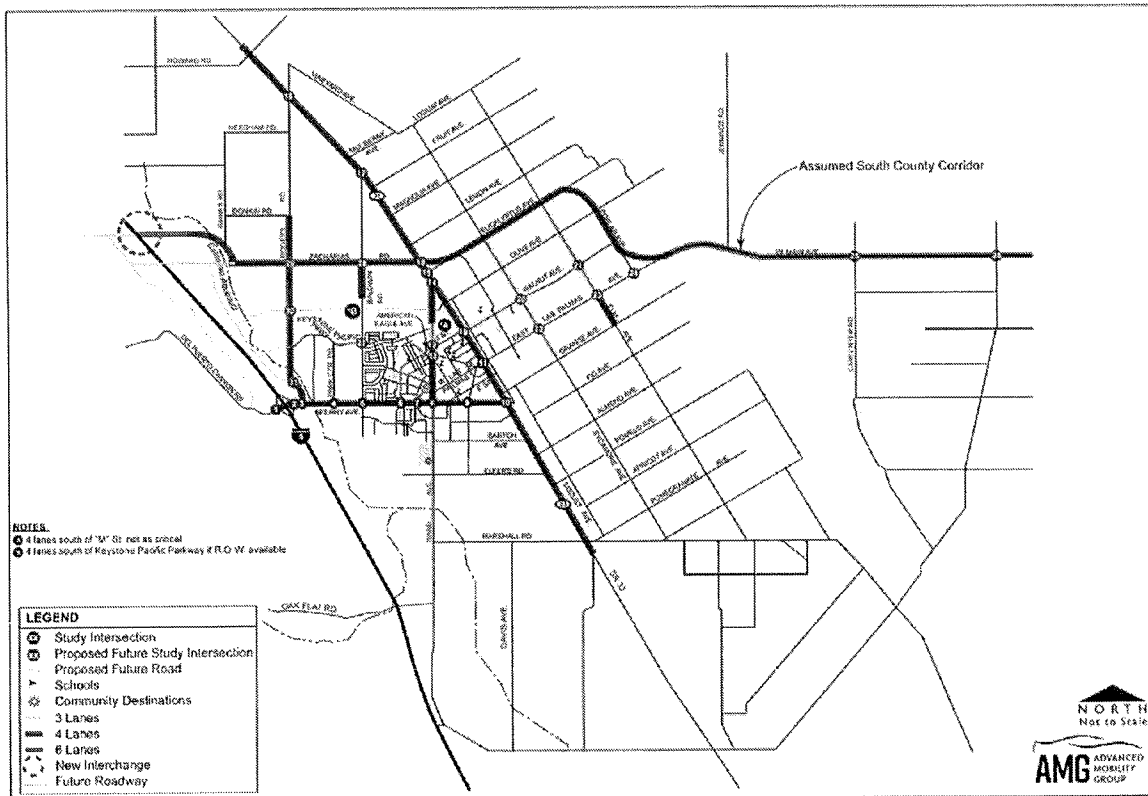
Advanced Traffic Management System

As detailed in the report, it was recommended by AMG Consultant Thnay that Patterson implement an Advanced Traffic Management System to help aid the city in monitoring roadways and traffic conditions.

The system would aid Patterson in traffic flow by giving smarter signal times to intersections that are using a light signal in the city. An example used was that if traffic is heavy at a fixed signal, the signal will still only offer a finite amount of green light time before changing regardless of the traffic context. An adaptive system such as the ATMS, would recognize the congestion and offer more green light time to help relieve the back-up.

City of Patterson - Transportation Infrastructure Master Plan
Recommended Buildout Roadway Improvements

Figure
4



P1811154 - 1/3/20 CT

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S AGENDA REPORT
AUGUST 26, 2020**

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: MSR NO. 2020-01, SOI UPDATE 2020-01: Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District, and Oak Valley Hospital District

INTRODUCTION

This proposal was initiated by the Local Agency Formation Commission in response to State mandates that require the Commission to conduct municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates for all cities and special districts every five years. The current review covers three healthcare/hospital districts in Stanislaus County: the Del Puerto Healthcare District, the Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District. The previous update for these districts was adopted January 28, 2015.

BACKGROUND

The three Healthcare/Hospital Districts were organized under the Local Hospital District Law (Health and Safety Code §32000 et. seq.) and are empowered to provide services such as acute and long-term healthcare services, ambulance services, and a community hospital. The Districts are considered "registered voter districts" as board members are elected by registered voters residing within the district boundaries.

The Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update process provides an opportunity for districts to share accurate and current data, accomplishments and information regarding the services they provide. LAFCO Staff sent each Healthcare/Hospital District a questionnaire along with the previously-approved Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence document for their comments, revisions and updated information. LAFCO Staff also reviewed the Districts' most recent audits and current budget. Once this data was collected, a revised Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update document was drafted.

The proposed Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence document is attached to this report as Exhibit 1. The relevant factors as set forth by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act are discussed for each District. No changes are being proposed for the Districts' Spheres of Influence at this time. The document serves to affirm the Districts' current Spheres of Influence.

DISCUSSION

For the Healthcare/Hospital Districts, this is the fourth Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update that the Commission has reviewed for the Districts. Since the previous MSR-SOI, there have been some notable changes for the Districts that are provided in the draft update. The following are some highlights for each District.

Del Puerto Healthcare has had some changes in hours and days of operation depending on the type of service. The District is facing a shortage of space in its existing crew quarters and has recently obtained additional attached land upon which the District plans to build a larger headquarters that will house the District administrative offices and ambulance operations.

The Westside Community Healthcare District sold its hospital in 2015. As part of the sale, the District had an agreement to stay at the hospital for 5 years until June 21, 2020 which has recently passed. Currently, the District is looking to purchase property within the City of Newman. The new property will allow the District to move out of the old hospital which is in need of repairs and is costly to maintain.

The Oak Valley Hospital District outgrew its previous facility, built in 1973, and recently underwent a \$69 million expansion of a new hospital facility. Financing for the expansion came from a variety of sources including hospital reserves, revenue bond financing, and donations. The expansion consists of 123,000 square feet which houses outpatient services, the emergency department and billing department for the District.

The Municipal Service Review was conducted during the Novel Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Although not all districts reported impacts, Westside Community Healthcare District did report a decrease in revenue due to a 30% decrease in transports due to COVID-19. This may be a result of stay-at-home orders or other factors that could impact the need for services. With future unknown circumstances, closures and additional County orders, it is likely the COVID-19 will continue to impact many special districts throughout the County.

As a municipal service review is considered a "snapshot in time," LAFCO Staff will continue to monitor the Healthcare/Hospital Districts, as it does with all of the special districts, and offer itself as a resource to the Districts where possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the adoption of a municipal service review is considered to be categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental documentation under a classification related to information gathering (Class 6 - Regulation §15306). Further, LAFCO's concurrent reaffirmation of an existing sphere of influence qualifies for a General Exemption as outlined in CEQA Regulation §15061(b)(3), which states:

The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

As there are no land use changes, boundary changes, or environmental impacts associated with the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, an exemption from further environmental review is appropriate.

ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

After consideration of this report and any testimony or additional materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider choosing one of the following options:

Option 1: APPROVE MSR 2020-01 and SOI 2020-01 Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the Del Puerto Healthcare District, the Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District.

Option 2: DENY one or more of the updates.

Option 3: If the Commission needs more information, it should CONTINUE this matter to a future meeting (maximum 70 days).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Option 1. Based on the information presented, Staff recommends approval Municipal Service Review 2020-01 and Sphere of Influence 2020-01 Update for Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission adopt Resolution No. 2020-04 which:

1. Determines that the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update qualifies for a General Exemption from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review based on CEQA Regulations Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3).
2. Makes determinations related to the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update as required by Government Code Sections 56425 and 56430.
3. Determines that the Spheres of Influence for the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District should be affirmed as they currently exist.

Attachments:

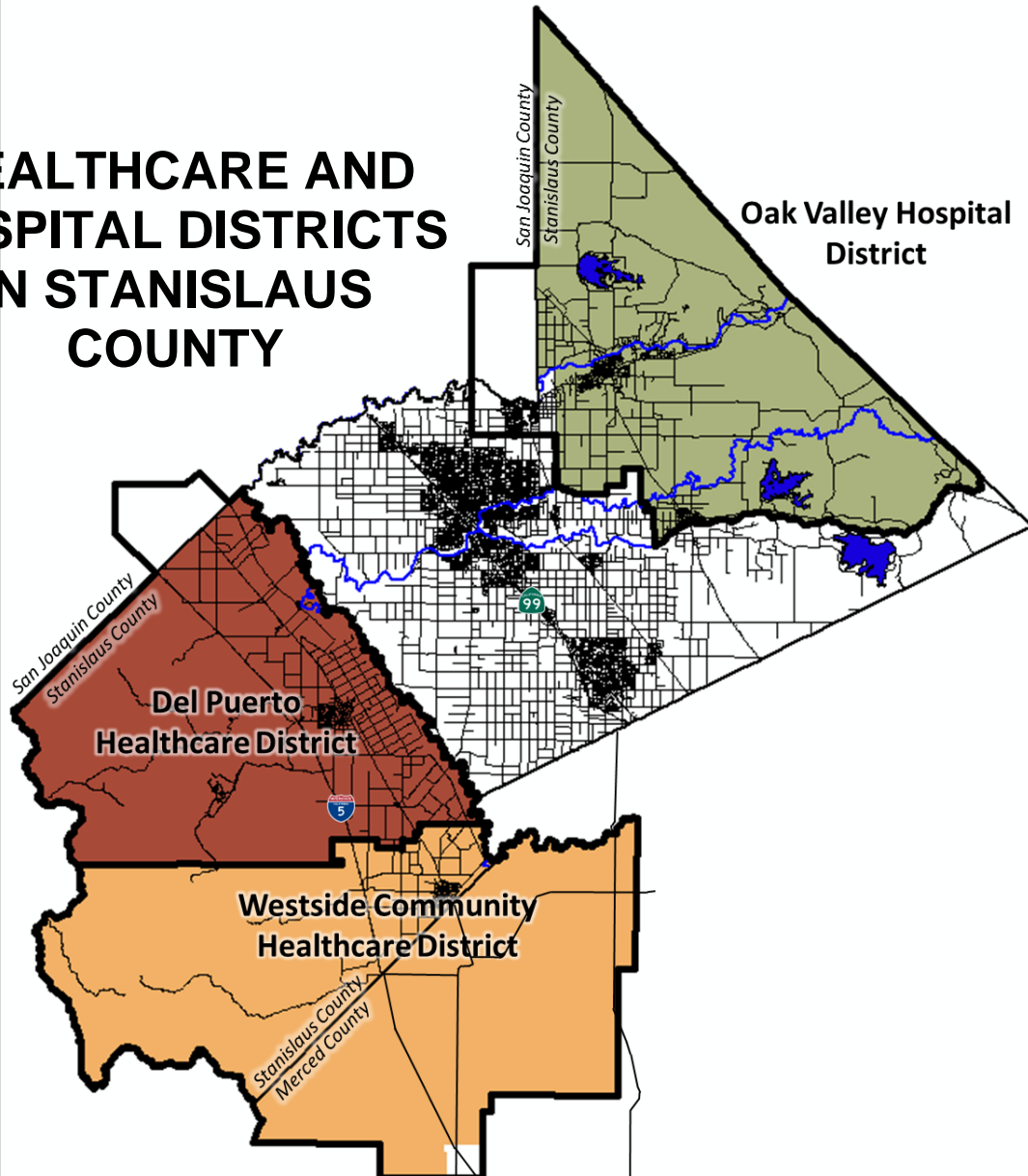
Exhibit 1 - Draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District

Exhibit 2 - Draft Resolution No. 2020-04

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MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE FOR:

HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITAL DISTRICTS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY



Prepared By: Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission
1010 Tenth Street, Third Floor
Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: (209) 525-7660

Adopted: _____

STANISLAUS

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Alice E. Mimms, Legal Counsel

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Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update For the Del Puerto Healthcare District, the Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District

Introduction

The Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 Act (CKH Act) requires the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to update the spheres of influence (SOI) for all applicable jurisdictions in the County. A sphere of influence is defined by Government Code 56076 as "...a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission." The Act further requires that a municipal service review (MSR) be conducted prior to or, in conjunction with, the update of a sphere of influence (SOI).

The legislative authority for conducting a municipal service review is provided in Government Code Section 56430 of the CKH Act. The Act states, that "in order to prepare and to update spheres of influence in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area..." MSRs must have written determinations that address the following factors in order to update a Sphere of Influence. These factors were recently amended to include the consideration of disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence of an agency.

Municipal Service Review Factors to be Addressed

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area
2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence
3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities, Adequacy of Public Services, and Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Including Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence
4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services
5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities
6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies
7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

This MSR will analyze the Del Puerto Healthcare District, the Westside Community Healthcare District, and the Oak Valley Hospital District. It will also provide a basis for LAFCO to reaffirm the Spheres of Influence for the Districts.

Sphere of Influence Update Process

A special district is a government agency that is required to have an adopted and updated sphere of influence. Section 56425(g) of the CKH Act calls for spheres of influence to be reviewed and updated every five years, as necessary. Stanislaus LAFCO processes municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates concurrently to ensure efficient use of resources. For rural special districts, which do not have the typical municipal-level services to review, this document will be used to determine what type of services each district is expected to provide. For these special districts, the spheres will delineate the service capability and expansion capacity of the agency, if applicable.

The most recent sphere of influence update for the Healthcare and Hospital Districts was adopted in 2015 and proposed no changes to the Districts' SOIs. The current update serves to comply with Government Code Section 56425 and will reaffirm the SOIs for each district.

Sphere of Influence Determinations

In determining a sphere of influence (SOI) of each local agency, the Commission shall consider and prepare determinations with respect to each of the following factors, pursuant to Government Code Section 56425:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.
2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.
5. For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.

Background

Healthcare/hospital districts originated during the aftermath of World War II. American soldiers returned from the war in need of extensive medical treatment and often hospitalization. California was in the grip of an acute hospital bed shortage. Significant portions of the state had no access to necessary healthcare services.

The Legislature responded to this hospital shortage by enacting the Local Hospital District Act, which later became the Health Care District Act. The creation of these types of districts was intended to provide hospital facilities in areas needing them, but where it was not economically feasible for other institutions to provide them. The districts, have, or prior to Proposition 13 had, taxing powers, authority to issue general obligation bonds, and authority to receive federal hospital construction grants.

There are three healthcare/hospital Districts in Stanislaus County: 1) Del Puerto Healthcare District, located in the Patterson area; 2) Westside Community Healthcare District, located in the Newman and Gustine area; and 3) Oak Valley Hospital District, located in the Oakdale area. In addition, these three Districts are among those whose service area, or sphere of influence, can be determined by where their patrons come from, as indicated by patient-origin records kept by the Districts.

Authority

The three Districts in this review were organized under the Local Hospital District Law, Health and Safety Code, Section 32000 et. seq. In addition, the Districts are considered to be a “registered voter districts,” as the board members are elected by registered voters residing within each District’s boundaries.

Purpose

Healthcare/Hospital districts may exercise numerous powers, including the following: establish, maintain, and operate, or provide assistance in the operation of, one or more health facilities or services, including but not limited to, outpatient programs, services and facilities; retirement programs; chemical dependency programs, services and facilities; or other healthcare programs, services, facilities, and activities at any location inside and outside the district for the benefit of the district and people served by the district; acquire, maintain, and operate ambulances, or ambulance services inside and outside the district; and establish a nurses’ training school, or child care facility for the benefit of employees of the hospital or residents of the district (Health and Safety Code Section 32121).

Classification of Services

As part of the original MSR completed for the Districts, each District provided a listing of the services provided within their boundaries. The Districts are authorized to provide the functions or classes of services (e.g. community hospital with acute care, skilled nursing, and ambulance services) as identified in this report. State Law requires that the Districts seek LAFCO approval in order to exercise any other latent powers not currently provided.

Municipal Service Review – Del Puerto Healthcare District

Formation

The Del Puerto Healthcare District was formed on July 1, 1946.

Services

The District provided hospital services until 1998 when, for economic reasons, the hospital was forced to close. The District has maintained ambulance services (Patterson District Ambulance) since 1986, paid all outstanding debts, and as of June of 2003, provides outpatient care through the Del Puerto Health Center. Current services and programs include the following:

- Patterson District Ambulance provides pre-hospital emergency medical services within the District. Ambulances are staffed with Paramedics and EMTs. Currently, two 24-hour ambulances serve the District, as well as provide mutual aid to surrounding areas. Patterson District Ambulance provides a third ambulance for 12-hours on occasion Mondays through Fridays as needed.
- Del Puerto Health Center provides primary care 6-days a week to western Stanislaus County. The Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Services include primary care, women's health exams, family care, industrial medicine, drug screenings, physicals, workers compensation care, etc. Specialized pediatric care is provided Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Other visiting specialists include cardiologists and neurologists. The Center also provides lab and x-ray services.
- The District promotes community education through outreach on topics such as women's health, diabetes, and stroke information. The District also participates in community events (e.g. Patterson Apricot Festival and health fairs). Other sponsorships or collaborations include women's health events held twice a year (for breast exams, pap exams, and cholesterol screenings), and a heart healthy screening program in the Spring.
- Patterson District Ambulance staff provides CPR and first aid classes. This low-cost service targets individuals, businesses, and those whose job requires certification. Several employees are trained to teach these skills.
- The District is designated as a teaching facility. Staff training is not only provided, but periodically, the District partners with the Patterson Fire District and Westside Ambulance to provide mutual training and has hosted EMS Agency training. Senior paramedics train paramedic and EMT interns. The District assists with the emergency medical system by training approximately 8 Paramedics a year.
- Patterson District Ambulance provides standby emergency support for local and state fire agencies, and ambulance standbys at sporting and other local events.

Location and Size

The District boundaries are comprised of approximately 234,000 acres, serving a significant portion of western Stanislaus County. While not heavily populated, the District covers an area that generally extends from Highway 132 south to Crows Landing, the San Joaquin River to the

east and the County line in the hills beyond Interstate 5 to the west. The District serves the City of Patterson, as well as the unincorporated communities of Crows Landing, Grayson, and Westley. The District also serves the unincorporated community of Diablo Grande, located in the western foothills of Stanislaus County, west of Interstate 5 and approximately 5 miles southwest of the City of Patterson. The District's administrative office is located at: 875 "E" Street, Patterson, California.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) encompasses approximately 249,000 acres and includes a potential expansion area of approximately 15,000 acres located in San Joaquin County. This area was included in the SOI because the District also draws patients from the Vernalis area in San Joaquin County, which, although not currently within the District's boundaries, is closer to Patterson than the healthcare services available in the Tracy area. It should be noted, however, that the District's SOI does not limit its service area, as the District also receives patients from areas outside this boundary, including the cities of Newman, Gustine, Modesto, Ceres, Turlock, and from as far as Tracy and Stockton.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 1700 Keystone Pacific Parkway, Unit B, in Patterson. All meetings are open to the public.

Personnel

The District employs 48 persons: 39 full-time, 9 part-time. In addition, due to the small size of the District, some support services are outsourced. These include, biomedical, housekeeping, and preventative maintenance. Legal services and annual audit professionals are also used. Consultant groups are used for feasibility studies on an as-needed basis.

Mission Statement

The Del Puerto Healthcare District's mission statement is as follows: "The District's primary mission is to provide the highest quality healthcare services through Patterson District Ambulance and the Del Puerto Health Center, while expanding the healthcare availability to the citizens of the Del Puerto Healthcare District."

Partnership Agencies

The District maintains positive and collaborative relationships with local, state and federal agencies, such as: the City of Patterson, Stanislaus County, local area hospitals, the Patterson-Westley Chamber of Commerce, and the unincorporated communities of Crows Landing, Grayson and Westley. The District also maintains a strong working relationship with the Westside Community Healthcare District (Westside Ambulance), West Stanislaus Fire Protection District, the State Department of Health Services, Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services, California Ambulance Association, California Special Districts Association, and Association of California Healthcare Districts.

Additionally, in 2007, the Westside Healthcare Advisory Taskforce was formed. The taskforce is a public/private/non-profit consortium of interested healthcare proponents on the Westside of Stanislaus County and Merced County. The mission of the taskforce is to foster a richer

communication between Westside healthcare providers and communities, and by doing so, better identify service gaps and potential opportunities to improve.

Funding Sources

The District's source of revenue is derived from the following: a share of the County property tax revenues, special assessments, health center revenues, ambulance service fees, developer/mitigation fees collected from new development, and interest income.

Determinations - Del Puerto Healthcare District

The following provides an analysis of the seven categories or components required by Government Code Section 56430 for a Service Review for the Del Puerto Healthcare District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District estimates that its current population is approximately 30,000 people. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the District had 15,044 health center visits and responded to 2,338 ambulance calls.

Of the District's 30,000 people, approximately 22,524 reside in Patterson. The City of Patterson is likely to see significant growth in the future, including a development known as The Villages on the northeast end of the City. The development is planned for 692 gross acres of residential, commercial, industrial, public uses.

While there are other communities within the District (Westley, Grayson, and Vernalis), it is unlikely that there will be major growth in these communities in the near future.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The communities of Grayson and Westley, which lie within the boundaries and Sphere of Influence of the District, are both considered disadvantaged unincorporated communities, as they have median household incomes that fall below the 80% statewide median.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The District has created a Strategic Plan which covers all aspects of future medical care needs for the Westside. In 2008, it was determined that the Health Center had outgrown its existing facility on Ward Avenue. In 2012, the District relocated its Health Center to a newly remodeled, 11,000 square foot building in the Keystone Business Park. The District owns and maintains four ambulances and equipment necessary to place the ambulances in service. The District also owns all equipment necessary to provide services to the Health Center.

As the District is not a provider of water, sewer, or fire protection services, it is not responsible for assuring that these services are adequately provided to disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

Overall, the District appears to be in stable financial shape and has in place the necessary financial mechanisms to support continued services to existing and future residents. The District uses surveys and input from its billing company to establish rates. Additionally, the District was successful in obtaining a Rural Health designation in 2004 that allows the Health Center to receive a cost-based reimbursement from the government for MediCal and Medicare patients.

As is common with agencies that provide ambulance services, it is difficult to fully recover costs related to emergency service calls. Thus, the District's ambulance service is subsidized through property tax support.

The District also collects mitigation fees from new developments based on its 2006 Impact Fee Study and continues to collect fees on approved projects under fee agreements. The District is currently evaluating future facility needs and improvements and will update its impact fees when completed.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

In the spirit of cooperation, the District shares facilities and/or equipment with agencies and organizations within the area when opportunities arise. For example, the District allows access to their quarters when the Westside Ambulance posts for the District. Since the West Stanislaus Fire Protection District assists with medical aids, their supplies and oxygen are restocked. From time to time joint education or meeting space is provided. Through a joint grant, space, equipment and supplies for diabetes education and screening is also provided.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Registered voters within a geographical area or division elect the board members. The Board is subject to provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. It is reasonable to conclude that the District has the organizational capability to adequately serve the areas under its jurisdiction. The District has the necessary resources and staffing levels to operate in a cost-efficient and professional manner.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

None.

SOI Update – Del Puerto Healthcare District

The following determinations for the Del Puerto Healthcare District Sphere of Influence update and are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy.

Determinations:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The present and planned land uses within the District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) consist of agricultural, rural residential, suburban and urban areas. The District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries and SOI. The responsibility for land use decisions within the District boundaries is retained by the City of Patterson, Stanislaus County, and San Joaquin County.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The present and probable need for public healthcare facilities and services in the area is not likely to diminish. On an annual basis, the District draws thousands of patrons seeking localized healthcare services. Portions of patients travel from all communities on the Westside (including Patterson, Newman, and Gustine) as well as the Modesto, Ceres, and Turlock areas. The District also receives a portion of its patients from as far as Tracy and Stockton. New development in these areas will continue to generate additional demand for healthcare and ambulance services.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

Following an increased demand for healthcare services, the District's Health Center outgrew its previous location and, in 2012, relocated to an 11,000 square foot building that provides sufficient area for procedures, stress and echo testing, colo-rectal screenings, and additional space for specialists and family physicians.

The District operates two ambulances 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and when needed will add a third ambulance to help cover calls.

The District is faced with a shortage of space in existing crew quarters and has recently obtained additional attached land upon which to build a larger headquarters that will house the District administrative offices and ambulance operations.

4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

The following jurisdictions can be categorized as Communities of Interest in the area: the City of Patterson, the unincorporated communities of Crows Landing, Grayson, Westley, Diablo Grande, and Vernalis (in San Joaquin County). Although outside the Districts' current boundary and SOI, the cities of Newman and Gustine can also be considered communities of interest, as the District receives patients from these areas as well.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

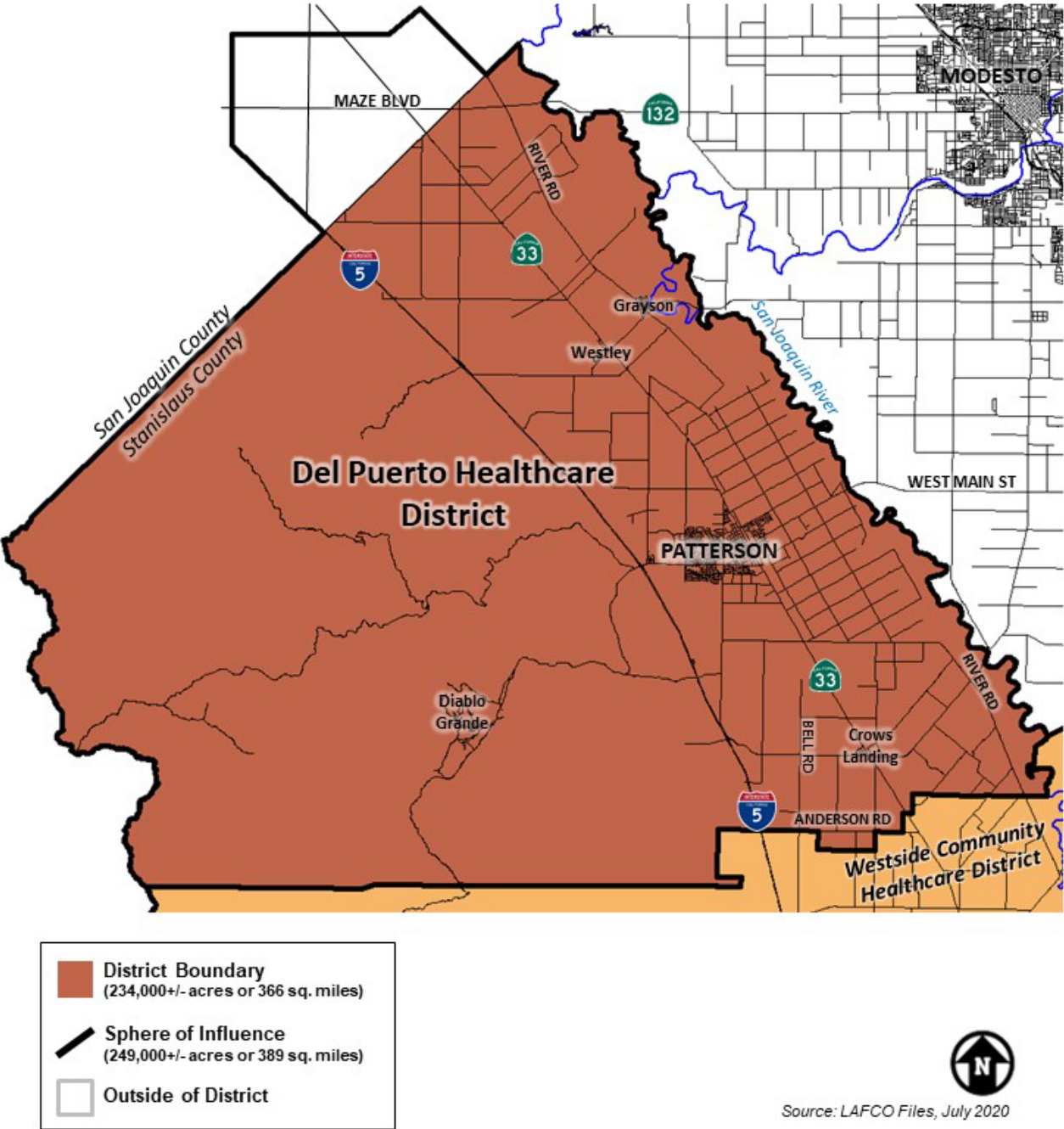
DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE DEL PUERTO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT



Formation:	July 1, 1946
Services:	Ambulance services, operation of a health center, education, and free community health outreach
District Boundary:	Approximately 234,000 acres, located west of the San Joaquin River, including the City of Patterson, the unincorporated communities of Crows Landing, Grayson, and Westley, as well as the Diablo Grande area
Sphere of Influence:	Includes approximately 15,000 acres beyond the District's current boundary, extending out to the Vernalis area in San Joaquin County
Population*:	30,000 (total service population estimate for 2020)
Land Use:	Agricultural, Rural Residential, Suburban and Urban
Enabling Act:	Local Hospital District Law, California Health and Safety Code, Section 32000 et. seq.
Governing Body:	Five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters within the District boundaries
Administration:	48 Employees
Total Revenues:	\$4,458,000 (Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget)
Revenue Sources:	Share of County property taxes, special assessments, service fees, developer/mitigation fees, and interest

** Source: District estimate, 2020*

**DEL PUERTO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**



Municipal Service Review – Westside Community Healthcare District

Formation

The Westside Community Healthcare District was formed on November 18, 1957.

Services

Currently, the District provides ambulance services within its service area boundaries. The District originally operated a 22-bed hospital facility from 1938 until its closure in 1993. The hospital's closure was a result of low utilization and declining reimbursements. The District has since sold the hospital but is currently still utilizing it while the District looks into purchasing a new location. The District continues to operate West Side Community Ambulance service.

Location and Size

The boundaries of the District are comprised of approximately 329,000 acres and serves approximately 20,507 people. The District serves areas in and around the City of Newman and the City of Gustine (in Merced County). The District office is located at 990 Tulare Street, Suite C in Newman, California.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) is generally coterminous with its current boundaries, with the exception of approximately 2,500 acres in the Santa Nella area in Merced County that currently lies outside the District's boundaries but within its SOI. The cities of Newman and Gustine and the unincorporated community of Stevinson (in Merced County) are all located within the District's boundaries and Sphere of Influence.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Registered voters within a geographical area or zone elect the board members. Directors from Zones 1 and 2 are representatives from and elected in Stanislaus County, whereas Directors from Zones 3, 4 and 5 are representatives from and elected in Merced County. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Chambers behind the Newman Police Department located at 1200 Main Street in Newman, California. However, current meetings are being held at the District office located at 990 Tulare Street in Newman, California due to COVID 19.

Personnel

The District employs 31 persons: 10 full-time and 21 part-time. The District currently contracts its billing, collections, accounting, and legal services. The District was formerly contracting management and administrative services until July of 2019. The District has since taken over these functions internally.

Partnership Agencies

The District maintains positive and collaborative relationships with local, state and federal agencies, such as: the Cities of Newman and Gustine, Stanislaus and Merced counties, California Highway Patrol, Gustine and Newman Fire Departments, West Stanislaus Fire

Protection District, and local area hospitals (e.g., Doctors, Emanuel, Memorial, and Los Banos). The District coordinates with Riggs Ambulance Service and bordering service providers via mutual-aid agreements. The District is also a member of the Westside Healthcare Advisory Taskforce, formed in 2007.

Funding Sources

The District's source of revenue is derived from the following: A share of County property tax revenues (Stanislaus and Merced), special assessments, and ambulance service fees.

Determinations - Westside Community Healthcare District

The following provides an analysis of the seven categories or components required by Government Code Section 56430 for a Service Review for the Westside Community Healthcare District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

According to the District, approximately 20,507 persons reside within the District's boundary. Last fiscal year, the District ran 2,322 calls, made 1,976 patient contacts and transported 1,445 patients. Although significant growth is not projected in the unincorporated areas of Merced and Stanislaus County, growth potential exists in the cities of Newman and Gustine.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The unincorporated communities of Stevinson and Santa Nella, located in Merced County, are both considered disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are located within the District's Sphere of Influence. Both communities have median household incomes that fall below the 80% statewide median.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The District sold the hospital in 2015. As part of the sale, the District had an agreement to stay at the hospital for 5 years rent free until June 21, 2020 which has recently passed. Currently, the District is looking to purchase property within the City of Newman. The new property will allow the District to move out of the old hospital which is in need of repairs and costly to maintain.

The District appears to be meeting the ambulance response expectations in the communities that it serves. As the District is not a provider of water, sewer, or fire protection services, it is not responsible for assuring that these services are adequately provided to disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

The District receives funding from charges for services, taxes and assessments. According to the District's latest financial audit (FY 2017-2018), the District sets the rate of assessment annually for the special tax assessment that was passed by voters in 1984. The District also receives a portion of the general property taxes collected in the District by both Merced and Stanislaus Counties to support District operations.

The District is currently experiencing a decrease in revenue due to a decrease in transports and has stated that the decrease is related to COVID-19. This fiscal year has seen a decrease of about 30% in the number of transports in comparison to last fiscal year.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

The District does not currently share its facilities with other Districts.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Registered voters within a geographical area or division elect the board members. The Board is subject to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. The District has limited administrative staff, which it supplements with professional consultants to complement the District staff and improve productivity. At this time, there are two vacancies on the Board of Directors. However, four of the five seats are currently up for election.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

None

SOI Update – Westside Community Healthcare District

The following determinations for the Westside Community Healthcare District's Sphere of Influence update are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy.

Determinations:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The present and planned land uses within the District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) consist of agricultural, rural residential, and suburban areas. The District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries and SOI. The responsibility for land use decisions within these areas is retained by the City of Newman, Stanislaus County, the City of Gustine, and Merced County.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

As new development occurs, additional demand for ambulance services is generated; therefore, the present and probable need for ambulance services in the area is not likely to diminish.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

As identified in the Municipal Service Review section, it appears that the District currently has adequate capacity to provide ambulance services within its existing Sphere of Influence.

4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

The following jurisdictions can be categorized as Communities of Interest in the area: the City of Newman (in Stanislaus County), the City of Gustine, and the unincorporated communities of Stevenson and Santa Nella (in Merced County).

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

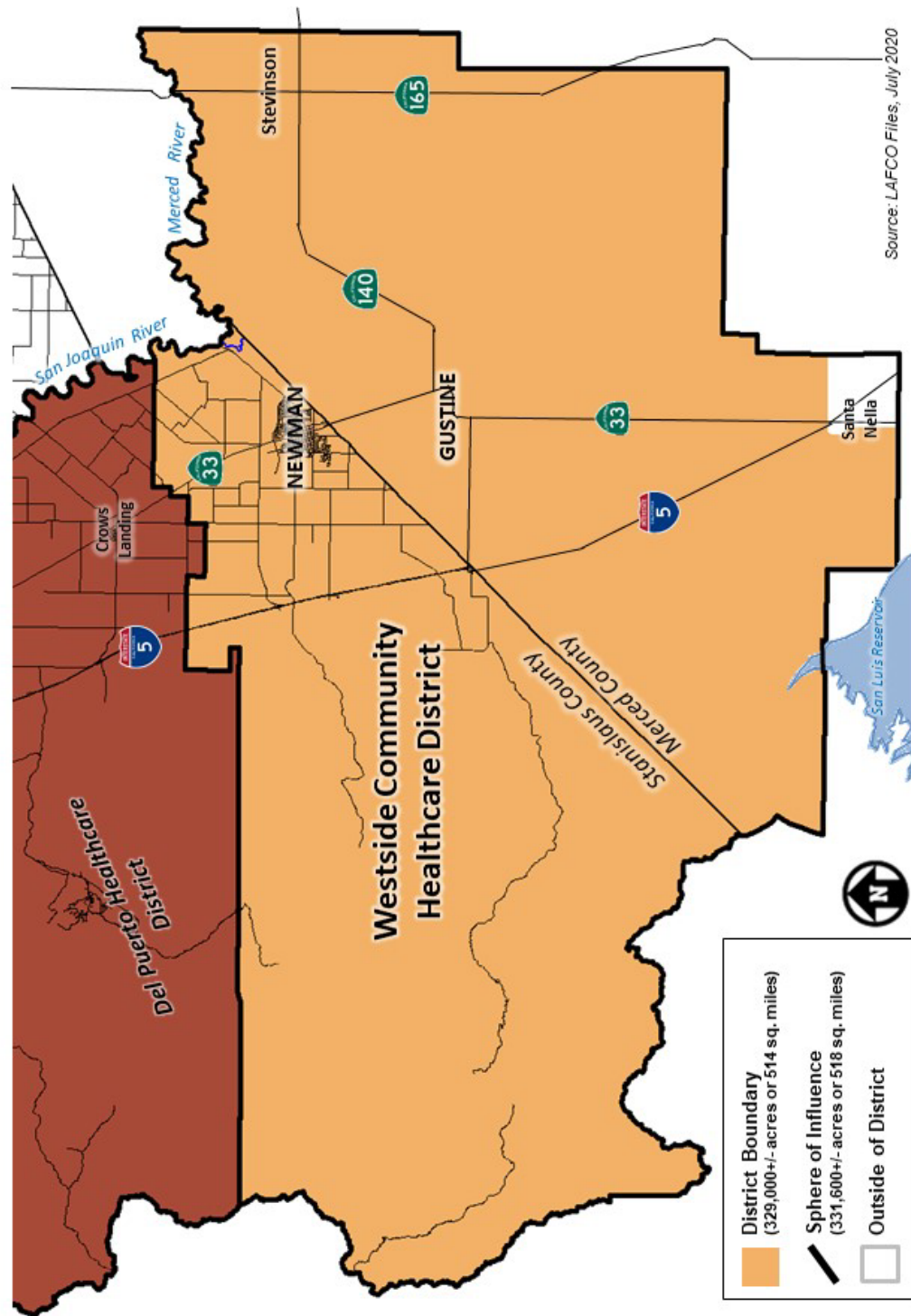
DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE WESTSIDE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

Formation:	November 18, 1957
Services:	Ambulance services
District Boundary:	Approximately 329,000 acres including the western portion of Stanislaus County in and around the City of Newman, south of and adjacent to the Del Puerto Healthcare District. The District boundary also overlaps into Merced County, including the City of Gustine and the unincorporated community of Stevinson
Sphere of Influence:	Coterminous with the District's current boundary, with the exception of approximately 2,500 acres in the Santa Nella area of Merced County
Population*:	20,507
Land Use:	Rural, Suburban and Urban
Enabling Act:	Local Hospital District Law, California Health and Safety Code, Section 32000 et. seq.
Governing Body:	Five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters within the District boundaries
Administration:	31 Employees: 10 full-time and 21 part-time
Total Revenues:	\$2,239,647 (Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget)
Revenue Sources:	Share of County property taxes, special assessments, and ambulance service fees



**Source: Westside Community Healthcare District*

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE



Municipal Service Review – Oak Valley Hospital District

Formation

The Oak Valley Hospital District was formed on June 18, 1968 as a not-for-profit, acute care, hospital.

Services

In 1973, the District constructed the Oak Valley Hospital, in order to provide area residents with access to convenient health care services. The District is licensed to operate and maintain a general acute care hospital, which includes 29 acute care hospital beds in use, and other services such as the following: a 24-hour basic emergency care, respiratory care services, surgical services, clinical laboratory, and diagnostic imaging services. The District also operates the 115-bed Oak Valley Care Center, a skilled nursing facility. In addition, the District operates rural health clinics located in Oakdale, Riverbank, Escalon and Waterford.

Ambulance services are provided to the communities of Oakdale, Riverbank, and Waterford. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are on call 24-hours a day to serve the surrounding communities utilizing the Oak Valley Ambulance services.

Location and Size

The District boundaries are comprised of approximately 253,700 acres. The District serves Northern Stanislaus County, which includes the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, and Waterford; and the unincorporated communities of Knights Ferry and Valley Home. The District also provides services to areas in the southeast portion of San Joaquin County including areas in and around the City of Escalon. The District's hospital and administrative offices are located at 350 South Oak Avenue, Oakdale, CA 95361.

Sphere of Influence

The cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, and Waterford, along with the unincorporated communities of Knights Ferry and Valley Home are located within the District's Sphere of Influence boundary. The Sphere of Influence includes additional acreage currently outside the District's boundary in and around the City of Escalon (in San Joaquin County).

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the District's Hospital Administration Building Conference Room located at 350 South Oak Avenue, Oakdale, CA 95361. All meetings are open to the public. The District also has established a website (www.oakvalleyhospital.com) that is user-friendly and provides information such as programs and services, physicians' directory, annual reports, and visiting hours.

Personnel

The District employs 550 employees and additionally has over 40 physicians approved to practice medicine.

Partnership Agencies

The District maintains positive and collaborative relationships with local, state and federal agencies, such as: the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, Waterford, and Escalon, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties, Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District, Oak Valley Hospital Foundation, Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services, local area hospitals, UC Davis, Children's Medical Hospital, Fresno, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California, California Department of Health Services, California Children and Families Commission, Office of Statewide Health & Planning, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Funding Sources

The District's source of revenue is derived from the following: reimbursements from Medicare, Medi-Cal, Self-Pay, PPO, Private Insurance, Oak Valley Hospital Foundation, charity/trusts, grants (First Five Program). The District does not receive a share of the County property tax revenues for daily operating needs but does receive funds for approximately 40% of the debt incurred for the new building.

Determinations - Oak Valley Hospital District

The following provides an analysis of the six categories or components required by Government Code Section 56430 for a municipal service review for the Oak Valley Hospital District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

Approximately 42,454 persons live within the District's boundary and Sphere of Influence as of 2019. According to the District's most recent Audit and Financial Statements (FY 2018-2019) during the fiscal year ambulance runs continued to increase, but inpatient admissions and clinic visits decreased. Acute inpatient days decreased 4.02%. Skilled nursing days decreased 2.75%. The emergency department visits decreased by 5.7% and clinic visits decreased 7.43%. Total outpatient visits decreased 6.9%.

Although significant growth is not projected in the unincorporated areas of Valley Home and Knights Ferry, growth potential exists in the cities of Escalon, Oakdale, Riverbank, and Waterford.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

No known disadvantaged unincorporated communities are within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The District recently completed a hospital expansion consisting of 123,000 square feet which houses outpatient services, the emergency department and billing department for the District.

As the District is not a provider of water, sewer, or fire protection services, it is not responsible for assuring that these services are adequately provided to disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

The District adopts an annual budget, which is used as the spending plan for the District. The budget provides a framework for the District to address budgetary issues such as: revenues, expenditures, reserves, fiscal management, investments, capital improvements, and rates and fees. Monthly financial reports are provided at the District's board meetings.

There is no overlapping or duplication of services within the District boundaries. The District participates in a variety of joint agency practices to maximize cost avoidance opportunities such as the District's Management Agreement with BETA Healthcare Group for Risk Management services and Plan Alpha for Worker's Compensation services.

Rates and fees for services provided by the District are governed by the amount the District can charge for services rendered. The District charges all patients equally based on its

established pricing structure. The rates and fees are established during the District's annual budget review process. Factored into the budget are reimbursements from insurance programs, such as HMOs, PPOs, Medicare and Medicaid. The amounts of reimbursements are based upon contractual agreements and government obligations.

The District's annual budget process is designed to screen out unnecessary costs and is submitted to the Board of Directors for review and approval. Overall, the District appears to be in good financial shape, and has in place the necessary financial mechanisms to continue serving existing and future residents.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

In the spirit of cooperation, the District shares its conference facilities with agencies and organizations within the area, including, but not limited to the City of Oakdale, Family Support Network, and the State's Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Program.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters, governs the District. The Board is subject to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. The District also has established a website (www.oakvalleyhospital.com) that is user-friendly and provides information such as: programs and services offered, visiting hours, and yearly reports. The District has the necessary resources and staffing levels to operate in a cost-efficient and professional manner. It is reasonable to conclude that the District has the organizational capability to adequately serve the areas under its jurisdiction.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

None.

SOI Update – Oak Valley Hospital District

The following determinations for the Oak Valley Hospital District Sphere of Influence update and are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and Commission policy.

Determinations:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The present and planned land uses within the District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) consist of agricultural, rural residential, suburban and urban areas. The District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries and SOI. The responsibility for land use decisions within these areas is retained by the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, Waterford and Escalon; and Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The present and probable need for public healthcare facilities and services in the area are not likely to diminish. On an annual basis, the Oak Valley Hospital District draws thousands of patrons seeking localized healthcare services. Realizing that the need for community-based healthcare services will continue, the District has adopted a Master Plan, which includes expansion of hospital facilities and services within the District's Sphere of Influence. This expansion is expected to meet the local healthcare needs for the next 30 years.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District outgrew its previous facility, built in 1973, and recently underwent a \$69 million expansion of a new hospital facility. Financing for the expansion came from a variety of sources including hospital reserves, revenue bond financing, and donations.

With regards to adequacy of public services provided, the District continually strives to implement new procedures to measure service levels, invests in information technology that gives physicians and other caregivers timelier access to data needed to provide effective care to patients, and completed a consumer preference survey and developed action plans to address areas of concern. The District states that it is committed to providing its communities with quality health care services with compassion, pride and excellence.

4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

The following jurisdictions can be categorized as Communities of Interest in the area: the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, Waterford, and Escalon (San Joaquin County), as well as the unincorporated communities of Knights Ferry and Valley Home.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

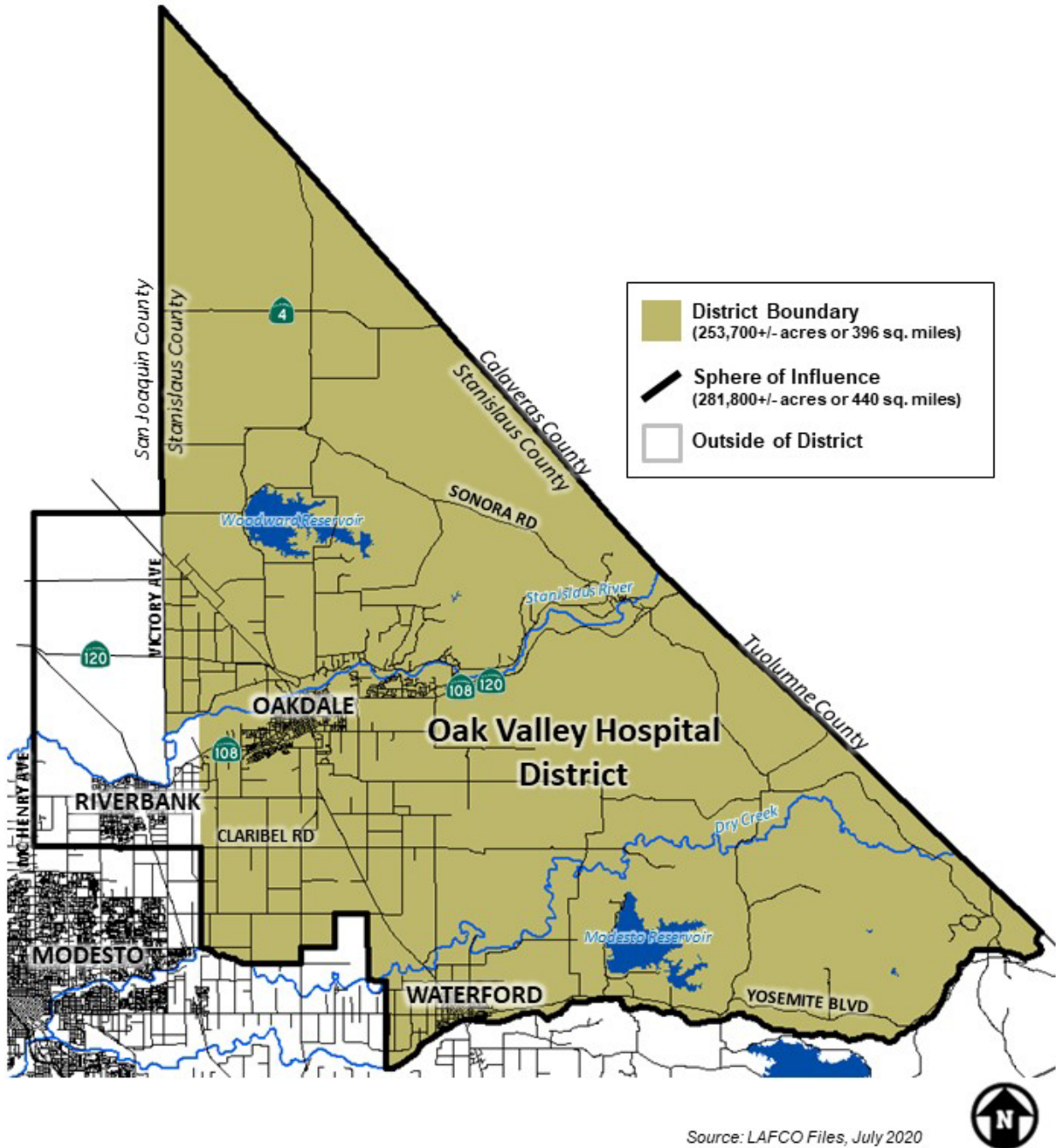
**DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE
OAK VALLEY HOSPITAL DISTRICT**



Formation:	June 18, 1958
Services:	Operation of a general acute care community hospital, skilled nursing facility, ambulance services, and rural health clinics
District Boundary:	Approximately 253,700 acres, located in the northern portion of Stanislaus County, including the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, and Waterford; and the unincorporated communities of Knights Ferry and Valley Home
Sphere of Influence:	Extends into southeast San Joaquin County nearly 28,000 acres, including areas in and around the City of Escalon
Population*:	42,454 (Service population estimate for 2019)
Land Use:	Rural, suburban, and urban
Enabling Act:	California Health and Safety Code: Hospital Districts, Sections 32000 to 32490.9
Governing Body:	Five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters within the District
Administration:	550 Employees
Total Revenues:	\$76,370,755 (Fiscal Year 2018-19 Audit & Financial Statements)
Revenue Sources:	Insurance Programs (Self-Pay, PPO, Private Insurance, Workers Compensation), Medicare, Medi-Cal, charity/foundations, and various grants

**Source: District estimate, 2019*

OAK VALLEY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE



REFERENCES

1. Association of California Healthcare Districts. Website (www.achd.org). Accessed July 10, 2020.
2. California Department of Water Resources. *Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Mapping Tool*. Website (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>). Accessed July 13, 2020.
3. California Special Districts Association (CSDA). Website (www.csda.net). Accessed July 7, 2020.
4. Del Puerto Health Care District. *Adopted Budgets - Fiscal Years 2019-2020*. Received May 4, 2020.
5. Del Puerto Health Care District. Website (www.dphealth.org). Accessed May 1, 2020.
6. Oak Valley Hospital District. *Report of Independent Auditors and Financial Statements 2018-2019*.
7. Oak Valley Hospital District. Website (www.oakvalleyhospital.com). Accessed June 16, 2014.
8. Sierra Medical Services Alliance and West Side Community Healthcare District. *Agreement for Daily Management and Consulting Services*. May 6, 2014.
9. Stanislaus LAFCO. *Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the Healthcare and Hospital Districts*. January 28, 2015.
10. Westside Community Healthcare District. *2020-21 Annual Budget Sheet*.
11. Westside Community Healthcare District. *Basic Financial Statements - June 30, 2018*.
12. Westside Community Ambulance. Website (www.westsideambulance.com) – Accessed June 16, 2020.
13. West Side Healthcare Advisory Task Force. Website (www.westsidechoices.com). Accessed June 19, 2020.

**STANISLAUS COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION

DATE: August 26, 2020

NO. 2020-04

SUBJECT: Municipal Service Review No. 2020-01 and Sphere of influence Update No 2020-01: Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District, and Oak Valley Hospital District.

On the motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and approved by the following vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners:
Noes:	Commissioners:
Absent:	Commissioners:
Ineligible:	Commissioners:

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

WHEREAS, a Service Review mandated by California Government Code Section 56430 and a Sphere of Influence Update mandated by California Government Code Section 56425, has been conducted for the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital District, in accordance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Reorganization Act of 2000;

WHEREAS, at the time and in the form and manner provided by law, the Executive Officer has given notice of the August 26, 2020 public hearing by this Commission on this matter;

WHEREAS, the subject document is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines;

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed all existing and available information from the Districts and has prepared a report including recommendations therein, and related information as presented to and considered by this Commission;

WHEREAS, the Commission has duly considered the draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update on the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital District and the determinations contained therein;

WHEREAS, the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital District were established to provide healthcare and hospital services within their boundaries;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(i), the range of services provided by the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital District are limited to those as identified above, and such range of services shall not be changed unless approved by this Commission; and

WHEREAS, no changes to the Districts' Spheres of Influence are proposed or contemplated through this review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission:

1. Certifies that the project is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.
2. Approves the Service Review prepared in compliance with State law and update of the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital Districts' Spheres of Influence, and written determinations prepared by the Staff and contained herein.
3. Determines that except as otherwise stated, no new or different function or class of services shall be provided by the Districts, unless approved by the Commission.
4. Determines, based on presently existing evidence, facts, and circumstances filed and considered by the Commission, that the Spheres of Influence for the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital District should be affirmed as they currently exist, as more specifically described on the maps contained within the Service Review document.
5. Directs the Executive Officer to circulate this resolution depicting the adopted Sphere of Influence Update to all affected agencies, including the Del Puerto Healthcare District, Westside Community Healthcare District and Oak Valley Hospital District.

ATTEST: _____
Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer



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DATE: August 26, 2020

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer *SLP*

SUBJECT: Designation of Voting Delegate and Alternate for the Annual CALAFCO Election and Membership Meeting

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) conducts its Board of Directors elections and membership meeting during the annual CALAFCO conference. However, as this year's annual conference has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board elections will be conducted by absentee ballot and the membership meeting will be occurring electronically. Absentee ballots will be due by Oct. 19th and the annual membership meeting will occur Oct. 22nd.

Stanislaus LAFCO typically sends at least one Commissioner to the CALAFCO conference, who acts as the voting delegate, with the Executive Officer as the alternate.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission designate a voting delegate and alternate who will vote on behalf of the Commission for the 2020 Board election and annual membership meeting.