

Local Agency Formation Commission

of

Colusa County

WESTSIDE WATER DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

AND

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

**Adopted
March 6, 2008**

**LAFCO Resolution 2008-0003 – Municipal Service Review
LAFCO Resolution 2008-0006 – Sphere of Influence**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 LAFCO's Responsibilities 1

1.2 Municipal Service Review Requirements 1

1.3 Sphere of Influence 2

1.4 Colusa LAFCO Policies and Procedures
Related to Municipal Services 2

1.5 Description of Public Participation Process 2

1.6 California Environmental Quality Act 3

1.7 Preparation of the MSR 3

2. SETTING 4

2.1 Colusa County 4

2.2 Colusa County Population and Growth 5

3. WESTSIDE WATER DISTRICT. 6

3.1 Description 6

3.2 Service Provision 6

3.2.1 Water Supply 6

3.2.2 Water Supply Infrastructure 7

3.3 Government 8

3.4 Finances 8

4. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW 10

4.1 Growth and population projections for the affected area 10

4.1.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area -
Background 10

4.1.2 Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area
-MSR Determinations. 10

**4.2 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of
public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies. . . . 10**

4.2.1 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of
public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies
-Background 11

4.2.2 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of
public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies
-MSR determinations. 11

4.3 Financial ability of agencies to provide services. 11

4.3.1 Financial ability of agencies to provide services-Background . . . 11

4.3.2 Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
MSR Determinations 12

4.4 Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities. 12

4.4.1 Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities - Background . . 12

4.4.2 Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities
-MSR Determinations 13

4.5	Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.....	13
4.5.1	Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies Background.....	13
4.5.2	Accountability for community service needs, including Governmental structure and operational efficiencies - MSR Determinations.....	14
5.	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	15
5.1	Land Use.....	15
5.1.1	Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open Space Lands	15
5.1.2	SOI Determinations Present and Planned Land Use	15
5.2.	Municipal Services: Present Need	15
5.2.1	Service Need	15
5.2.2	SOI Determinations for Facilities and Services: Present and Probable Need	15
5.3	Public Facilities Future Capacity	16
5.3.1	Facilities and Capacity	16
5.3.2	SOI Determinations for Public Facilities Present and Future Capacity.....	16
5.4	Social or Economic Communities of Interest	16
5.4.1	Westside Water District	16
5.4.2	SOI Determinations for Social or Economic Communities of Interest	16
	ABBREVIATIONS	17
	DEFINITIONS	17
	REFERENCES	21
	MAP	21

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 LAFCO's Responsibilities

This Municipal Service Review (MSR) has been prepared for the Colusa Local Agency Formation Commission (Colusa LAFCO). Local Agency Formation Commissions are quasi-legislative local agencies created in 1963 to assist the State in encouraging the orderly development and formation of local agencies. A Local Agency Formation Commission is established in each county in the State.

This MSR consists of a review of irrigation water service as provided by the Westside Water District. The MSR may be considered by the LAFCO in a subsequent review of the Sphere of Influence of the Westside Water District.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code §56000 et seq.) is the statutory authority for the preparation of an MSR, and periodic updates of the Sphere of Influence of each local agency. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has issued Guidelines for the preparation of an MSR. This MSR adheres to the procedures set forth in the MSR Guidelines and local policy with respect to agencies that do not provide growth-inducing services.

A Sphere of Influence is a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the affected Local Agency Formation Commission (Government Code §56076). Government Code §56425(f) requires that each Sphere of Influence be updated not less than every five years, as necessary, and §56430 provides that a Municipal Service Review shall be conducted in advance of the Sphere of Influence update.

1.2 Municipal Service Review Requirements

The statute and regulations call for a review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the LAFCO. The LAFCO is required, as part of the MSR, to prepare a written statement of findings of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area;
2. Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs and deficiencies;
3. Financial ability of agencies to provide services;
4. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities;
5. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies;

In addition, the Commission may require any other matter be addressed which is related to effective or efficient service delivery, and as required by commission policy.

The Municipal Service Review precedes LAFCO action on a Sphere of Influence update. Given the close relationship between an MSR and Sphere of Influence update or creation, amendment or update, the Sphere of Influence is discussed in more detail below.

1.3 Sphere of Influence

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires the LAFCO to update the Spheres of Influence for all applicable jurisdictions in the county by January 1, 2008.

Local governmental agencies, special districts and municipalities must have an adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) boundary and territory that define the probable future boundary and service area of the agency.

Inclusion of a particular land area within an agency's SOI does not necessarily mean that the area will eventually be annexed. The Sphere of Influence is only one of several factors LAFCO must consider in reviewing individual proposals (California Government Code Section §56668).

In determining the Sphere of Influence for each local agency, LAFCO must consider and prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to each of the following:

- The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands;
- The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area;
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services which the agency provides, or is authorized to provide; and
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

1.4 Colusa LAFCO Policies and Procedures Related to Municipal Services

The Colusa LAFCO adopted policies and procedures related to municipal services on February 5, 2004. These policies and procedures were amended by action of the LAFCO on August 2, 2007.

1.5 Description of Public Participation Process

Colusa LAFCO is a legislative body authorized by the California Legislature and delegated powers as stated in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the Act).

The LAFCO proceedings are subject to the provisions California's open meeting law, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Sections §54950 et seq.) The Brown Act requires advance posting of meeting agendas and contains various other provisions designed to ensure that the public has adequate access to information regarding the proceedings of public boards and commissions. Colusa LAFCO complies with the requirements of the Brown Act.

The MSR Guidelines provide that all LAFCOs should encourage and provide multiple public participation opportunities in the municipal service review process.

MSR policies have been adopted by the Colusa LAFCO. Colusa LAFCO has discussed and considered the MSR process in open session, and has adopted a schedule for completing the various municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates for Colusa County.

Each municipal service review will be prepared as a draft, and will be subject to public and agency comment prior to final consideration by the Colusa LAFCO.

1.6 California Environmental Quality Act

The Municipal Service Review is a planning study that will be considered by LAFCO in connection with subsequent proceedings regarding the Westside Water District Sphere of Influence. The Sphere of Influence review or update that would follow has not been approved, or adopted or funded by LAFCO.

This MSR is funded in the Colusa County LAFCO's 2007-2008 Budget. This MSR includes an analysis, to the extent required by Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines, of the environmental factors that may be affected by the Municipal Service Review process, but will not include the preparation of an environmental review document

1.7 Preparation of the MSR

Research for this Municipal Service Review (MSR) was conducted over a six month period occurring during 2007. Since those times, several modifications have been made reflecting dynamic circumstances. This MSR is intended to support preparation and update of Spheres of Influence, in accordance with the provisions of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

The objective of this Municipal Service Review (MSR) is to develop recommendations that will promote more efficient and higher quality service patterns; identify areas for service improvement; and assess the adequacy of service provision as it relates to determination of appropriate sphere boundaries.

While LAFCO prepared the MSR document, LAFCO did not engage the services of experts in engineering, law enforcement, fire protection, recreation and other specialists in related fields, but relied upon reports and district staff for information.

Therefore, this MSR reflects LAFCO's recommendations, based on available information during the research period and provided by district and (or) county staff to assist in its determinations related to promoting more efficient and higher quality service patterns; identifying areas for service improvement; and assessing the adequacy of service provision for the District.

2. SETTING

2.1 Colusa County

Colusa County is located approximately thirty-five miles north of Sacramento, along the I-5 corridor. The County is approximately thirty-five miles long (north to south) and forty-five miles wide (east to west). It is bounded by Yolo, Sutter, Butte, Glenn and Lake Counties.

It is primarily a rural agricultural county, with a total population of about 17,000. There are two incorporated cities: Colusa (5,000) and Williams (3,000). Interstate 5 bisects the County running north and south.

To the west of I-5 is flat agricultural land, running into the Coastal Mountain range. The highest point in the County is located in the Coastal Range, at over 7000 feet. East of I-5, the topography is flat. The Sacramento River roughly forms the eastern boundary of the County.

Agriculture is the major industry in the County. Colusa was identified by UC Davis Cooperative Extension Specialist Al Sokolow as having the highest percentage increase in agricultural growth in California during the period 1985-1995 (115 % increase).

The total on-farm agricultural value in the county in 1997 was \$333 million. The major crops produced include rice, processing tomatoes, almonds, wheat, vegetable seeds, walnuts and prunes. Land is relatively inexpensive and water is both available and high quality, compared to other California locations.

While the environment defines the breadth of crops produced locally, agriculture is clearly increasing in importance. Rice remains the number one crop, with acreage remaining fairly stable. There is currently a transition from row crops to perennial crops (almonds, grapes, walnuts) and from low-value agronomic crops to higher value vegetables or other row crops.

Environmental issues (air quality, water quality, soil degradation, etc.), commodity marketing and economic sustainability are the major challenges facing local producers.

The rural nature, low population and ethnic makeup of Colusa County all contribute to "quality of life" issues. There are not many organized activities or employment opportunities for young people, so the local youth become bored with the community and emigrate after graduating from high school.

Retention of young people is one of the biggest problems, as the current producers retire or exit farming. Owing to a small consumer base, local merchants have difficulty remaining in business and many residents export money out of Colusa by shopping in neighboring counties. Economic development is a high community priority.

The school-age youth in the County are over 50 percent Hispanic, one of the highest in the state. Cultural barriers, communication skills and community infrastructure to support this segment of the citizens are all major challenges.

The unemployment rate is often the highest in the state (reaching over 30 percent during the winter months). The per capita income is among the lowest in California.¹

2.2 Colusa County Population

The 2006 population of Colusa County is estimated at 21,272, a 13.1% increase from 2000. This is nearly double the 7.6% increase for the State.²

The age distribution of the Colusa County population in 2005 as compared to that of California is shown below:

	<u>Colusa</u>	<u>California</u>
Age 5 and under	8.0%	7.4%
Age 18 and under	29.1%	26.9%
Age 65 and over	13.0%	10.7% ³

Colusa County has more younger and more older members of the population than the State average. This creates a greater burden on both workers and tax-payers in the County.

In 2005 the residents of Colusa County identified themselves as follows, compared to the residents of the State:

	<u>Race</u>	<u>Colusa</u>	<u>California</u>
	White	93.5%	77.0%
	Black	1.0%	6.7%
	American Indian	2.4%	1.2%
	Asian	1.7%	12.2%
	Pacific Islander	0.7%	0.4%
	Two or more races	0.6%	2.4%
TOTAL POP. (rounded to nearest tenth)		99.9%	99.9%
Hispanic or Latino Population		49.1%	35.2% ⁴

The 2000 educational level of the Colusa County Population is lower than that of the State as a whole with 64.0% (of population aged 25 or older) High School graduates compared to 76.8% Statewide and 10.6% Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 26.6% Statewide.⁵

The Median household income in 2004 was \$38,350 compared to \$49,894 Statewide.⁶

It is estimated that only about 25 people actually reside within the Westside Water District boundaries.⁷

¹ www.cecolusa.ucdavis.edu/profile.htm

² www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html

³ www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html

⁴ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html> (Included in race figures above)

⁵ www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html

⁶ www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html

⁷ Westside Water District, Mike Britton, General Manager, September 12, 2007.

3. WESTSIDE WATER DISTRICT

3.1 Description

The Westside Water District was organized in 1954 under Division 13 of the California Water Code. The District included approximately 12,000 acres of agricultural land in Colusa County. By 1976 only a small portion of the land was irrigated.

In 1977 the owners formed Improvement District No. 1 within the District to provide water service to 9,300 acres. The balance of about 3,000 acres was to be served in the future from additional projects.⁸ Since 1977, 4,400 acres have annexed into Improvement District No. 1.

In 2005, there were 3,232 acres from the original Westside Water District, which have executed contracts with Improvement District No. 1 and are receiving project (Central Valley Project (CVP)) water.⁹

The area in the Westside Water District is part of the original service area contemplated for the Tehama-Colusa Canal of the CVP, which was constructed by the US Bureau of Reclamation.

The Tehama-Colusa Canal extends through the District from north to south. Reaches 6 and 7 were completed in 1980 and provide water service to the District.¹⁰

The Westside Water District maintains an office west of Williams, California. The contact information for the District is as follows:

Mike Britton, General Manager
5005 State Highway 20
Williams, CA 95987

Ph: 530-473-2876 F: 530-473-2877
E-Mail: mbritton@westsidewd.com

3.2 Service Provision

3.2.1 Water Supply

Water for the Westside Water District is stored in the Shasta Reservoir behind Shasta Dam constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Water flows down the Sacramento River where it is diverted to the Tehama-Colusa Canal and thence conveyed to the Westside Water District.

⁸ Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005," p. 1.

⁹ Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005," p. 1.

¹⁰ Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005," p. 1.

The system was designed to divert water from the Sacramento River into the settling basin by virtue of a dam across the Sacramento River located in Red Bluff, California. And although the system operated in this manner for some years, environmental concerns and regulatory requirements have altered the operational practices of the dam.

Where, at one time, the dam could be counted on to divert water as early as March, current regulations generally prevent the dam gates from being lowered until May 15th.¹¹

To overcome this limitation and provide water to irrigators, the Bureau of Reclamation installed three pumps in the latter half of the 1990's, each with a capacity of between 80 and 100 cfs (cubic feet per second), with provisions for the placement of a fourth pump. The installation of the fourth pump occurred in 2006. However, irrigation demand can reach between 800 and a 1000 cfs before May 15th, when the dam becomes operational.

To overcome this limitation, current practice is to dam up Stony Creek in Orland and back flow water through canal gates that were actually intended to let water out of the canal into Stony Creek. Between the pumps on the Sacramento River at Red Bluff, and the reverse flow diversion at Stony Creek, the demands of irrigators have been met, but generally without any reserve.¹²

Westside Water District has contracted with the United States for 65,000 acre-feet. This water supply from the Central Valley Project is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of the District.¹³

According to the "Water Conservation Plan, 2005" the total acres for the District is 15,445 acres but 4,000 acres are not developed for irrigation and do not receive water.¹⁴

3.2.2. Water Supply Infrastructure

The Westside Water District's main conveyance system consists of approximately 30 miles of buried, reinforced concrete, rubber gasket pipe ranging in size from six-inches to 42-inches in diameter. The system was built in 1981 and is well maintained to prevent water loss in the pipeline.

The Improvement District No. 1 system, which serves more and 9,000 acres was designed with one turnout for each 160 acres. There are approximately 95 farm turnouts and each turnout has its own meter. These meters have flow indicator dials as well as acre-foot totalizers and are read on a daily basis. The District has a preventive maintenance and testing program on the meters and they are kept in good working order.¹⁵

There are six canal-side pumping plants which are used to lift water from the Tehama-Colusa Canal in areas where the ground is at an elevation that prevents gravity flow. Electric energy for

¹¹ www.tccanal.com

¹² www.tccanal.com

¹³ Westside Water District, Mike Britton, General Manager, September 12, 2007.

¹⁴ Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005," p. 1.

¹⁵ Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005," p. 4.

these pumps is provided by the CVP and the cost is covered by the Bureau's O&M water charges to the District.

The District has a telemetry system which monitors lateral flows. Paging devices, which sound an alarm when there is a power failure at a pumping plant, make 24-hour monitoring possible.

Each pipeline lateral system operates under the pressure provided by the pumping plant, as with the six pumped laterals, or the head of water in the Tehama-Colusa Canal, as with the gravity laterals. Pipeline laterals vary in diameter from 15 to 30 inches for the pumped laterals and from 15 to 42 inches for the gravity laterals.

Lateral pipelines 24 inches in diameter and smaller are asbestos cement pipe (ACP) manufactured by Johns-Manville. Laterals 27 to 42 inches in diameter are reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) manufactured by Hydro-conduit Corp.¹⁶

3.3 Government

The Board of Directors for the District is as follows:

Bob Harper, President
Term to 12-04-09
Larry LaGrande, Vice-President
Term to 12-01-11
Steve Dennis, Director
Term to 12-01-11
Doug Parker, Director
Term to 12-01-11
Jamie Traynham, Director
Term to 12-04-09¹⁷

Each Board member serves a four-year term. The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office except for the months of May and October. The Board is paid \$100 per meeting and is elected by landowner votes.¹⁸

The District has four full-time staff members including the General Manager.¹⁹

3.4 Finances

Operation of the Westside Water District costs \$361,100 per year including \$197,500 for salaries and benefits, \$78,100 for services and supplies, \$56,600 for operations and

¹⁶ Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005," p. 4.

¹⁷ Westside Water District, "2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District," February 8, 2007.

¹⁸ Westside Water District, Mike Britton, General Manager, September 12, 2007

¹⁹ Westside Water District, "2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District," February 8, 2007.

maintenance, \$2,500 for wheeling costs, \$20,900 for project replacement reserve, and \$5,500 for equipment replacement reserve.²⁰

The cost per acre for water use of 2.5 acre-feet per acre is \$100.89. This is based on the cost of District Operations, a Water Availability Charge, Water Rights Use Fee and Water Rate.²¹

Landowners pay monthly installments. All accounts for the District are held at the US Bank. Reserves of approximately \$600,000 are invested with the State Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).²²

The District has a long-term debt for infrastructure with \$522,510 remaining in payments. The payment for 2007 was \$186,195. The Interest Rate for 2007 is 5.5%. The Interest Rate for 2008 is the same but it will be 5.6% in 2009.²³

²⁰ Westside Water District, "2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District," February 8, 2007, p14.

²¹ Westside Water District, "2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District," February 8, 2007, p.19.

²² Westside Water District, Mike Britton, General Manager, September 12, 2007.

²³ Westside Water District, "2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District," February 8, 2007, p.1.

4. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

The Municipal Service Review Findings are required by the State Law. They serve the purpose of helping LAFCO to understand the special district or city involved in an annexation, detachment or reorganization proposal.

The determinations are not binding proposals for any special district or city. The determinations are subject to change because the jurisdiction involved is constantly changing, improving or growing. The State requires the MSR to be reviewed every five years as part of the SOI update process.

4.1 Growth and population projections for the affected area

Purpose: To evaluate service needs based on existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

4.1.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area - Background

The area in the Westside Water District is zoned for agriculture and designated for agricultural use in the Colusa County General Plan. The District does not want to encourage population growth because this would cause conflicts with the agricultural uses.

4.1.2 Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area - MSR Determinations

1. It is expected that the population within the Westside Water District will remain at 25 people.
2. The population projections for the City of Williams are found in the Colusa County and City of Williams general plans. Population growth within the district boundaries will be minimal since the County general plan calls for agricultural land uses and WWD is not in the urban water business.
3. The District should maintain an active relationship with Colusa County and City of Williams planning departments to make sure that the District goals are considered when land use changes and land use regulations are made.

4.2 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

Purpose: To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, existing and anticipated capacity, condition and adequacy of facilities and service quality, both existing and planned.

LAFCO is responsible for determining that an agency is reasonably capable of providing needed resources and basic infrastructure to serve areas within the District and later in the Sphere of

Influence. It is important that such findings of infrastructure availability occur when revisions to the Sphere of Influence and annexations occur.

In the case of this Municipal Service Review, it is prudent for Colusa LAFCO to evaluate the present and long-term infrastructure demands and resource availability of the District. Further, LAFCO needs to see that resources and services are available at needed levels and orderly maintenance and expansion of such resources and services are made in line with increasing demands.

4.2.1 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies – Background.

1. The District installed an underground pipeline water distribution system with meters on every turnout to measure water use.²⁴ The system is well maintained with the 2007-08 Budget for operations and maintenance of \$56,600.²⁵

4.2.2 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.- MSR Determinations

1. The infrastructure in the Westside Water District is adequate for present and future needs.

4.3 Financial ability of agencies to provide services.

Purpose: To evaluate factors that affect the financial ability of agencies to provide services and the provision of needed improvements.

LAFCO should consider the ability of the District to pay for improvements or services associated with existing territory and annexed sites. This planning can begin at the Sphere of Influence stage by identifying infrastructure and maintenance needs associated with future annexation and development, and identifying limitations on financing such improvements, as well as the opportunities that exist to construct and maintain those improvements.

4.3.1 Financial ability of agencies to provide services – Background

The Westside Water District makes the following statement regarding water charges:

“It is necessary to state that the District’s water charges are subject to revision in response to changes in the available 2007 water supply, the USBR’s rate and fees calculations, and the rate setting and fee determination policies. The various District charges are also subject to revision in response to changes in the total Farm Service Agency (FSA) acreage within the District and the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Fee.”²⁶

²⁴ Westside Water District, “Water Conservation Plan, 2005,” p. 4.

²⁵ Westside Water District, “2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District,” February 8, 2007, p.16.

²⁶ Westside Water District “Actual 2007 Water Charges,” February 8, 2007.

The District is financially sound and maintains cost controls over items that are controlled by the District. However, the majority of the costs are set by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Tehama- Colusa Canal Authority.²⁷

4.3.2 Financial ability of agencies to provide services - MSR Determinations

1. The Westside Water District controls costs to the extent possible.
2. The Westside Water District must pay the water rates set by the USBR and the TCCA.
3. The Westside Water District has sound financial management.
4. The financial position of the District is better when the District can supply the maximum amount of water allowed by the water-rights agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation.
5. The District contributes to the local economy through salaries and equipment purchases.
6. The District adopts an annual budget in open session whereby the public is encouraged to attend. The District's budget is designed to cut costs where possible.

4.4 Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

Purpose: To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs. To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

LAFCO should consider the relative burden of new annexations to the District when it comes to its ability to provide irrigation water service, as well as capital maintenance and replacements required as a result of expanding the District boundary. In the case of annexing new lands into a district, LAFCO can evaluate whether services or facilities can be provided in a more efficient manner if the district can share them with another agency. In some cases, it may be possible to establish a cooperative approach to facility planning by encouraging agencies to work cooperatively in such efforts.

4.4.1 Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities - Background

The District shares the facility and the cost of Shasta Dam and the Tehama-Colusa Canal.

²⁷ Westside Water District "Actual 2007 Water Charges," February 8, 2007.

4.4.2 Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities- MSR Determinations

1. The District works with other districts and agencies whenever it is legally and physically possible.
2. The District receives water flowing through Shasta Dam so the water use must be coordinated by the US Bureau of Reclamation.

4.5 Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.

Purpose: To identify opportunities to positively impact the service needs of the community. To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures that could impact the provision of public services and to evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

LAFCO may consider the agency's record of local accountability in its management of community affairs as a measure against the ability to provide adequate services to the Sphere of Influence and Annexation areas. LAFCO should evaluate the impact of Sphere of Influence and Annexation decisions on existing community rates for public services. One of the most critical elements of LAFCO's responsibilities is in setting logical service boundaries for districts and communities based on their capability to provide services to affected lands.

4.5.1 Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies- Background

The main part of the water rate paid is determined by the Bureau of Reclamation. The District Administration cost per acre is evaluated yearly and adjusted if necessary.

The costs paid by the landowners include the following costs:

1. Water Availability Charge
2. Service Charge
3. Water Rights User Fee
4. Water Charge
5. USBR Restoration Fund Fee²⁸

²⁸ Westside Water District "Actual 2007 Water Charges," February 8, 2007.

The only fee that is directly controlled by the Westside Water District is the Service Charge, which pays the cost of District administration.

The contracts with the US Bureau of Reclamation secure the water rights for the landowners. The District would not want to make any changes that could cause the loss of water rights or insufficient water for the landowners now in the District. The Water District is the most suitable form of organization for the Westside Water District.

The District has a small staff and is run efficiently. The District complies with the US Bureau of Reclamation regulation and actively maintains all infrastructure. The Westside Water District is a small district and good communication with the landowners is maintained.

4.5.2 Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies- MSR Determinations

The WWD rates must allow the growers to irrigate and grow the crops at a reasonable cost or they will not be able to stay in business and purchase water in the future.

1. The District adopts the Budget at a public meeting.
2. The District has an elected Board.
3. The District cooperates with other water districts to build and maintain water supply.
4. The District maintains an efficient staff in a relatively new office building.
5. The District maintains and upgrades equipment to assist with efficient operations.
6. The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office except for the months of May and October.

5. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Information contained in the Municipal Service Review and this Sphere of Influence is only current as of the date of adoption. LAFCO Policy 3.3(e) calls for an updated Master Services Element at the time a proposal is made. Policy 2.14 essentially requires an updated Master Services Element anytime conversion of agricultural land meeting the definition contained in the California Government Code Section §56064 is proposed."

The Sphere of Influence for the Westside Water District will allow (a) detachment of parcels that are used for rice cultivation and are currently receiving water from the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and (b) annexation of additional land adjacent to the existing District.

5.1 Land Use

5.1.1 Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open Space Lands

The land use in the area is agricultural. The General Plan and the zoning of Colusa County support the agricultural use of this land.

5.1.2 SOI Determinations - Present and Planned Land Use

1. The existing District Boundary with the proposed detachment and annexation is the ultimate District Boundary and Sphere of Influence for the Westside Water District.
2. The District has water rights and water to serve the land within the present boundary but does not have the capacity to substantially expand.
3. There are no logical areas for expansion of this District since other districts serve most of the surrounding land. From time to time the district may annex and detach lands based on water availability and farming patterns.

5.2. Municipal Services - Present Need

5.2.1 Service Need

The lands within the WWD need the services that are provided. There is no additional water to provide service for more land. Therefore, the Sphere of Influence for the WWD will be the same as the District Boundary with the proposed detachment and annexation.

5.2.2 SOI Determinations for Facilities and Services – Probable Need

1. The land within the WWD will need irrigation water as long as agriculture is a profitable business in Northern California.

2. The WWD makes a valuable contribution to the local economy for Colusa County by providing water for agriculture. This industry generates many jobs and wealth in the County.

5.3 Public Facilities Future Capacity

5.3.1 Facilities and Capacity

The WWD has adequate facilities for the future. Although the acreage of the District will increase, the proposed detachment and annexation the newly irrigated land will be used for orchard crops, which will use drip or micro-irrigation systems thereby using less irrigation water per acre.

The District is working to upgrade the facilities to provide better and cheaper service for the landowners. The District's water rights are established by agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation. However, if there is not sufficient water stored at Shasta Dam (due to lack of precipitation) the District could still face a cut by the Bureau of Reclamation of up to 50% in the water supply in the event of a drought. This could have an impact upon which crops are to be irrigated and the manner in which crops are irrigated.

5.3.2 SOI Determinations for Public Facilities - Present and Future Capacity

1. The District has adequate water rights to provide irrigation water to the landowners as it is available from the USBR for the foreseeable future.
2. The District promotes water conservation and the use of technology to prevent waste.

5.4 Social or Economic Communities of Interest

5.4.1 Westside Water District

The Westside Water District is an economic community because the investment in agricultural land and equipment would not be viable without irrigation water.

5.4.2 SOI Determinations for Social or Economic Communities of Interest

Most of the landowners live within the District or within nearby communities.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	asbestos cement pipe
ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
ASCS	Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
cfs	cubic feet per second
CKH Act	Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000
CLPFA	California Loan Purchase Finance Authority
CVP	Central Valley Project
District	Westside Water District
FSA	Farm Service Agency
GCID	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
I-5	Interstate 5
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
LAIF	Local Agency Investment Fund
MSR	Municipal Service Review
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
RCP	reinforced concrete pipe
SOI	Sphere of Influence SOI
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCCA	Tehama Colusa Canal Authority
UC	University of California
US	United States
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
WWD	Westside Water District

DEFINITIONS

Acre foot: The volume of water that will cover one acre to a depth of one foot, 325,850 U.S. Gallons or 1,233,342 liters (approximately).

Bureau of Reclamation: (USBR, Reclamation, BOR). The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.²⁹

Central Valley Project: The Central Valley Project, one of the Nation's major water conservation developments, extends from the Cascade Range in the north to the semi-arid but fertile plains along the Kern River in the south. Initial features of the project were built primarily to protect the Central Valley from crippling water shortages and menacing floods, but the CVP also improves Sacramento River navigation, supplies domestic and industrial water, generates electric power, conserves fish and wildlife, creates opportunities for recreation, and enhances water quality.³⁰

Drip irrigation: Drip irrigation, also known as trickle irrigation or micro-irrigation is an irrigation method that minimizes the use of water and fertilizer by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either onto the soil surface or directly onto the root zone, through a network of valves, pipes, tubing, and emitters. Modern drip irrigation has arguably become the most important innovation in agriculture since the invention of the impact sprinkler in the 1930's which replaced wasteful flood irrigation. Drip irrigation may also use devices called micro-spray heads, which spray water in a small area, instead of dripping emitters. These are generally used on tree and vine crops with wider root zones.³¹

Exempt land: Irrigation land in a district to which the acreage limitation and pricing provisions of Reclamation law do not apply.³²

Gravity flow: Flow of water in a pipe on a descending path.

Irrigate: To supply (dry land) with water by means of ditches, pipes, or streams; water artificially.

Irrigation system: A complete set of system components including the water source, the water distribution network, and the general irrigation equipment.

Lateral: A pipeline other than the main water pressure line used to move water to the various delivery devices.

Operations and maintenance costs: The ongoing, repetitive costs of operating and maintaining a water system.

Pumping plant: Facility that lifts water up and over hills.

²⁹ www.usbr.gov/library/glossary/#hmr

³⁰ www.usbr.gov/dataweb/html/cvp.html

³¹ www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drip_irrigation

³² www.usbr.gov/library/glossary/#hmr

Pumplift (pumping lift): The vertical distance that a pump will raise waters. Distance water must be lifted in a well from the pumping level to the ground surface.

Tehama Colusa Canal: The Tehama Colusa Canal is 110 miles long and serves 14 water districts. The system was designed to divert water from the Sacramento River into the settling basin by virtue of a dam across the Sacramento River located in Red Bluff, California.

Tehama Colusa Canal Authority: The Tehama Colusa Canal Authority operates and maintains two canal systems owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corning Canal and the Tehama Colusa Canal.³³

Telemetry: Telemetry is a technology that allows the remote measurement and reporting of information of interest to the system designer or operator.

Water transfers: Selling or exchanging water or water rights among individuals or agencies. Artificial conveyance of water from one area to another.

Water user: Any individual, district, association, government agency, or other entity that uses water supplied from a Reclamation project.

Water year (WY): Period of time beginning October 1 of one year and ending September 30 of the following year and designated by the calendar year in which it ends. A calendar year used for water calculations.

³³ www.tccanal.com/

REFERENCES

www.cecolusa.ucdavis.edu/profile.htm

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drip_irrigation, October 9, 2007

www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06011.html

www.tccanal.com/, October 8, 2007.

www.usbr.gov/dataweb/html/cvp.html, October 8, 2007.

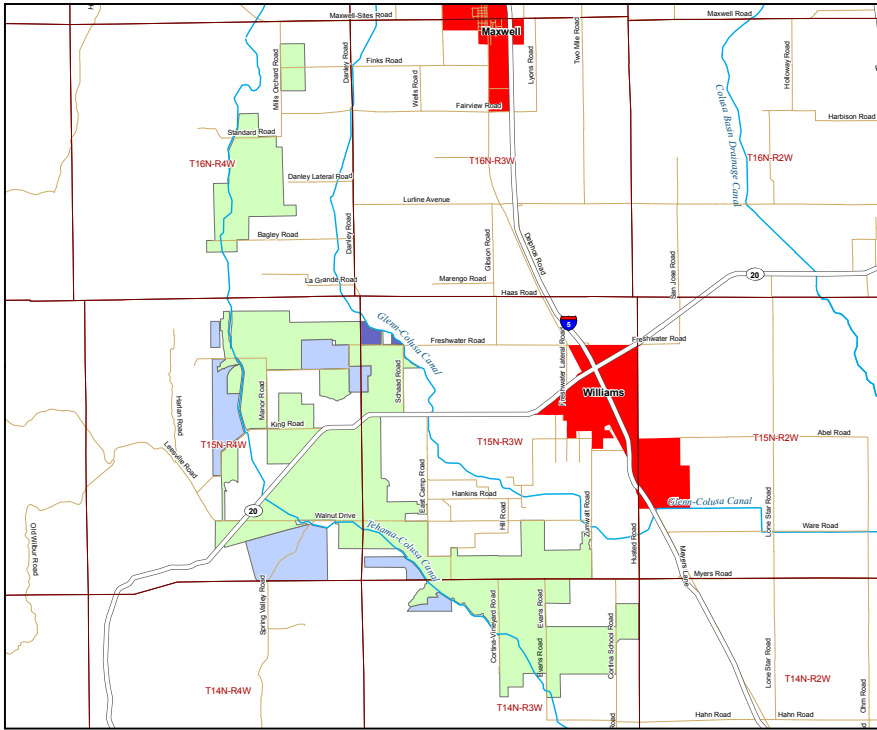
www.usbr.gov/library/glossary/#hmr, October 8, 2007.

Westside Water District, "2007 Financial Program for Administration and Operation of Westside Water District," February 8, 2007.

Westside Water District "Actual 2007 Water Charges," February 8, 2007.

Westside Water District, Mike Britton, General Manager, September 12, 2007.

Westside Water District, "Water Conservation Plan, 2005"



Colusa LAFCO

Westside Water District

Westside Water District Boundary and Sphere of Influence

- Existing Boundary
- Proposed Detachment
- Proposed Annexation Area
- County Road
- Public Land Survey
- Township and Range

Location in County

Scale: 0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Compass Rose: N, S, E, W

District Boundaries from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2007 and 2009
Map Produced by ChicoMapWorks LLC, February 2009