

**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
of
LASSEN COUNTY**

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW**

**ADOPTED
LASSEN LAFCO
March 8, 2010
LAFCO Resolution 2010-0001**

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Municipal Service Review (MSR) consists of a review of fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) provided by the 13 local agencies in Lassen County. The MSR may be considered by the LAFCO in a subsequent review of the Spheres of Influence for the various districts.

The Municipal Service Review includes the following information:

- LAFCO requirements for MSRs.
- Lassen County and fire protection service background.
- Description of fire protection service provided by each district.
- Analysis of each district's capability to serve existing and future residents in the area.

1.1 LAFCO's Responsibilities

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. 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 local Municipal Service Review Guidelines adopted by Lassen LAFCO on January 14, 2008.

A Sphere of Influence report 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, (or as needed) 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 as amended by AB1744 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*
- 2. Capacity and Infrastructure*
- 3. Financial Ability*
- 4. Shared Facilities*
- 5. Government Structure and Accountability*

1.3 Lassen LAFCO Policies and Procedures Related to Municipal Services

In addition to the January 14, 2008 guidelines relating to MSR's, Lassen LAFCO has adopted policies and procedures related to municipal services that are included as part of an overall Lassen LAFCO policy, standards and procedures document adopted on May 11, 2009.

1.4 Preparation of the MSR

Research for this Municipal Service Review (MSR) was originally conducted from 2006 to 2008. Since that time, modifications have been made to include additional information.

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 do the following:

1. Develop recommendations that will promote more efficient and higher quality service patterns.
2. Identify areas for service improvement.
3. 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 information provided by Lassen County and district staffs.

Therefore, this MSR reflects LAFCO's recommendations based on available information during the research period as provided by Lassen County staff and district staffs, 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.

1.5 Description of Public Participation Process

Lassen 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 of California's open meeting law, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Sections 54950 et seq.)

The Ralph M. Brown Act (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. Lassen LAFCO complies with the requirements of the Brown Act.

The State MSR Guidelines provide that all LAFCOs should encourage and provide multiple public participation opportunities in the municipal service review process. The Lassen LAFCO has adopted local MSR policies.

Lassen 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 Lassen

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 Lassen LAFCO.

1.6 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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

This MSR is funded in the Lassen LAFCO's 2009-2010 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 Lassen Fire Protection Issues

In this review of Lassen County Fire Protection Districts, brief general information regarding Lassen County is presented and the fire protection districts are reviewed in alphabetical order. There are a wide variety of fire protection problems in the area but the common thread for all communities is the use of volunteer fire fighters as much as possible for flexibility, cost savings and development of community spirit.

2 LASSEN COUNTY

This chapter discusses Lassen County characteristics as they relate to fire protection and emergency medical services, including the topography and climate conditions.

2.2 Lassen County Background

2.2.1 Lassen County Topography

Lassen County is located in northeastern California. It is bordered on the north by Modoc County, on the south by Plumas and Sierra Counties, on the west by Shasta County, and on the east by the State of Nevada.

Lassen County contains varied topography. The County has a variety of open valleys, forested plateaus, mountain meadows, and high mountain peaks and ranges. Various river and stream courses dominate the landscape, along with Honey Lake and Eagle Lake, the major water features of the County (Eagle Lake is the second largest natural lake located wholly within California).

The total land area in Lassen County is approximately 2,910,080 acres. Of this land area, over 63 percent consists of public lands managed by Federal, State or other governmental agencies. Over 1,025,000 acres in Lassen County are managed by the Bureau of Land Management and approximately 610,000 acres are managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Other public lands include Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Sierra Army Depot, and lands owned by the State of California, including lands managed primarily for wildlife resources by the California Department of Fish and Game. There are also Indian Lands north and east of Susanville. (1)

Most of the land in Lassen County is undeveloped. Of the total 2,910,080 acres included within the County, a very large portion consists of wildland areas of forest or brushland.

Lassen County sits in two hydrologic regions, the North Lahonton Hydrologic Region and the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region as described below:

- A. The North Lahonton Hydrologic Region covers approximately 3.91 million acres and includes portions of Modoc, Lassen, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Mono, and Tuolumne counties.
- B. The Sacramento River Hydrologic Region covers approximately 17.4 million acres and includes portions of Modoc, Siskiyou, Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Plumas, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Yolo, Solano, Lake, and Napa counties.

2.2.2 Lassen County Climate

The climate of Lassen County is variable but in general is characterized by warm dry summers and cold moist winters. Most of the precipitation falls between October and May. The average annual rainfall ranges from four inches along the Nevada border in the eastern Honey Lake Valley and increases going west to 48 inches near Juniper Lake in Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Average daily temperatures range from 69.6° F in July to 20.4° F in January. Wildland fire season varies slightly, but usually runs from late May to late October.

2.2.3 Lassen County Communities

Lassen County includes one incorporated city, the City of Susanville, and various unincorporated communities spread throughout the County. Unincorporated community centers include the following:

- Bieber
- Clear Creek
- Doyle
- Herlong
- Janesville
- Johnstonville
- Leavitt Lake
- Litchfield
- Little Valley
- Milford
- Standish
- Westwood

The primary means of access to Lassen County is via automobile, and the roadway system within Lassen County serves as the primary means of movement between communities.

The major service routes are as follows:

- A. U.S. Highway 395, which serves as a north-south route connecting Lassen County to points north via Alturas, and points south including the metropolitan area of Reno, Nevada;
- B. State Route 36, which provides regional access to Lassen County from west via the Lake Almanor Basin;
- C. State Route 44, which intersects Highway 36 approximately 7 miles west of Susanville, connects the County to Redding and points north;
- D. State Route 139, which connects Susanville with the northern communities of the County via Willow Creek Valley, the north shore of Eagle Lake and State Route 299 in Big Valley;
- E. State Route 299, which connects the area of Big Valley with Alturas in Modoc County to the northeast and with Shasta County, Redding and Interstate 5 to the west;
- F. State Route 147, with less than two miles of this State Route running through Lassen County, connecting with State Route 36 approximately five miles west of Westwood.

Recreational opportunities in Lassen County attract a substantial number of visitors to the area, especially in the summer. The summer population can sometimes exceed the resident population, especially on holiday weekends. This increase in visitor population is largely attributed to second-home ownership in

community centers and various recreational attractions such as Eagle Lake, the Lassen Volcanic National Park and the Bizz Johnson trail.

Residential development in Lassen County is sporadic, with approximately 18,600 residents living in the greater Susanville area (Susanville, Richmond-Gold Run, Janesville). The population balance is distributed in the smaller communities around the County.

2.3 Lassen County Population and Growth

The 2000 population of Lassen County was 33, 828, increasing to 34,661 by 2004 (including inmates). This is an increase of 2.5%. There were 12,000 housing units in the County in 2000.

The 2009 population of Susanville was 17,402 (including 8,430 inmates) and 18,148 in the unincorporated county (including 1,115 inmates). The average household size Lassen County is 2.45 persons. (3)

The median household income in 2009 was \$36,310. There is an anticipated capacity for an additional 18,300 new housing units countywide over the next 18 years.

The existing population centers in Lassen County will most likely be the areas in which future population increases will occur. To some extent this is a function of Lassen County's topography, and the difficulty of providing municipal services in remote or mountainous areas.

There is a significant likelihood of growth in Susanville, with a projected 2025 population of 47,900 residents, and in the Westwood-Clear Creek area due to the proposed Dyer Mountain resort on the northeast slope of Dyer Mountain and south of Walker Lake.

It is expected that the project (if realized) would provide a significant stimulus for commercial development in the area plan planning area as well as generate new job opportunities for area residents in nearby communities and at Dyer Mountain itself (Measure V April 2001; Westwood/Clear Creek Area Plan, Land Use Element 2002).

The population projected for Lassen County through 2050 (Including Inmates) 2010-2050¹ is as follows:

2010 – 37,918
2020 - 42,394
2030 – 47,240
2040 – 51,596
2050 – 55,989

¹Source: Department of Finance, Table P1, July 2007.

3 LASSEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

3.1 Introduction to Fire Protection in Lassen County

This Municipal Service Review evaluates fire protection and emergency medical services within Lassen County, California. There are various entities that are involved in providing such services, only some of which are subject to the oversight of the Lassen LAFCO in terms of service area boundaries and Spheres of Influence.

The agencies subject to LAFCO oversight are as follows:

1. Big Valley Fire Protection District
2. City of Susanville Fire Department
3. Clear Creek Community Services District
4. Doyle Fire Protection District
5. Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District
6. Janesville Fire Protection District
7. Lake Forest Estates Fire Protection District
8. Little Valley Community Services District
9. Madeline Fire Protection District
10. Milford Fire Protection District
11. Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District
12. Spalding Community Services District
13. Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District
14. Stones-Bengard Community Services District
15. Susan River Fire Protection District
16. West Patton Village Community Services District
17. Westwood Community Services District

In addition to the above districts, fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by the following agencies:

Federal Agencies:

1. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
2. National Forest Service
3. National Park Service
4. United States Sierra Army Depot Fire Department (SAID)

State Agency:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)

Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided in Lassen County by 17 local fire protection entities, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the California Department of Forestry and Fire

Protection (CALFIRE), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Sierra Army Depot and the National Park Service.

In addition to the 17 fire protection entities in Lassen County, one Fire Department in Shasta County (the McArthur Fire Department) assists the Lassen Northwest Fire Protection District and the Sierra Valley FPD in Plumas County assists the Hallelujah Junction FPD and CALFIRE with wildland fires and structural fires.

The Banner Lassen Medical Center in Susanville offers 24-hour emergency services. SEMSA, the ambulance provider in the Susanville area, and Modoc Ambulance (Modoc Medical Center) in the northernmost portion of Lassen County offer 24-hour emergency assistance in these areas.

3.2 Fire Protection Issues

The following is a general discussion of five fire protection issues including Mutual Aid, Dispatch, Response Time, Staffing, and Water Supply:

3.2.1 Mutual and Automatic Aid Issues

Most of the fire protection and EMS providers primarily serve their own jurisdictions. Given the critical need for rapid response, however, there are extensive mutual aid efforts that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

Mutual aid refers to reciprocal service provided under a mutual aid agreement, a pre-arranged plan and contract between agencies for reciprocal assistance upon request by the first-response agency.

Automatic aid refers to reciprocal services provided under an automatic aid agreement, a prearranged plan or contract between agencies, for an automatic response for service with no request for approval needed. In addition to mutual aid, jurisdictions may rely on automatic aid primarily for coverage of areas where the closest resources respond to fire or EMS emergencies.

3.2.2 Dispatch Issues

Dispatch for fire and medical calls is increasingly becoming regionalized and specialized. This increased regionalization and specialization is motivated by the following nine factors:

1. Constituents increasingly expect emergency medical dispatching (EMD), which involves over-the-phone medical procedure instructions to the 911 caller and requires specialized staff.
2. Paramedics increasingly rely on EMD, which also involves preparing the paramedic en-route for the type of medical emergency and procedures.
3. Dispatch technology and protocols have become increasingly complex.
4. Modern technology has enabled better measurement and regulatory oversight of fire department (FD) response times, and increased pressure for FDs to meet response time guidelines.
5. Fire Districts need standard communication protocols due to their reliance on mutual aid.

6. Dispatching of calls from cell phones is particularly inefficient due to multiple transfers, length of time the caller spends on hold and lack of location information. Response times are further delayed when callers that are unfamiliar with the area are unable to describe rural locations to the dispatch personnel.
7. All new cell phones are now equipped with GPS; however, it will take a few years for all old phones to be replaced by phones with GPS capability and/or construction of specialized cell phone towers.
8. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends a 60-second standard for dispatch time, the time between the placement of the 911 call and the notification of the emergency responders. The Center for Public Safety Excellence recommends a 50-second benchmark for dispatch time.
9. There are clear economies of scale in providing modern fire protection and medical dispatch services.

3.2.3 Response Time Issues

Response times reflect the time elapsed between the dispatch of personnel and the arrival of the first responder on the scene. For fire and paramedic service, there are service standards relating to response times, dispatch times, staffing, and water flow. Particularly in cases involving patients who have stopped breathing or are suffering from heart attacks, the chances of survival improve when the patient receives medical care quickly.

Similarly, a quick fire suppression response can potentially prevent a structure fire from reaching the “flashover” point at which very rapid fire spreading occurs—generally in less than 10 minutes.²

The guideline established by the National Fire Protection Association³ for fire response times is six minutes at least 90 percent of the time, with response time measured from the 911-call time to the arrival time of the first-responder at the scene.⁴

The fire response time guideline established by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (formerly the Commission on Fire Accreditation International) is 5 minutes, 50 seconds at least 90 percent of the time.⁵

3.2.4 Staffing Issues

For structure fires, NFPA recommends that the response team include 14 personnel—a commander, five water supply line operators, a two-person search and rescue team, a two-person ventilation team, a two-person initial rapid intervention crew, and two support people.

The NFPA guidelines require fire departments to establish overall staffing levels to meet response time standards, and to consider the hazard to human life, firefighter safety, potential property loss, and the firefighting approach.

² NFPA Standard 1710, 2004.

³ *The National Fire Protection Association is a non-profit association of fire chiefs, firefighters, manufacturers and consultants.*

⁴ *Guideline for a full structure fire is response within ten minutes by a 12-15 person response team at least 90 percent of the time.*

⁵ Commission on Fire Accreditation International, 2000.

NFPA recommends that each engine, ladder or truck company be staffed by four on-duty firefighters, and that at least four firefighters (two in and two out), each with protective clothing and respiratory protection, be on scene to initiate fire-fighting inside a structure. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard requires that when two firefighters enter a structure fire, two will remain on the outside to assist in rescue activities.⁶

For emergency medical response with advanced life support needs, NFPA recommends the response team include two paramedics and two basic-level emergency medical technicians.

3.2.5 Water Supply

For structure fires, NFPA recommends the availability of an uninterrupted water supply for 30 minutes with enough pressure to apply at least 400 gallons of water per minute (gpm).

The minimum criteria for rural fire departments to obtain an ISO rating of 8B includes among other criteria that the water supply must be able to deliver an uninterrupted minimum fire flow of 200 gpm for 20 minutes for all primary and automatic aid departments (Insurance Services Offices, 2009, <http://www.isomitigation.com>).

3.3 Volunteer Role in Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Fire protection efforts throughout Lassen County rely heavily on volunteer efforts in conjunction with State and Federal agencies. Due to the scarcity of resources throughout the County, there is a heavy reliance on volunteer personnel in the local Departments in the more remote unincorporated areas (Susanville is the only incorporated City).

Every fire protection entity in Lassen County (Community Services District/Fire Protection District) relies on volunteer staff—only the City of Susanville relies 100 percent on paid Firefighter personnel. Westwood CSD and the Clear Creek CSD rely on one paid position, and one half time paid position, respectively.

There are increasing training demands for firefighting personnel. Training in firefighting skills is one component, but training also includes the skills required for responding to medical emergencies and hazardous materials events.

The training required for a volunteer is estimated at 200 hours per year, and has become a substantial burden for any individual wishing to maintain a volunteer relationship with a local district.

3.4 Cooperative Safety Programs in Lassen County

There are several key service areas in which governmental agencies have established cooperative efforts in Lassen County as follows:

3.4.1 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch

⁶ 29 CFR 1910.134.

Formerly, emergency dispatch for fire and medical emergencies was handled through the 9-1-1 telephone network provided by the Lassen County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department provided direct dispatch service for the entire County.

As of 1984, the Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC) started providing emergency dispatching services for the Lassen National Forest, Norcal BLM, CALFIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Fire Net Lassen, 17 local fire departments, and SEMSA.⁷ The center coordinates 9-1-1 dispatching for fire and medical emergency services.

This merging of Federal, State, and local cooperation began in 1982, when the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (now CALFIRE) joined the Susanville Interagency Fire Center. The SIFC grew again in 1984, with the formation of Fire Net Lassen and the beginning of 24-hour dispatching services by the interagency group.

The SIFC continues to use the "closest available resources" concept. When an emergency occurs anywhere in the 6.5 million acre SIFC protection area, the closest fire engines, aircraft or crews respond, regardless of jurisdiction.

During fire season, SIFC dispatchers can call on 30 fire engines, three helicopters, an air tanker and 18 ground crews. During major incidents, they can summon resources from anywhere in the state or nation. Center managers from the CALFIRE, BLM, and Lassen National Forest equally share management responsibilities.

The following Fire Protection Districts, Community Service Districts, Federal and State Fire Protection agencies with a presence in Lassen County are served by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center:

1. Big Valley FPD
2. California Correctional Center
3. CALFIRE
4. BLM
5. National Park Services
6. U.S. Forest Service
7. Spalding CSD
8. Stones-Bengard CSD
9. Lake Forest FPD
10. Milford FPD
11. Susan River FPD
12. Chester FPD in Plumas County
13. Peninsula FPD in Plumas County
14. Almanor West FPD in Plumas County
15. Clear Creek CSD
16. Doyle FPD
17. Janesville FPD
18. Madeline FPD
19. Little Valley FPD
20. Sierra Army Depot FD
21. Standish-Litchfield FPD

⁷ www.fyi911.net/archives/000017.html.

22. Westwood CSD
23. West Patton Village CSD
24. Northwest Lassen FPD
25. Hallelujah Junction FPD
26. Hamilton Branch FPD, in Plumas County
27. Prattville FPD in Plumas County
28. Seneca Ambulance in Plumas County

3.4.2 Mutual Aid Agreements

Each of the local fire protection districts is a party to a Mutual Aid Agreement with CALFIRE (excepting West Patton Village CSD) that provides for assistance for wildland fires in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). Each of the fire protection districts is a member of a Master Agreement that provides for assistance for fire and other emergency events that exceed the capacity of any individual district. Mutual Aid Agreements are standardized throughout the state to ensure assistance can be obtained from outside fire districts across the State.

3.4.3 Training

Training exercises are held for the purpose of improving coordination between the various agencies that operate in Lassen County. Historically, cooperative training has been coordinated through the Feather River College. However, these training seminars will now be provided through Lassen Community College located in Susanville.

CALFIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit also does yearly training and assists with the Lassen College training seminars.

3.4.4 Fire Safe Councils

Two Fire Safe Councils are in operation within Lassen County, the Janesville and Lassen County Fire Safe Councils. Lassen County has adopted fire safe plans for all communities within Lassen County. The Day Bench Fire Safe Council (WHERE?) and the Tionesta Basin Advisory Group (WHERE?) also have interests within portions of the County.

The Fire Safe Councils are voluntary organizations formed to enhance the effectiveness of fire protection. The cooperative nature and educational and outreach efforts of these groups is a critical component for wildland pre-fire planning, prevention, and mitigation.

3.4.5 Hazardous Materials

Response to hazardous materials events is coordinated with the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) through local emergency service operators.

3.4.6 Lassen County Fire Officer's Association

The Lassen County Fire Officer's Association meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Susanville Fire Department. The Association organizes training opportunities and communication procedures for the districts.

The following organizations are members of the Lassen County Fire Officers Association:

1. Big Valley Fire Protection District
2. City of Susanville Fire Department
3. Clear Creek Community Services District (CSD)
4. Doyle Fire Protection District
5. Spalding CSD
6. Stones-Bengard CSD
7. Janesville Fire Protection District
8. Lake Forest Fire Protection District
9. Little Valley Fire Protection District
10. Madeline Fire Protection District
11. Northwest Lassen County Fire Protection District
12. Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District
13. Susan River Fire Protection District
14. CALFIRE
15. California Correctional Center Fire Department
16. Sierra Army Depot Fire Department
17. U.S. Forest Service
18. Bureau of Land Management
19. West Patton Village CSD
20. Lassen County Fire Investigation Task Force
21. NE California Fire Prevention Council
22. Milford Fire Protection District

3.5 Standards in Review of Fire and Emergency Service Adequacy

Standards used for comparison or evaluation are based on a combination of locally adopted thresholds, State and Federal performance measures, or other criteria, as relevant. Following are some of the major criteria and standards used for evaluation of the districts within this Municipal Service Review.

3.5.1 ISO Rating

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) uses a 1-10 rating scale to assess the adequacy of fire services from a particular station or district. A rating of one (1) is the best level of service and a rating of ten (10) is the lowest level of service.

These ratings are the basis for setting fire insurance premium costs for local property owners, and thus are of significant importance to residents and property owners within each district.

The rating assigned to a particular district or station is based on three factors:

- Communication (10%)
- Water supply (40%)
- Fire department abilities (50 %)

ISO ratings worse than five (5) result in increased insurance premiums, and ratings of nine (9) or ten (10) typically result in premiums twice as high as areas which have a rating of seven (7) or less.

The ISO's Public Protection Classification program is used to establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties, insurance companies need reliable, up-to-date information about a community's (district's) fire-protection services. ISO provides that information through its Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) program.

ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in 44,000 communities (fire agencies) throughout the United States. In each fire district, ISO analyzes relevant data using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). Then a Public Protection Classification is assigned ranging from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

By classifying communities' (districts') ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. And by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities or districts that choose to improve their firefighting services.

Minimum Criteria for Class 8 or Better

To receive a Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) of Class 8 or better, a community (district) must first have the minimum facilities and practices needed to get a PPC rating and must earn a score of at least 20 points when evaluated according to the criteria in the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. In addition, the community must have these additional minimum facilities:

There must be a minimum water supply of 250 gpm for a two-hour duration for fire protection in the area. If the fire department delivers the 250 gpm through tanker shuttle, large-diameter hose, or other alternative water supply, the water must be available within five minutes of the arrival of the first-due apparatus, and the department must maintain the flow, without interruption, for the two-hour duration.

The fire department must have at least one piece of suitably equipped apparatus with a pump of at least 250-gpm capacity rated at 150 psi.

Minimum Criteria for Class 8B

Class 8B is a Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) for communities that provide superior fire-protection services and fire alarm facilities but lack the water supply required for a PPC of Class 8 or better.

To compensate for limited water supplies, many communities have improved their firefighting equipment, training, and management techniques, as well as their fire alarm systems. Class 8B will recognize those improvements.

To be eligible for Class 8B, a community must meet the fundamental requirements for a classification better than Class 9. The community must have:

- an adequate number of well-organized and properly trained firefighters

- reliable fire alarm facilities
- adequate fire station facilities
- operational records

However, the community does not need to meet the water-supply requirement of 250 gpm for two hours necessary for PPC Class 8 or better.

Specifically, to get a rating of Class 8B, a community must meet these requirements:

- It must meet the minimum requirements defined in Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) Section 106, "Minimum Facilities for Applying This Schedule."
- It must be eligible for at least 5 points in FSRS Section 400, "Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms."
- It must be eligible for at least 20 points in FSRS Section 500, "Fire Department."
- An average of at least six firefighters must respond on first-alarm responses to structure fires.
 - For active firefighters, it must conduct a minimum of 24 hours per year of training in fighting structure fires.
- The water supply must be able to deliver an uninterrupted minimum fire flow of 200 gpm for 20 minutes.
- The minimum fire flow must be able to start within five minutes of the arrival of the first engine company.
- The primary responding fire department and all automatic-aid fire departments must be able to deliver the minimum fire flow.
- The departments must be able to deliver the minimum fire flow to at least 85% of the built-upon areas of the community within five road miles of a recognized fire station.

ISO will apply the Class 8B criteria as it surveys communities over the next several years.

Minimum Criteria for Class 9

To receive a Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) of Class 9, a community must first have the minimum facilities and practices needed to get a PPC rating. The community must have at least one piece of apparatus with a pump capacity of 50 gpm at 150 psi and at least a 300-gallon water tank. The community must also earn a score of at least 70 credit points on the following items from the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS).

Records must indicate the date, time, and location of fires; the number of responding members; the number of training sessions; and maintenance of apparatus and equipment. Each community must also keep an up-to-date roster of fire department members.

The community must also provide the following equipment:

At least two 150-foot lengths of 3/4-inch or 1-inch fire department booster hose and a 1-1/2-inch preconnected hose, or the equivalent, each with a nozzle capable of discharging either a spray or straight stream. 15 points each

Two portable fire extinguishers suitable for use on Class A, B, and C fires. The minimum size should be 20-BC rating in dry chemical, 10-BC rating in CO₂, and 2A rating in water-type extinguishers. 4 points

- One 12-foot ladder with folding hooks 10 points
- One 24-foot extension ladder 15 points
- One pick-head axe 1 point
- Two electric hand lights 4 points
- One pike pole 2 points
- One bolt cutter 2 points
- One claw tool 1 point
- One crowbar 1 point

ISO will reduce the total score by 2 points for each 10% that the apparatus exceeds the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating.

Note: Apparatus weighing more than the street or bridge loading maximums may cause a reduction in the credit for response area.

All the criteria, specifications, and tools listed above are important in establishing Class 9 protection. However, the specific size and nomenclature of each individual subitem may be subject to local conditions in the graded community. ISO may credit equipment having other names, or different dimensions, than indicated in the apparatus specifications.⁸

3.5.2 Fire Flow Standards

Fire flow is a measure of the amount of water pressure available for use in firefighting in a particular area. Minimum fire flow standards are typically adopted by local fire districts, based on local requirements and desires.

Where local districts have not adopted standards relative to minimum fire flows, this MSR relies on standards recommended by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as indicated in the following table:

**California Public Utilities Commission
Recommended Minimum Fire Flow Standards**

Primary Land Use	Recommended Fire Flow
Rural, residential with a lot density of two or less per acre, primarily for recreational or part time occupancy	250 gpm
Lot density of less than one single-family residential unit per acre	500 gpm

⁸ www.isomitigation.com ISO's Public Fire Protection Classification Program (PPCTM) 2010

Lot density of one or two single-family residential units per acre	750 gpm
Lot density of three or more single-family residential units per acre, including mobile home parks	1,000 gpm
Duplex residential units, neighborhood business of one story	1,500 gpm
Multiple residential, one and two stories light commercial or light industrial	2,000 gpm
Multiple residential, three stories or higher, heavy commercial or heavy industrial	2,500 gpm

4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES

4.1 Municipal Financial Constraints

Municipal service providers are constrained in their capacity to finance services by the inability to increase property taxes, requirements for voter approval for new or increased taxes, and requirements of voter approval for parcel taxes and assessments used to finance services. Municipalities must obtain majority voter approval to increase or impose new general taxes and two-thirds voter approval for special taxes.

Limitations on property tax rates and increases in taxable property values are financing constraints. Property tax revenues are subject to a formulaic allocation and are vulnerable to State budget needs. Agencies formed since the adoption of Proposition 13 in 1978 often lack adequate financing.

4.2 California Local Government Finance Background

The financial ability of the cities to provide services is affected by financial constraints. City service providers rely on a variety of revenue sources to fund city operating costs as follows:

- Property Taxes
- Benefit Assessments
- Special Taxes
- Proposition 172 Funds
- Other contributions from city general funds.

As a funding source, property taxes are constrained by statewide initiatives that have been passed by voters over the years and special legislation. Seven of these measures are explained below:

4.2.1 *Proposition 13*

Proposition 13 (which California voters approved in 1978) has the following three impacts:

- Limits the *ad valorem* property tax rate
- Limits growth of the assessed value of property
- Requires voter approval of certain local taxes.

Generally, this measure fixes the *ad valorem* tax at one percent of value, except for taxes to repay certain voter approved bonded indebtedness. In response to the adoption of Proposition 13, the Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 8 (AB 8) in 1979 to establish property tax allocation formulas.

4.2.2 *AB 8*

Generally, AB 8 allocates property tax revenue to the local agencies within each tax rate area based on the proportion each agency received during the three fiscal years preceding adoption of Proposition 13. This allocation formula benefits local agencies, which had relatively high tax rates at the time Proposition 13 was enacted.

4.2.3 Proposition 98

Proposition 98, which California voters approved in 1988, requires the State to maintain a minimum level of school funding. In 1992 and 1993, the Legislature began shifting billions of local property taxes to schools in response to State budget deficits.

Local property taxes were diverted from local governments into the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) and transferred to school districts and community college districts to reduce the amount paid by the State general fund.

Local agencies throughout the State lost significant property tax revenue due to this shift. Proposition 172 was enacted to help offset property tax revenue losses of cities and counties that were shifted to the ERAF for schools in 1992.

4.2.4 Proposition 172

Proposition 172, enacted in 1993, provides the revenue of a half-cent sales tax to counties and cities for public safety purposes, including police, fire, district attorneys, corrections and lifeguards. Proposition 172 also requires cities and counties to continue providing public safety funding at or above the amount provided in FY 92-93.

4.2.5 Proposition 218

Proposition 218, which California voters approved in 1996, requires voter- or property owner-approval of increased local taxes, assessments, and property-related fees. A two-thirds affirmative vote is required to impose a Special Tax (for example, a tax for a specific purpose such as fire protection).

However, majority voter approval is required for imposing or increasing general taxes such as business license or utility taxes, which can be used for any governmental purpose. These requirements do not apply to user fees, development impact fees, and Mello-Roos districts.

4.2.6 Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act

The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 allows any county, city, special district, school district, or joint powers authority to establish a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (CFD) which allows for financing of public improvements and services. The services and improvements that Mello-Roos CFDs can finance include streets, sewer systems and other basic infrastructure, police protection, fire protection, ambulance services, schools, parks, libraries, museums and other cultural facilities. By law the CFD is also entitled to recover expenses needed to form the CFD and administer the annual special taxes and bonded debt.

A CFD is created by a sponsoring local government agency. The proposed district will include all properties that will benefit from the improvements to be constructed or the services to be provided. A CFD cannot be formed without a two-thirds majority vote of residents living within the proposed boundaries. Or, if there are fewer than 12 residents, the vote is instead conducted of current landowners.

In many cases, that may be a single owner or developer. Once approved, a Special Tax Lien is placed against each property in the CFD. Property owners then pay a Special Tax each year. If the project cost is

high, municipal bonds will be sold by the CFD to provide the large amount of money initially needed to build the improvements or fund the services.

The Special Tax cannot be directly based on the value of the property. Special Taxes instead are based on mathematical formulas that take into account property characteristics such as use of the property, square footage of the structure and lot size. The formula is defined at the time of formation, and will include a maximum special tax amount and a percentage maximum annual increase.

If bonds were issued by the CFD, special taxes will be charged annually until the bonds are paid off in full. Often, after bonds are paid off, a CFD will continue to charge a reduced fee to maintain the improvements.

4.2.7 Development Impact Fees

Counties, cities, special districts, school districts, and private utilities may impose development impact fees on new construction for purposes of defraying the cost of putting in place public infrastructure and services to support new development.

To impose development impact fees, a jurisdiction must justify the fees as an offset to the impact of future development on facilities. This usually requires a special financial study. The fees must be committed within five years to the projects for which they were collected, and the district, city or county must keep separate funds for each development impact fee.

4.3 Financing Opportunities that Require Voter Approval

Financing opportunities that require voter approval include the following:

- Special taxes such as parcel taxes
- Increases in general taxes such as utility taxes

- Sales and use taxes,
- Business license taxes
- Transient occupancy taxes

Communities may elect to form business improvement districts to finance supplemental services, or Mello-Roos districts to finance development-related infrastructure extension. Agencies may finance facilities with voter-approved (general obligation) bonded indebtedness.

4.4. Financing Opportunities that Do Not Require Voter Approval

Financing opportunities that do not require voter approval include imposition of or increases in fees to more fully recover the costs of providing services, including user fees and Development Impact Fees to recover the actual cost of services provided and infrastructure.

Development Impact Fees and user fees must be based on reasonable costs, and may be imposed and increased without voter approval. Development Impact Fees may not be used to subsidize operating costs. Agencies may also finance many types of facility improvements through bond instruments that do not require voter approval.

Water rates and rate structures are not subject to regulation by other agencies. Utility providers may increase rates annually, and often do so. Generally, there is no voter approval requirement for rate increases, although notification of utility users is required. Water providers must maintain an enterprise fund for the respective utility separate from other funds, and may not use revenues to finance unrelated governmental activities.

4.5 Government

While public sector management standards do vary depending on the size and scope of an organization, there are minimum standards. Well-managed organizations do the following eight activities:

1. Evaluate employees annually.
2. Prepare a budget before the beginning of the fiscal year.
3. Conduct periodic financial audits to safeguard the public trust.
4. Maintain current financial records.
5. Periodically evaluate rates and fees.
6. Plan and budget for capital replacement needs.
7. Conduct advance planning for future growth.
8. Make best efforts to meet regulatory requirements.

Most of the professionally managed and staffed agencies implement many of these best management practices.

LAFCO encourages all local agencies to conduct timely financial record keeping and make financial information available to the public.

4.6 Brown Act

The Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54950 et seq.) is intended to insure that public boards shall take their actions openly and that deliberations shall be conducted openly.

The Brown Act establishes requirements for the following:

- Open meetings
- Agendas that describe the business to be conducted at the meeting
- Notice for meetings
- Meaningful opportunity for the public to comment
- Few exceptions for meeting in closed sessions and reports of items discussed in closed sessions.

It is the responsibility of LAFCO to consider the record of the local agency when making determinations.

5 *BIG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT*

The Big Valley Fire Protection District (FPD) was formed in 1984 and was formally established by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors under enabling legislation set forth in §13800 of the California Health and Safety Code.

The Big Valley FPD is located in Big Valley, in most northerly section of Lassen County. The Big Valley Fire Protection District extends to the Lassen/Modoc County line. The Big Valley FPD serves the unincorporated communities of Bieber and Nubieber and the unincorporated lands in the immediate vicinity.

The population of the Big Valley FPD service area is approximately 510 people (in Bieber and Nubieber). However, several ranches and homes located outside of these two towns are also within the Big Valley FPD and include an estimated additional 50 to 75 people.

These communities are not subject to significant seasonal fluctuations in the resident population. Because these communities are unincorporated, there are no official estimates on the number of residences or structures in the service area.

Physical features within these communities that are potentially at risk from encroaching wildfires consist of the following:

- Existing residences
- Churches
- Small businesses
- Stores
- Restaurants
- Motel
- Schools
- Railroad yard
- Infrastructure (including bridges, power-lines, and water systems)

The Big Valley FPD provides structure and wildland fire protection as well as medical assistance within the District. The Big Valley FPD is a combination of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) and State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands.

The Big Valley FPD has primary responsibility for providing fire protection to LRA lands and CALFIRE has primary responsibility for providing fire protection to SRA lands. Both entities provide assistance through agreements with the Lookout and Adin Fire Departments, which serve the communities of the same name in Modoc County.

5.1 *Big Valley Fire Protection District Personnel*

The District has ten active volunteer firefighters. Ambulance service is provided to the community by Modoc Ambulance (Modoc Medical Center), responding from Adin with volunteer staff from the Adin Fire Protection District.

The Big Valley FPD responds to 10 to 12 wildland fires and 2 to 3 structure fires in an average year. Medical assistance requests comprise approximately 90% of the activity with about 50 to 60 medical assistance responses per year (Bieber-Nubieber Community Fire Safe Plan, January 2004).

5.2 Big Valley Fire Protection District Facilities and Equipment

The Big Valley FPD operates with two fire stations located at Bieber and Nubieber with the following equipment:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>
Engine	2	500	750	2x4
Engine	2	750	1000	2x4
Engine	2	500	1000	2x4
Water Tender	1	3500	250	6x4
Water Tender	1	4000	250	6x4
Extrication Jaw				

The CALFIRE station at Bieber has two Type II engines, one helicopter, and one bulldozer. The level of service provided is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during fire season which is generally the months of June to October. During the remainder of the year the station is staffed, as personnel are available.

The Intermountain Conservation Camp, located north of State Route 299 at the base of Big Valley Mountain, has four 17-person fire crews available for quick response if needed.

5.3 Big Valley Fire Protection District Water Supply

Though unincorporated, Bieber and Nubieber are within the Lassen County Municipal Water District #1. Fire hydrants are well distributed throughout the community. This community municipal water system is sufficient for emergency fire needs.

5.4 Big Valley Fire Protection District Finances

The Big Valley Fire Protection District has an unreserved Fund Balance of \$10,394 as of June 30, 2005. The approved budget for 2006-2007 is \$85,349.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$11,819 and available financing of \$88,519.⁹ The Big Valley FPD Proposition 4 limit is \$94,654.

The tax base for the Big Valley FPD is as follows:¹⁰

Secured Property	\$53,114,931
Utility	17,563
Unsecured Property	<u>6,253,014</u>
Total	\$59,385,508

⁹ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org.

¹⁰ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

The 2008-2009 Budget is as follows:¹¹

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 3,220
Services & Supplies	56,755
Fixed Assets	2,000
Contingency	<u>32,679</u>
Total	\$94,654

5.5 Big Valley Fire Protection District Mutual Aid Agreements

The Big Valley Fire Protection District participates in the Susanville Interagency Fire Center and in the Lassen County Fire Chiefs Association. The Big Valley Fire Protection District provides assistance through agreements with the Lookout and Adin Fire Departments, which serve the communities of the same name in Modoc County.

5.6 Big Valley Fire Protection District Board

The Big Valley Fire Protection District is governed by an independent three-member elected District Board of Directors. Present Board members are as follows:¹²

Gary Graham	Term Expires 12-3-10
Richard Kildow	Term Expires 12-7-12
Dennis McGarr	Term Expires 12-3-10

5.7 MSR Determinations for Big Valley Fire Protection District

5.7.1 Growth and population projections for the Big Valley area

- 1-1) Although the population of Lassen County is expected to increase, the population growth will be concentrated in the southern part of the County near Susanville, not in the Big Valley Area.

5.7.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Big Valley FPD

- 2-1) For a remote rural area, the fire fighting equipment is adequate.
- 2-2) The water supply in the communities of Bieber and Nubieber supplied by Lassen County Municipal Water District #1 is adequate for fire protection.

¹¹ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

¹² Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

5.7.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Big Valley FPD

- 3-1) The Big Valley FPD uses volunteer fire fighters.
- 3-2) The Big Valley FPD may need to ask for a special tax for fire protection in the future. The District should develop a cost of services study to determine the amount of the special tax.
- 3-3) Big Valley FPD, as a fire service provider, is a non-enterprise District.

- 3-4) The Big Valley Fire Protection District should consider application for grants to upgrade equipment.
- 3-5) Big Valley Fire Protection District should develop ordinances promoting full cost-recovery of expenses associated with new development.
- 3-6) The District and its present customers should not incur the costs of providing service to new customers.

5.7.4 Big Valley FPD Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations

- 3-1) The Big Valley FPD maintains a close relationship with the CALFIRE and benefits from the CALFIRE station at Bieber.
- 3-2) The Big Valley FPD and the communities of Bieber and Nubieber are not near any other communities in Lassen County, which would facilitate shared facilities.
- 3-3) The Big Valley Fire Protection District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 3-4) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

5.7.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Big Valley FPD

- 5-1) It would be difficult to merge with other fire protection districts due to the remote location of the Bieber and Nubieber communities.
- 5-2) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.).

- 5-3) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.
- 5-4) The District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital fire protection information and to inform voters of meetings and recent events.

6 CLEAR CREEK COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

The Clear Creek Community Services District was created in July 1968 to provide water and fire protection services to the community of Clear Creek. The Clear Creek Fire Department is based in its one fire station located on State Route 147. The Department provides structural fire protection within the District.

According to the US Census 2000, the population for the Westwood Zip Code (which includes Clear Creek, Pine Town and Hamilton Branch) was 4,152. There are 3,557 total residences within this Zip Code area. Additional buildings in this area include churches, schools, retail establishments, and municipal infrastructure.

All land within and surrounding the communities of Westwood, Pine Town, and Clear Creek is in private ownership. Roseburg Resources and clients of W.M. Beaty & Associates own the majority of this high value timberland and manage it mainly for sustained timber production. Federally owned land is at least three miles away from the Westwood-Clear Creek community area.

The Clear Creek area is entirely SRA land with the CALFIRE bearing the primary responsibility for suppression of wildfires, and the Clear Creek CSD Fire Department handling structural fire protection.

Response times to a fire for all areas within the district average 3 minutes. Most of the emergency response requests (estimated at 80%) are for traffic control and accidents.

Access issues include a railroad traversing the southerly portion of the district. A train derailment several years ago in the service area blocked access from the southernmost portion of the district. Other access problems include snow and flooding which can block access points.

For the period between 2001 and 2002, the Clear Creek CSD Fire Department had 3 wildfires and 5 dwelling fires out of a total response load of 21 Calls for Service.

The Roseburg Lumber Company/Clear Creek LLC owns lands to the south outside the district boundary. Some of these lands are leased to Dyer Mountain Associates who are proposing a large development in the area. Roseburg Lumber/Clear Creek LLC is proposing a fuels management program including fuel breaks on their lands, which would lessen concerns of a wildfire encroaching into the Clear Creek Community.

6.1 Clear Creek Community Services District Personnel

The Clear Creek Community Services District has a half time paid Chief and 10 active volunteers with an average age of 45 years. The Chief serves under the CSD Board of Directors.

Personnel from the Department serve as first responders for emergency medical services (EMS). There are no EMS personnel in the department. Ambulance service for the Clear Creek area is provided by SEMSA.

6.2 Clear Creek Community Services District Facilities and Equipment

Equipment includes two pumper trucks, a 2006 Ford and a 2001 International. The District also has a portable 16 hp pumper. The equipment normally does not go outside of Lassen County. One of the district's trucks is a 4WD used during flood or snow events.

The following table contains additional information on the Clear Creek CSD Fire Department's equipment:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>
Engine	500	300	4x4
Engine	500	350	2x2
Portable Pump	N/A	150	

6.3 Clear Creek Community Services District Training

There are no EMS personnel in the department. Fire personnel are trained through training sessions with the California Department of Forestry (CALFIRE).

6.4 Clear Creek Community Services District Water Supply

The District does not have above-ground water storage facilities. Water for fire suppression comes from a series of dry-barrel fire hydrants. In the event of no water pressure, the fire department can use Clear Creek or the pond adjacent to the fire hall. The District has adequate fire flows to service existing development. This could become a concern as growth in the existing Sphere of Influence area occurs. The District will have to be proactive in ensuring the maintenance of fire flows.

Current average fire flow is satisfactory in light of pumping capacity. There are 20 dry barrel hydrants located approximately 500 feet or less apart throughout the district and the presence of a large pond in the northern portion of the District and Clear Creek flowing through the District.

The District has a portable pump to supplement fire flows from the water distribution system. A water tender is provided by a local lumber company and is available for use when needed for additional flows.

6.5 Clear Creek Community Services District Finances

The Lassen County Auditor's office performs banking services for the Community Services District. The District has two operating funds: Fund 203 and Fund 223.

Fund 223 is a special revenue fund and is used for the CSD Fire Department operations. This fund is used to account for the proceeds of Fire Department revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for Fire Department operations.

In FY 2007-2008 this budget was \$59,814. Significant costs to the budget include salaries and benefits, services, and supplies. This budget contains a contingency fund of \$3000. Anticipated revenues are \$41,100 for the same period. Most of the revenue comes from property and special taxes.

The District had an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$45,156 for fire protection as of June 30, 2007. Total available Clear Creek Fire financing is therefore \$86,256.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$51,221 for the Clear Creek CSD Fire Department and available financing of \$93,056, which indicates that the entire previous year's budget was not expended¹³ The Proposition 4 Limit for the entire Clear Creek CSD is \$216,969.

The Tax Base for the Clear Creek CSD is as follows:¹⁴

Secured Property	\$21,084,019
Utility	0
Unsecured Property	<u>715,253</u>
Total	\$21,799,272

6.6 Clear Creek Community Services District Mutual Aid Agreements

The District shares equipment with CALFIRE in Westwood and Hamilton Branch in Plumas County through mutual aid agreements. These CALFIRE units are located approximately 3 miles from Clear Creek. The Forest Service fire protection unit is located in Chester approximately 12-15 miles away. The Forest Service also has an air tanker base in Chester.

The department also has a mutual aid agreement with the Westwood Fire Department (Westwood CSD) approximately 3 miles away.

Response times from these agencies may be limited due to winter access and road conditions. A water tender is provided by a local lumber company and is available for use when needed.

6.7 Clear Creek Community Services District Board

The CCCSD has a five-member board of directors who are registered voters residing within the District and elected at large by registered voters residing within the District. Each director serves a four-year term of office or until his/her successor is elected and has qualified.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Clear Creek Fire Hall and are subject to California's Open Meeting laws. The agenda is posted at the bulletin board located at the Fire Hall in Clear Creek.

The District established its current bylaws in 1995. The adopted bylaws contain procedures for elections of board members, powers of the Board of Directors, conduct and noticing of meetings, officers of the board, employees and conflicts of interest.

The Clear Creek CSD Board members are as follows:¹⁵

¹³ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

¹⁴ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

¹⁵ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jeffrey Allen	12-7-12
John Hunter	12-3-10
Robert Lee	12-3-10
Christine Sasser	12-3-10
Leo Mudrich	12-7-12

6.8 MSR Clear Creek Community Services District Determinations

6.8.1 *Growth and Population Projections for the Clear Creek Area MSR Determinations*

- 1-1) There is a moderate to high likelihood of growth in the Clear Creek area in the next five to twenty years based on the County's approved zoning and general plan.
- 1-2) The current population of Clear Creek varies between 200 in the winter months to around 400 during the summer months.

6.8.2 *Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Clear Creek CSD*

- 2-1) The Clear Creek CSD has adequate fire fighting equipment given its present population.
- 2-2) Water for fire suppression comes from a series of dry-barrel fire hydrants.
- 2-3) In the event of no water pressure, the fire department can use Clear Creek or the pond adjacent to the fire hall.
- 2-4) The District has adequate fire flows to service existing development. This could become a concern as growth in the existing Sphere of Influence area occurs.
- 2-5) The District will have to be proactive in ensuring the maintenance of fire flows.

6.8.3 *Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Clear Creek CSD*

- 3-1) While development costs within the District are paid by private developers, the amount they pay is inadequate to cover the cost of providing the service when the District annexes new territory.
- 3-2) Costs for infrastructure benefiting the District as a whole should be paid through capacity expansion fees.
- 3-3) The District should revisit its fee schedule to pay for the recovery of operating expenses.
- 3-4) Capacity expansion and operations are insufficiently financed.
- 3-5) District should be prepared when areas within and surrounding the District are developed.

- 3-6) The District needs to ensure a sufficient amount of funds are deposited into a general reserve and special reserve fund to prepare for equipment replacement and capacity expansion.
- 3-7) The District should look into regulations that compel new developers to pay their fair share of costs resulting from new development in both its fire and water departments. (5)
- 3-8) Rates and fees for services are established using the provisions of state law
- 3-9) The District shall pass a policy requiring new development outside the District to approve the current special assessment for fire protection prior to LAFCO's completion of an annexation proceeding.
- 3-10) The District should establish billing for EMS and accident services as a first responder.
- 3-11) Funding for full-time staff is neither needed nor cost-effective for a small CSD.

6.8.4 *Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Clear Creek CSD*

- 4-1) Ambulance service for the Clear Creek area is provided by SEMSA, which is contracted through Lassen County
- 4-2) Dispatch services are provided by the SIFC.
- 4-3) The CCCSD for both fire and water takes advantage of sharing personnel and equipment with adjacent Districts as needed.
- 4-4) The Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

6.8.5 *Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Clear Creek CSD*

- 5-1) The Clear Creek area is a distinct community from the community of Westwood who also provides municipal water and fire protection. It would serve no purpose to consolidate the nearby water and fire service providers into one service provider entity.
- 5-2) The District has part-time personnel to provide many of the functions of the District and the District Board establishes policy.
- 5-3) The District complies with necessary regulations and has regularly scheduled meetings whereby the public is invited.
- 5-4) The District has maintained relationships with the local media and is available to the ratepayers and the public.
- 5-5) The District adopts budgets and rate changes at hearing where the public is notified and invited.

7 DOYLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Doyle Fire Protection District was created to provide fire protection services in and around the community of Doyle, located south of Herlong and Honey Lake. According to the 2000 Census, there are approximately 587 housing units in the Doyle area and a population of 985. There were 120 vacant housing units, a vacancy rate of 20.4%. In 2002, the Doyle FPD responded to a total of 141 calls for service.

CALFIRE bears the primary responsibility for suppression of wildfires on SRA lands. However, CALFIRE and Federal fire agencies transfer operational responsibilities for strategic and logistical reasons.

Within and around the community of Doyle the Plumas National Forest (PNF) has responsibility for wildland fires west of US 395 and BLM has primary responsibility for wildland fires east of US 395.

The Doyle FPD has primary responsibility for structure fires within its District. The California Department of Fish and Game administers the Doyle Wildlife Area encompassing 10,740 acres of wildlife habitat along Long Valley Creek.

7.1 Doyle Fire Protection District Personnel

The Doyle Fire Protection District operates one station in Doyle comprised of 15 volunteers under the Board of Directors.

In addition, the BLM Station located in Doyle is staffed seasonally, March-November, with a full staff of 7 to 8 personnel during the peak fire season.

7.2 Doyle Fire Protection District Facilities and Equipment

According to the Susanville Interagency Fire Center reports the following equipment available for the Doyle FPD:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine	3	600	250	4x4	
Engine	3	450	250	4x4	Foam
Engine	2	500	500	4x4	
Engine	1	400	400	2x4	
Extraction Jaws					Foam
Engine	1	1,000	1,000	2x4	
Pick-Up		50		4x4	
Water Tender		2,500			
Trailer					

A BLM Station in Doyle is co-located with the Plumas National Forest. Equipment includes one Type 3 Engine (500 gallon) and one Type 6 Engine (300 gallon).

7.3 Doyle Fire Protection District Water Supply

The Doyle FPD station also has a 27,000-gallon underground water tank for refilling fire engines and water tenders but there is no central water system for fire hydrants within the community.

7.4 Doyle Fire Protection District Finances

The Doyle Fire Protection District had \$7,062 in the Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 2005. The income for the District in 2005-2006 was \$72,664. The Budget for 2005-2006 was \$31,275.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$17,304 and Available Financing of \$38,974 for Doyle FPD.¹⁶ The Proposition 4 Limit for Doyle FPD is \$46,624.¹⁷

The Tax Base for the Doyle FPD is as follows:

Secured Property	\$49,797,483
Utility	470,670
Unsecured Property	<u>368,656</u>
Total	\$50,636,809

The Budget categories for 2008-2009 are as follows:

Services and Supplies	\$31,100
Fixed Assets	5,808
Contingency	<u>401</u>
Total	\$37,309

7.5 Doyle Fire Protection District Mutual Aid Agreements

The District has mutual aid agreements with CALFIRE, Sierra Army Depot, and the Milford FPD. Due to insufficient funding, the Doyle PFD does not enter into formal mutual aid agreements with BLM or PNF, as these agreements require 2 to 12 hours of assistance with no reimbursement.

The Doyle FPD will provide equipment and fire fighters to these agencies inside and outside their District at standard contract rates, provided this assistance does not compromise their primary role (Doyle Community Fire Safe Plan, January 2004).

Doyle FPD participates in the Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC) and the Lassen County Fire Chiefs Association.

¹⁶ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

¹⁷ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

7.6 Doyle Fire Protection District Board

The Doyle Fire Protection Board is a three-member elected board. The Board Members are as follows:¹⁸

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Steven Victory	12-07-12
Howard Hunt	12-03-10
James "Red" Day, Chief	12-03-10

Kathy Catron is the District Secretary and Assistant Fire Chief.

Contact Information for the Doyle FPD is as follows:

Doyle Fire Protection District
PO Box 189 Doyle Loop
Doyle CA 96109

7.7 MSR Doyle Fire Protection District Determinations

7.7.1 *Growth and Population Projections for the Doyle Area MSR Determinations*

1-1) The Doyle area is not expected to grow substantially.

7.7.2 *Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Doyle FPD*

2-1) The Doyle FPD has adequate equipment for a small district in a rural area.

2-2) The Doyle FPD maintains a 27,000 gallon underground water tank for refilling fire engines and water tenders but there is no central water system for fire hydrants within the community.

7.7.3 *Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Doyle FPD*

3-1) The Doyle Fire Protection District has limited sources of income and, in fact, the income declined from \$79,747 in 2004-2005 to \$72,664 in 2005-2006.

3-2) The Doyle FPD benefits from the BLM Station located in Doyle, which is staffed seasonally, March-November, with a full staff of 7-8 personnel during the peak fire season.

¹⁸Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

- 3-3) The Doyle FPD may need to ask for a special tax for fire protection in the future. The District should develop a cost of services study to determine the amount of the special tax.
- 3-4) Doyle FPD, as a fire service provider, is a non-enterprise District.
- 3-5) The Doyle Fire Protection District should consider application for grants to upgrade equipment.
- 3-6) Doyle Fire Protection District should develop ordinances promoting full cost-recovery of expenses associated with new development.
- 3-7) The District and its present customers should not incur the costs of providing service to new customers. The Doyle Fire District does not collect developer fees at this time and should consider doing so in the future.

7.7.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Doyle FPD

- 4-1) The Doyle Fire Protection District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 4-2) The Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

7.7.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Doyle FPD

- 5-1) It is always difficult to consider merging with another fire protection district; however, it may be necessary to consider this in order to maintain the fire protection service in Doyle.
- 5-2) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.).
- 5-3) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.
- 5-4) The District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital fire protection information and to inform voters of meetings and recent events.

8 HALLELUJAH JUNCTION FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

8.1 Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District Background

The Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District is located in the southern portion of the County including the upper Long Valley area and includes approximately 61,000 acres, of which approximately 48,000 acres are private lands in need of Structural Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The district is named for Hallelujah Junction, which is an intersection of State Highway 395 at the beginning of California State Highway 70.

With the support of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors the property owners and residents of the Hallelujah Junction area initiated the formation of a fire protection district called the Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District. LAFCO approved the formation on March 8, 2004.

Residents of the district overwhelmingly approved a special tax to fund fire and EMS services. The District contracts for structural fire protection and medical assistance services through neighboring Sierra Valley Fire Protection District in Plumas County.

The district has no equipment or personnel but was formed with the intention of contracting for services with the Sierra Valley Fire Protection District.

The total initial operating budget for the District was established at \$14,733.72, of which \$12,628.53 has been used to fund services in accordance with an agreement with the Sierra Valley Fire Protection District.

Board Members are as follows:¹⁹

	Term Expires
Nicki Cannon	12-7-12
Kurt Conkey	12-3-10
Doris Woloszyn	12-3-10

¹⁹ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

8.2 MSR Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District Determinations

8.2.1 *Growth and Population Projections for the Hallelujah Junction Area MSR Determinations*

- 2-1) The population of Hallelujah Junction is not expected to grow substantially and is limited due to land use planning and environmental limitations.

8.2.2 *Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Hallelujah Junction FPD*

- 1-1) The Hallelujah Junction FPD will have adequate resources for fire protection through its contract with the Sierra Valley Fire Protection District.

8.2.3 *Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Hallelujah Junction FPD*

- 3-1) The District is limited to the amount of money that a special tax can raise.
- 3-2) It is a cost saving measure to contract with the Sierra Valley Fire Protection District.
- 3-3) Hallelujah Junction FPD, as a fire service/EMS provider, is a non-enterprise District.

8.2.4 *Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Hallelujah Junction FPD*

- 4-1) Hallelujah Junction FPD is sharing facilities with the Sierra Valley FPD.
- 4-2) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

8.2.5 *Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Hallelujah Junction FPD*

- 5-1) At some point in the future the Hallelujah Junction FPD may wish to merge with the Sierra Valley FPD.
- 5-2) For a new district, the most efficient management is to contract with another district.
- 5-3) The Hallelujah Junction FPD has an elected Board of Directors.

9 JANESVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The community of Janesville sits at the base of the Diamond Mountains, approximately ten miles southeast of Susanville. US Highway 395 bisects the community in a northerly/southerly direction and is located between the agricultural area to the east and the forest area to the west. Honey Lake is located on the southeasterly edge of the community.

Janesville is considered a bedroom community since the majority of the residents commute to Susanville, Herlong or to one of the two State prisons east of Susanville for employment. The Janesville population is 3,510 based on Zip Code 96114. The Median household income is \$51,682.

The Janesville Fire Protection District was formed October 18, 1984.

The Lassen County General Plan (Page 2-2) states the following regarding the Janesville area:

“In 1993, a substantial general plan amendment was adopted for the Janesville Planning Area, which generally corresponded to the Janesville Fire Protection District. This amendment was adopted to clarify and reinforce the consistency of general plan land use designations with the zoning which was adopted in 1977 and with land uses which had evolved over the years in the Janesville area.”

The ISO rating for the District is Class 8b within five road miles of the Main Street Station. Areas beyond five road miles are rated as Class 9.

9.1 Janesville Fire Protection District Personnel

Janesville Fire Protection District personnel include one full-time paid fire chief and volunteer firefighters. Maintaining an active volunteer roster is a challenge for the District and the number of volunteers ranges from 15 to 25. The “bedroom” character of the community limits the number of personnel available during the day.

9.2 Janesville Fire Protection District Facilities and Equipment

The Janesville Fire Protection District has two stations. The main station is located at Main Street and Sears Road and the other station is located at the corner of Lassen County Road A-3 and Sunnyside Road. Most of the fire apparatus is located at the Main Street station.

The Janesville Fire Protection District has the following fire apparatus:

Main Street Station #1	Year	Manufacturer	Tank Capacity	Pumping Capacity
#422	1983	GMC 4x4	500 gallon tank	350 gpm
#424	1969	Ford C750	1200 gallon	500 gpm
#325	1989	FMC Spartan	700 gallon	1500 gpm
#431 Water Tender	1995	Peterbuilt	4000 gallon	800 gpm
#432 Water Tender	1997	Peterbuilt	4000 gallon	800 gpm
#452 Lt. Rescue/BLS	2000	Ford	n/a	n/a
OES Resource -Air 1	Breathing Air	Support Unit	Lassen Co.	

			OES	
Sunnyside Station #2				
#421	1983	GMC	1200 gallon	450 gpm
#423	1975	International	800 gallon	1250 gpm

9.3 Janesville Fire Protection District Water Supply

The Janesville area does not have an established water system for fire protection. Existing water sources are limited and consist of swimming pools, ponds, reservoirs and storage tanks. Storage tanks have been required for recent subdivisions and other large developments. As a result, storage tanks between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons exist in five locations. The Janesville Elementary School District installed a 36,000-gallon tank with three static hydrants in conjunction with the construction of a new gymnasium.

Lower ISO rating and lower fire insurance rates for the homeowners cannot be achieved without the development of a community water system for fire protection.

9.4 Janesville Fire Protection District Finances

The Janesville Fire Protection District had \$296,962 in the Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2005, with an additional \$75,867 available in developer fees. The Janesville FPD income was \$192,655 in 2005-2006, which was an increase from 2004-2005 (\$179,199). The expenses in 2005-2006 were \$181,775.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$392,908 and Available Financing of \$635,325 for Janesville FPD.²⁰ The Proposition 4 Limit for Janesville FPD is \$242,417.

The Tax Base for Janesville FPD is as follows:²¹

Secured Property	\$227,635,711
Utility	0
Unsecured Property	<u>3,664,371</u>
Total	\$231,300,082

The Budget Categories for 2008-2009 are as follows:

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 79,000
Services and Supplies	122,176
Fixed Assets	17,000
Contingency	<u>24,241</u>
Total	\$242,417

²⁰Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

²¹ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

9.5 Janesville Fire Protection District Mutual Aid Agreements

The Janesville Fire Protection District has mutual and automatic aid agreements with neighboring departments. The nearest CALFIRE station is located in Susanville.

9.6 Janesville Fire Protection District Board

The Janesville FPD has a five-member elected Board of Directors as follows:²²

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Terry Cobb	12-3-10
Kenneth Holmes	12-7-12
Chester “Chip” Jackson	12-3-10
Stephen Hobbs	12-7-12
Raymond White	12-3-10

9.7 MSR Janesville Fire Protection District Determinations

9.7.1 *Growth and Population Projections for the Janesville Area MSR Determinations*

- 1-1) Janesville would probably have to develop infrastructure such as sewer and water to grow substantially.

9.7.2 *Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations*

- 2-1) The Janesville Fire Protection District has two stations.
- 2-2) The fire fighting equipment is adequate but most of it is older equipment.
- 2-3) The Janesville area does not have an established water system for fire protection. Existing water sources are limited and consist of swimming pools, ponds, reservoirs and storage tanks.
- 2-4) Storage tanks have been required for recent subdivision and other large developments. As a result, storage tanks between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons exist in five locations.
- 2-5) The Janesville Elementary School District installed a 36,000-gallon tank with three static hydrants in conjunction with the construction of a new gymnasium.
- 2-6) A lower ISO rating and lower fire insurance rates for the homeowners cannot be achieved without the development of a community water system for fire protection.

9.7.3 *Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Janesville FPD*

²² Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

- 3-1) The Janesville FPD is in a relatively good financial position and has some income from developer fees.
- 3-2) The Janesville Fire Protection District should consider application for grants to upgrade equipment.
- 3-3) Janesville Fire Protection District should develop ordinances promoting full cost-recovery of expenses associated with new development and make sure that the fee schedule is kept up to date.
- 3-4) The District and its present customers should not incur the costs of providing service to new customers.
- 3-5) The Janesville FPD uses volunteer fire fighters.
- 3-6) The Janesville FPD may need to ask for a special tax for fire protection in the future. The District should develop a cost of services study to determine the amount of the special tax.
- 3-7) Janesville FPD, as a fire service provider, is a non-enterprise District.

9.7.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Janesville FPD

- 4-1) The Janesville Fire Protection District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 4-2) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

9.7.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Janesville FPD

- 5-1) If the Janesville FPD would reorganize into a Community Services District the District would then be able to work on development of a water system as well as provide for fire protection.
- 5-2) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc).
- 5-3) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.
- 5-4) The District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital fire protection information and to inform voters of meetings and recent events.

10.1 Little Valley Community Services District Background

Little Valley is rural in nature and is not a resort community so the seasonal population remains relatively stable. The Service Area of the Community Services District includes the community of Little Valley located approximately 17 miles south of State Route 299 on Lassen County Road 404. There are 50 to 60 homes in the town site and about 10 ranch homes in the outlying area (“Little Valley Fire Safe Plan,” January 2004).

The Little Valley Community Services District Volunteer Fire Department (CSDFD) responds to medical assistance emergencies, structure fires, and provides property fire protection to the community of Little Valley (designated Town Center). The Little Valley CSDFD also provides protection south to and including the Mount Jewel Ranch and Dixie Valley to the east of Little Valley.

The CSDFD responds to several medical assistance calls per month. The Little Valley CSDFD generally responds to only half a dozen fire calls in an average year.

Federal lands in the Little Valley area include large forested parcels surrounding the community owned by the USDA Forest Service (Lassen Nation Forest) to the west and south, while the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the major ownership of to the north and east. Roseburg Resources Company (RRC) owns and manages about 700 acres immediately adjacent to town, mostly to the west. Little Valley Meadow and Dixie Valley are owned by private ranches.

10.2 Little Valley Community Services District Personnel

The Little Valley CSDFD operates with six active volunteer firefighters and six alternates.

10.3 Little Valley Community Services District Facilities and Equipment

According to the Little Valley CSD Fire Chief, the Little Valley Volunteer Fire Department uses the following equipment:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine		650	1,000	4x2	
Engine		600	1,000	4x2	
Engine		750	N/A	4x2	
Rescue Engine		300	500	4x2	

10.4 Little Valley Community Services District Water Supply

The Little Valley CSD FD can also use a community water system with a 126,000-gallon water tank and seven fire hydrants.

10.5 Little Valley Community Services District Finances

The Little Valley CSD had \$33,394 in the Unreserved Fund Balance on June 30, 2005.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$33,965 and available financing of \$33,965 but a Budget of 0. The last Budget shown was for 2007-08 when the District had a Budget of \$6,463. The District relies on a Tax Base of only \$1,169,010 secured property.²³

10.6 Little Valley Community Services District Mutual Aid Agreements

The Little Valley community is located within State Responsibility Area (SRA) with wildfire protection provided by the CALFIRE. The initial response CALFIRE engines are dispatched from Bieber and will respond to a fire in Little Valley with two type III engines. Other CALFIRE equipment available for dispatch includes one helicopter, one bulldozer, and four fire crews.

10.7 Little Valley Community Services District Board

The governing body of the Little Valley CSD consists of five independently elected Board Members. However, no one ran for Election in November 2008, so there are three vacancies and two Board Members as follows:²⁴

	Term Expires
Ted Crum	12-7-12
Celia Hinds	12-3-10
Vacant	
Vacant	
Vacant	

10.8 MSR Little Valley Community Services District Determinations

10.8.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Little Valley CSD Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) Since Little Valley is rural in nature and is not a resort community the population is expected to remain stable.

10.8.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Little Valley CSD

- 2-1) The Little Valley CSD fire protection equipment is adequate for a small district in a rural area.
- 2-2) The Little Valley CSD has an adequate water supply for fire protection.

10.8.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Little Valley CSD

- 3-1) The Little Valley CSD had \$33,394 in the Unreserved Fund Balance on June 30, 2005.

²³ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

²⁴ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

- 3-2) The Little Valley CSD has to maintain the water system and be prepared for water system replacements and emergencies.
- 3-3) The Little Valley CSD relies on volunteer fire fighters.
- 3-4) The Little Valley CSD works closely with the CALFIRE station in Bieber.
- 3-5) The District should consider re-evaluating its fee structure and segregating costs associated with additional development.
- 3-6) The District may wish to consider billing for EMS and accident services as a first responder.

10.8.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Little Valley CSD

- 4-1) The Little Valley Community Services District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 4-2) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

10.8.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations Little Valley CSD

- 5-1) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.).
- 5-2) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.
- 5-3) The District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital fire protection information and to inform voters of meetings and recent events.
- 5-4) Lack of community interest as evidenced by vacancies on the Board is a serious problem for this District.

11 MADELINE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

11.1 Madeline Fire Protection District Background

The community of Madeline is geographically situated at the north end of the Madeline Plains, a large flat expanse dominated by sagebrush in the northeastern corner of Lassen County.

Ranching and farming are the predominant occupations in the community.

The Madeline Fire Protection District is responsible for structural and wildfire fire protection to a large unincorporated area including the community of Madeline and the areas of Brockman and Fillman Road, Clarks Valley and the surrounding lands. The District Service Area consists of approximately 390 square miles of unincorporated lands.

The estimated population served by the Madeline FPD is approximately 60 people. Most inhabitants reside on scattered ranches and farms rather than residing in the town itself.

Approximately 20 people live within a mile of the Madeline Post Office and fire station.

The Madeline FPD is located in Madeline and is responsible for responding to structural fires and medical assistance calls. In recent years, the Madeline FPD has been able to acquire radios, wildland personal protective equipment (PPE), float pumps, and other equipment with grant funds received through the BLM Rural Fire Assistance Program, a 90-10 cost share program, as well as from other agency sources.

This equipment has allowed the Madeline FPD to respond and assist in wildland fire suppression. However the grant funds cannot be allocated towards acquiring fire engines, which are needed to upgrade and replace their existing engines.

South of Madeline, are the communities of Termo (population 61) and Ravendale (population 44); however, these areas are not within the Madeline Fire Protection District boundary.

11.2 Madeline Fire Protection District Personnel

At this time the Madeline Fire Department has no active volunteers.

11.3 Madeline Fire Protection District Facilities and Equipment

As reported by the Madeline Fire Protection District, the following is a list of equipment that could be used by the Madeline Volunteer Fire Department:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine		500		4x2	
Engine		500		4x2	
Engine		700		4x2	
Engine		N/A		4x2	
Water Tender		3,000+		4x2	

11.4 Madeline Fire Protection District Water Supply

There is no central water system in the community of Madeline. However, the community purchased the old Southern Pacific Railroad water tower, once used for steam engines, which provides a readily available water supply for fire suppression.

In addition, recently acquired portable pumps allow the FPD to draft from local lakes, ponds, irrigation canals, and ditches for fire suppression needs. Also, newly constructed modular structures in the community were required to install an underground water storage tank for fire suppression purposes.

11.5 Madeline Fire Protection District Finances

The Madeline FPD had \$29,254 in the Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2005. The District revenue in 2004-2005 was \$17,756 but the following year, 2005-2006 it was only \$8,100. The expenses were \$10,156 in 2004-1005 and \$5,031 in 2005-2006.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$22,484 and available financing of \$30,069.²⁵

The Tax Base for the Madeline FPD is as follows:

Secured Property	\$26,991,635
Utility	135,614
Unsecured Property	<u>237,395</u>
Total	\$27,229,165

The 2008-2009 Budget for the Madeline FPD is \$27,967.

11.6 Madeline Fire Protection District Mutual Aid Agreements

The District cannot participate in mutual aid agreements with no active volunteers.

11.7 Madeline Fire Protection District Board

The Madeline Fire Protection District has a three member Board of Directors as follows:²⁶

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Tracy Clark	12-7-12
Stan Ratliff	12-3-10
Daniel Walker	12-7-12

²⁵ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

²⁶ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

11.8 MSR Madeline Fire Protection District Determinations

11.8.1 Growth and Population for Madeline FPD Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) The Madeline area is not expected to grow due to its remote location.

11.8.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Madeline FPD

- 2-1) The Madeline FPD is responsible for a large area but has no water system or volunteers.

11.8.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Madeline FPD

- 3-1) The Madeline FPD had \$22,484 in the Unreserved Fund Balance in the 2008-2009 Budget.
- 3-2) The Madeline FPD needs to be reformed to make the County Board of Supervisors the Board of Directors, annex to another Fire District, contract for services with another district or be dissolved.
- 3-3) It would be very difficult for the Madeline FPD to raise additional funds due to the small population.

11.8.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Madeline FPD

- 4-1) It is unlikely that another district would want to take over this large, mostly unpopulated, area.
- 4-2) A merger with or an annexation to the Likely Fire Protection District in Modoc County is a possible consideration for this district.
- 4-3) Once reorganized, the Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

11.8.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Madeline FPD

- 5-1) The Madeline FPD needs to be revived or restructured before it can become efficient.
- 5-2) Madeline does not have sufficient population to generate enough volunteers to run a fire protection district.

12 MILFORD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

12.1 Milford Fire Protection District Background

Milford is located 25 miles south of Susanville on US 395, which bisects the community. The District is located between Janesville to the north and Doyle to the south.

The Milford Fire Protection District was formed in 1989 (Resolution 90-01). Prior to its formation, the Milford community was identified as an “unprotected community.” The population for Milford general area (Zip Code 96121) is reported by the 2000 Census to be 478.

The Milford Fire Protection District provides multiple services to residents in this area. These functions include structural fire protection, wildland fire protection, fire prevention services and First Responder emergency medical services, according to information provided to LAFCO by former Fire Chief Jim West. Ambulance services are provided by SEMSA (Susanville Emergency Medical Services Authority).

As reported by the 2000 Census, this Zip Code contains approximately 227 total housing units. The Federal prison being constructed just west of the Sierra Army Depot is expected to generate additional housing demand and residential development in the Milford community.

Former Fire Chief Jim West reported that average response time is approximately 3-5 minutes, while the most remote locations are approximately 7-12 minutes. The biggest obstacle to EMS and fire protection response is poor house numbering and inadequate county road maps.

The Milford FPD responds to an average of 60-70 calls for service per year. The District responded to 64 calls for service in 2003, and 69 calls in 2004. The vast majority of the calls for service are for emergency medical response.

12.2 Milford Fire Protection District Personnel

The current Fire Chief is Rick Wasabaugh who operates the Milford Fire Protection District on a daily basis, with 13 volunteer firefighters under his jurisdiction.

12.3 Milford Fire Protection District Facilities and Equipment

The Milford FPD Fire Chief reports the following equipment available for the Milford FPD:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine	4	125		4x4	¾ ton with med equipment, foam
Engine	3	800		2x4	
Engine	3	800		4x4	2 hardlines, monitor
Engine	3	500		2x4	
Engine	3	500			
Water Tender	2	2,000			monitor/water cannon
Water Tender	2	2,800		2x4	
Water Tender	2		3,800		

12.4 Milford Fire Protection District Training

The Milford volunteer firefighters meet twice per month every other Tuesday.

12.5 Milford Fire Protection District Water Supply

According to the Milford Fire Safe Plan, there is no central water system within the community, or are there any fire hydrants. The community relies on individual well systems for water.

12.6 Milford Fire Protection District Finances

The Milford Fire Protection District does not receive a large amount of fiscal resources. The District's primary revenue sources include Developer Fees, Tax Assessments, and Fire Reimbursements. The District also receives grant monies from BLM and FEMA (Homeland Security Grant). The District budgets

The Unreserved Fund Balance was \$29,048 on June 30, 2005. The Developer Fees were \$29,048 on the same date.

For the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2003, the Milford FPD had total revenues of \$21,620 and total expenditures of \$21,452, resulting in an excess of revenues of \$168 (Milford Fire Protection District, General Purpose Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report 2002-2003). accordingly for contingencies.

The 2004-2005 income for the District was \$40,229 but it declined in 2005-06 to \$29,798 and was expected to decline further in 2006-07. Expenditures were \$96,303 in 2004-2005 and \$115,736 in 2005-06 but were recommended to be \$36,850 in 2006-07.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows that the Milford FPD had an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$49,821 and available financing of \$117,621. The Proposition 4 Tax Limit for Milford FPD is \$44,015.²⁷

The Tax Base for the Milford FPD is as follows:²⁸

Secured Property	\$31,114,066
Utility	0
Unsecured Property	<u>141,743</u>
Total	\$31,255,809

The Milford FPD Budget for 2008-2009 shows the following:²⁹

Services & Supplies	\$55,505
Fixed Assets	32,000
Contingency	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$89,505

²⁷ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

²⁸ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

²⁹ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

12.7 Milford Fire Protection District Mutual Aid Agreements

The Milford FPD has also formal mutual aid agreements with the Forest Service, CALFIRE, and the Janesville FPD.

The Milford FPD generally does not respond to wildfires on PNF or BLM lands within the FPD unless requested or adjacent private structures are threatened. The Milford Fire Protection District does not have a formal mutual aid agreement with BLM due to the minimum 12-hour assistance reimbursement structure (Milford Community Fire Safe Plan, January 2004).

The Plumas National Forest (PNF) is responsible for wildland fires occurring west of US 395. The Milford FPD is responsible for structure fires occurring within the District for wildland fires east of US 395 since that area is Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

12.8 Milford Fire Protection District Board

An independent five-member Board of Directors governs the District. The Board members are appointed by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors as allowed by California Health and Safety Code Section 13835, which states the following:

“In the case of a district which contains only unincorporated territory in a single county, the district board may be elected or may be appointed by the county board of supervisors which may appoint itself as the district board.”

The Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The Board members are as follows:³⁰

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Linda Brun	12-4-13
Irene Doyle	12-4-13
David Senteney	12-4-13
Dena Wemple	12-5-11
Vacant	12-5-11

12.9 MSR Milford Fire Protection District Determinations

12.9.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Milford FPD Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) Milford is unlikely to grow in population without a water system; however, the Federal prison operating just west of the Sierra Army Depot (SAID) and the change in mission of the SAID are expected to generate additional housing demand and residential development in the Milford community.

³⁰ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

**12.9.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations
Milford FPD**

- 2-1) The Milford FPD fire protection equipment is adequate for a small district in a rural area.
- 2-2) The Milford FPD does not have an adequate water supply for fire protection because there is no community water system.

12.9.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Milford FPD

- 3-1) The Milford FPD does receive developer fees, which can be used for new equipment.
- 3-2) The Milford FPD has thirteen volunteer fire fighters.
- 3-3) The Milford FPD may need to ask for a special tax for fire protection in the future. The District should develop a cost of services study to determine the amount of the special tax.
- 3-4) Milford FPD, as a fire service provider, is a non-enterprise District.

12.9.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Milford FPD

- 4-1) The Milford FPD is between Janesville to the north and Doyle to the south. However due to slow response times sharing facilities would be unlikely.
- 4-2) The Milford Fire Protection District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 4-3) The Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

12.9.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Milford FPD

- 5-1) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.).

- 5-2) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.
- 5-3) The District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital fire protection information and to inform voters of meetings and recent events.

13 NORTHWEST LASSEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

13.1 Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Background

The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection district was formed in 1982 and contains approximately 19,000 acres of territory. The district area consists of rugged and flat farm-land type terrain. While the area south of Pittville is farm-type land, the area north rises sharply to slightly less than 4000 feet where the Day Bench area is located.

The Shasta/Lassen County Line divides the community on the west. The District is bounded by State Responsibility Areas, which are protected by Calfire to the north, east and south.

There are two population areas within the Northwest Lassen FPD. The community of Pittville is located approximately three miles southeast of the community of McArthur in Shasta County. It is accessed from State Route 299 via the Pittville Road approximately one mile east of McArthur. And the Day Road area north of Pittville is accessed from SR 299. The year-round resident population within and immediately surrounding the community of Pittville is 200 to 250 people. Pittville is not a resort community so the population remains relatively stable throughout the year. There are 25 homes in the community and 20 ranches in the outlying areas. The Day Bench area has an approximate additional 150 persons. There are approximately 400-500 residents in the district area.

The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District provides structural and wildfire fire protection to the community of Pittville and surrounding Lassen County areas of the Day Bench and Fall River Valley through an automatic aid agreement with the McArthur Fire Protection District in Shasta County.

There are no schools within the Community. The elementary school is located in Fall River Mills and the junior and senior high school is located in McArthur (Shasta County).

The Fire Department typically responds to six wildland fires and five structure fires in an average year and is dispatched through Shasta County.

13.2 Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Personnel

The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District depends on volunteer fire fighters.

13.3 Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Facilities and Equipment

There is a fire station at Pittville with the following equipment:

Equipment	Type	Gallons	GPM	Drive	Other
Engine		500	500	2x4	
Engine		600	300	2x4	
Water Tender		2,000	600		

13.4 Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Water Supply

According to the "Pittville Community Fire Safe Plan," all residents are on wells for water and there is no central water system within the community. There are no fire hydrants.

13.5 Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Finances

The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District has \$10,263 in the Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2005. The District Revenue was \$10,275 in 2004-05 and \$11,553 in 2005-06. The District Expenses were \$13,702 in 2004-05 and \$3,419 in 2005-06.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows \$5,815 in an Unreserved Fund Balance for the Northwest Lassen FPD and \$16,161 available financing.³¹ The Proposition 4 Limit is \$12,240.

The Tax Base for the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District is as follows:

Secured Property	\$51,869,109
Utility	0
Unsecured Property	<u>855,412</u> ³²
Total	\$52,724,521

The Budget for 2008-2009 is as follows:

Services & Supplies	\$4,770
Fixed Assets	<u>5,076</u>
Total	\$9,846 ³³

13.6 Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Board

The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District has a five-member elected Board of Directors. Current members of the Board are as follows:³⁴

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Brent Cassity	21-3-10
Henry Crane	12-7-12
Gary Maricich	12-7-12
Dave Sellars	12-7-12
Vacancy	12-3-10

Ed Thomas, Secretary

The mailing address for the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District is as follows:

³¹ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

³² Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

³³ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

³⁴ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

Northwest Lassen
Fire Protection District
PO Box 303
McArthur, CA 96056

13.7 MSR Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District Determinations

13.7.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Northwest Lassen FPD Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) The population of the Northwest Lassen FPD is not expected to increase from the existing population of 250.

13.7.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Northwest Lassen FPD

- 2-1) The Northwest Lassen FPD has limited equipment and depends on mutual aid from the Mc Arthur Fire Protection District in most every emergency.

13.7.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Northwest Lassen FPD

- 3-1) The Northwest Lassen FPD does receive developer fees, which can be used for new equipment.
- 3-2) The Northwest Lassen FPD uses volunteer fire fighters.
- 3-3) The Northwest Lassen FPD may need to ask for a special tax for fire protection in the future. The District should develop a cost of services study to determine the amount of the special tax.
- 3-4) Northwest Lassen FPD, as a fire service provider, is a non-enterprise District.

13.7.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Northwest Lassen FPD

- 4-1) The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District needs to continue work with the McArthur fire protection district as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 4-2) The Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District should consider merging with the McArthur fire protection district.
- 4-3) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

13.7.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Northwest Lassen FPD

- 5-1) The current District boundaries are contiguous to the boundaries of the District's Sphere of Influence.
- 5-2) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.). Perhaps the District could work with the McArthur Fire Protection District.
- 5-3) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.

14 SPALDING COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

14.1 Spalding Community Services District Background

The Spalding CSD uses all volunteer fire fighters. In 2009 the District Board replaced the Chief and the Volunteer fire fighters. The District currently has 18 volunteer fire fighters and is in the process of revamping the entire program.

The Community of Spalding is located about 8 miles south of Stones Landing along the western shore of Eagle Lake in central Lassen County. The resident population in the Stones-Bengard and Spalding communities is estimated to be approximately 941 seasonal residents to 200 during the winter (Fire Impact Fee Nexus Study, 2006 Stones-Bengard-Spalding Community Fire Safe Plan, January 2004).

Spalding is a summer home tract of approximately 360 acres surrounded on three sides by the Lassen National Forest and on the east by Eagle Lake. The community includes approximately 100 to 150 buildings, mostly summer cabins or mobile homes. Though small, the Community of Spalding is heavily influenced by the area's recreational opportunities. During a high-use summer weekend, the population in the community and surrounding area can exceed 2,000. There are no schools in the Spalding community.

The Spalding Volunteer Fire Department, a service of the Spalding Community Services District (CSD), provides medical assistance and private property fire protection. The Department responds to about ten fire calls in an average year.

Virtually all the area surrounding the inhabited communities of western Eagle Lake is Federally owned. The USDA Forest Service Lassen National Forest (LNF) manages much of the area west and southwest of Spalding. Both agencies manage the land under the multiple-use concept.

CALFIRE bears the primary responsibility for suppression of wildfires on State Responsibility Areas. CALFIRE maintains full responsibility for wildfire protection on SRA lands in the vicinity of Stones-Bengard.

According to the "Stones-Bengard-Spalding Community Fire Safe Plan," the only obstacle to service is snow during the winter months.

The ISO rating for the District is Class 9. Fire personnel and District staff are currently working on lowering that rating to at least a Class 8.5b.

14.2 Spalding Community Services District Personnel

The Spalding CSD uses volunteer fire fighters. In 2009 the District Board replaced the Chief and the Volunteer fire fighters. The District is in the process of training the new volunteers.

14.3 Spalding Community Services District Facilities and Equipment

The Susanville Interagency Fire Center reports the following equipment for the Spalding Volunteer Fire Department:

Lassen LAFCO
MSR Fire Protection

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine	II	1,000	1,000	2x4	Foam
Engine	I	750	500	4x4	Foam
Water Tender		3,700	500	6x4	
Water Tender		5,000	500	6x4	Stays in Spalding
Utility					Generator, lights, jaws
Rescue					4x4 Full rescue equipment
Ambulance squad					2x4 Medical Transport

The Lassen National Forest (LNF) currently has an engine company based at the volunteer fire station in Spalding during the fire season. The LNF will also place a fire-fighting engine at the Christie Day Use area at the southern end of Eagle Lake. The LNF plans to build a new fire station on an 80-acre parcel at the north end of Spalding by 2006. The Forest Service estimates that this new station will be equipped with two Type II fire engines and a ten-person hand crew (Stones-Bengard-Spalding Community Fire Safe Plan, January 2004).

14.4 Spalding Community Services District Water Supply

Water for fire suppression in Spalding is available from a fire hydrant at the CSD Fire Hall and from Eagle Lake using water tender trucks and pumps. There is also a water source at the Wastewater treatment ponds that could be utilized. Electric power and telephone service for both areas are provided by above ground service lines.

14.5 Spalding Community Services District Finances

The Spalding Fire Department had \$45,107 in the Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2009. The Spalding CSD has a secured Assessed Valuation of \$50,209,353 and unsecured Assess Valuation of \$385,016 for 2006-07. The funding for Fire, Sewer and Recreation is handled by the District.

The Fire Department funding was \$70,786 in 2004-05 and \$270,104 in 2005-06. The large increase is due to \$225,000 received from the Federal Government. The expenses were \$60,680 in 2004-05 and \$297,982 in 2005-06. The 2009 – 2010 revenue is expected to be around \$40,000, as are the expenditures.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows the Spalding CSD Fire Department with an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$42,971 and available financing of \$131,169.³⁵

The Proposition 4 limit for Spalding CSD Fire Department is \$98,838.

Fire Fees are based on the below listed table as established by the original Ordinance;

³⁵ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org
 Lassen LAFCO
 MSR Fire Protection
 Adopted by Resolution 2010-0001 March 8, 2010

Designation	Description	Unimproved	Improved	Commercial	Other	Description for Other Cat.
1	Up to 1 Lot	\$2	\$0	\$0	\$10	RVParks per Space RVPark w/ Commercial Unit
2	Up to 2 Lots	\$4	\$0	\$0	\$40	
3	Up to 3 Lots	\$6	\$0	\$0	\$20	RVPark w/ Residential
4	4 Lots to and Including 8 Lots	\$16	\$36	\$56	\$15	Motel per unit
5	9 Lots to include 16 Lots	\$24	\$44	\$64		
6	17 Lots up to 29 Lots	\$28	\$48	\$68		
7	2 Acres to 5 Acres	\$32	\$52	\$72		
8	5.01 acres to 20 acres	\$36	\$56	\$76		

The Tax Base for the Spalding CSD is as follows:

Secured Property	\$72,091,081
Utility	0
Unsecured Property	<u>522,396</u>
Total	\$72,613,477

The Spalding CSD Fire Budget for 2008-2009 is as follows:³⁶

Salary & Wages	\$22,616
Services & Supplies	<u>\$67,600</u>
Total	\$90,218

14.6 Spalding Community Services District Board

The Community Services District has a five-member Board with the following members:³⁷

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Lee Denny	12-7-12
Debra Howard-Frack	12-3-10
Dan James	12-7-12
William Keller	12-3-10
Stanley Walton	12-3-10

³⁶ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

³⁷ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

The Board meets once per month during the summer on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. During the winter months the Board meets once per month in the early afternoon.³⁸ The Board chairperson is paid \$100 per month.

The office of the Spalding Community Services District is located at 502-907 Mahogany Way, Susanville, CA 96130.

14.7 MSR Spalding Community Services District Determinations

14.7.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Spalding Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) The District population may grow if more of the homes are used as permanent or semi-permanent residences rather than as vacation homes.
- 1-2) For a Community Services District formed under section 61000 et seq. of the Government Code, future annexations may include contiguous or non-contiguous territory thereby providing other noncontiguous areas with fire protection.
- 1-3) The District should establish requirements for future annexations.
- 1-4) The District needs to obtain maximum contributions from the summer residents since they are not able to volunteer assistance to the District year-around.

14.7.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Spalding CSD

- 2-1) The Spalding Fire Department has adequate equipment for a small fire department.
- 2-2) The Spalding Fire Department does have a water system with water for protection.
- 2-3) The Spalding Community Services District is providing fire protection services with a very limited group of new volunteers and a small amount of equipment.
- 2-4) The District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to assure good working relationships and coordinated efforts for mutual aid.

14.7.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Spalding CSD

- 3-1) It is a benefit for the Fire Department to be a part of the Community Services District; however, the District is still very small.
- 3-2) The District should plan for the future and have a program of gradually increasing fees to cover increasing costs.

³⁸Spalding Community Services District, Merle Lay, Manager, eaglelakescse@citlink.net, September 17, 2007

- 3-3) The District may have to pay for paid fire fighters in the future.
- 3-4) The District should prepare a Capital Improvement Plan to be prepared for future capital expenditures.
- 3-5) The District should prepare requirements for annexations to the District so that new development will pay all costs.
- 3-6) The District should be familiar with Community Facilities Districts and Mello-Roos Bonds as a means for new development to pay infrastructure costs.
- 3-7) The District has a small budget. Additional funds would be required to service additional territory.

14.7.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations For Spalding CSD

- 4-1) Fire protection services will require extensive cooperation with other agencies.
- 4-2) The Eagle Lake CSD was split in the late 1980's to form two separate CSD's. It is unlikely the Spalding CSD and Stones Bengard CSD's will merge their fire protection functions.
- 4-3) The Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

14.7.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Spalding CSD

- 5-1) The Board of Directors for the Spalding CSD should work with the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, the Lassen Local Agency Formation Commission and other districts in the County to see if a County-wide CSA or a County-wide fire protection district would be a benefit.
- 5-2) The District could explore the possibility of contracting with another entity for administrative services.
- 5-3) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.). Perhaps this effort could be coordinated with another district such as the Stones-Bengard CSD.
- 5-4) The Spalding Community Services District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital wastewater information and to inform customers meetings and recent events. This could be one way to involve the seasonal residents and absentee landowners.

5-5) The Spalding Community Services District adopts budgets and rate changes at hearings where the public is notified and invited. Information is placed on bulletin boards in the Community and the local newspaper, when required. Letters are sent to landowners/residents for the annual meeting.

15 STONES-BENGARD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

15.1 Stones-Bengard CSD Background

15.1.1 *Stones-Bengard CSD Location*

Stones-Bengard CSD is located on the northwest shore of Eagle Lake in central Lassen County. The community of Stones-Bengard is included in the CSD Service Area. The Stones Bengard Volunteer Fire Department provides limited emergency medical assistance and full structural fire protection. There are no schools in the Stones-Bengard community.

CALFIRE and/or the Spalding Volunteer Fire Department provide emergency medical services and/or fire prevention when available (per Mutual Aid Agreement). Ambulance service is provided by SEMSA, a commercial ambulance services based in Susanville. Mountain Air flight transportation provides

The District has an ISO rating of 9, with a 1 rating being the best and 10 being the absolute lowest level of service. These ratings are the basis for setting fire insurance premium costs for local property owners, and thus are of significant importance to residents and property owners within each district. A rating of 9 is the one of the lowest ratings a fire protection agency can receive. The district could reach an 8B ISO rating if ISO standards can be met including the delivery of an uninterrupted fire flow of 200 gpm for 20 minutes as well as meeting other criteria related to personnel and equipment.

ISO ratings worse than five (5) result in increased insurance premiums, and ratings of nine (9) or ten (10) typically result in premiums twice as high as areas which have a rating of seven (7) or less.

The Stones-Bengard CSD rating is most likely a result of a lack of full-time residents under the age of 60 more than the district's equipment/vehicles, a comparatively slow response time is due to the fact that the District's fire station is unmanned, and a very small volunteer staff to provide fire protection services.

15.1.2 *Stones-Bengard CSD Population*

The community of Stones-Bengard is a summer home/cabin community located along Stones Road between the Eagle Lake Road and the shores of Eagle Lake. There are approximately 75 buildings, ranging from mobile homes and small cabins to large multi-story residences. In all, there are approximately 300 parcels in the community.

The Stones-Bengard Volunteer Fire Department is a service of the Stones-Bengard Community Services District. The Fire Department had 12 calls total for 2004—2005 within the Stones-Bengard CSD, including 7 mutual aid calls.

15.1.3 *Stones-Bengard CSD Area*

Virtually all the area surrounding the inhabited communities of western Eagle Lake is Federally owned. The USDA Forest Service Lassen National Forest (LNF) manages much of the area west and southwest of Spalding. Both agencies manage the land under the multiple-use concept.

CALFIRE bears the primary responsibility for suppression of wildfires on State Responsibility Areas. CALFIRE maintains full responsibility for wildfire protection on SRA lands in the vicinity of Stones-Bengard.

The District has a response time of approximately 10 minutes from the time the call is dispatched to arrival on the scene. This is a fairly long time for the size of the District's Service Area. Fire Chief McCormack reports that this is mainly due to the fact that the District's station is 100% volunteer and unmanned. Response time from the time the first engine leaves the station to the farthest area of the District's Service Area is approximately 4 minutes. If the District's station were manned, response time would be cut by at least 5-6 minutes.

15.2 Stones-Bengard Community Services District Personnel

The District's Fire Chief is Jim McCormack, who volunteers to fill the position. District staff also includes a paid Secretary, an Assistant Chief (volunteer) and two Firefighters (volunteer). The Fire Chief has communicated that it has become increasingly difficult to find community members willing to volunteer.

15.3 Stones-Bengard Community Services District Facilities and Equipment

The Susanville Interagency Fire Center reports the following equipment is used by the Stones-Bengard CSD to perform fire protection services:

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>GPM</u>	<u>Drive</u>	<u>Other</u>
Engine		1,000	1,000	2x4	
Engine		600	300	6x6	
Pickup				4x4	
Utility Vehicle					

15.4 Stones-Bengard Community Services District Water Supply

The District is able to use three 12,000-gallon storage tanks within the Castle Rock development for a total storage capacity of 36,000 gallons. The District can also use hydrants at Mariner's Resort/RV Park that draw from a 100,000-gallon storage tank. This 5-hydrant system has 67 mains for approximately 80 psi.

The District can draw water from Eagle Lake as a last resort (Stones-Bengard-Spalding Community Fire Safe Plan, January 2004/ Fire Chief Jim McCormack, October 6, 2005).

15.5 Stones-Bengard Community Services District Finances

The District's primary revenue source for fire protection needs is a Fire Assessment Tax from each parcel located in the District boundaries.

The District brought in \$53,491 from this special tax and interest in 2006-2007 but only \$23,432 in 2007-2008.

The District had a total budget of \$97,760.00 for Fiscal Year 2005-2006. The Unreserved Fund Balance for fire protection was \$82,081 as of June 30, 2005.

The 2008-2009 Budget shows an Unreserved Fund Balance of \$136,776 and available financing of \$162,656. The Proposition 4 Tax Limit is \$27,640.³⁹

The Tax Base for the Stones-Bengard CSD is as follows:

Secured Property	\$47,368,633
Utility	0
Unsecured Property	<u>308,676</u>
Total	\$47,677,309

The Stones-Bengard CSD Fire Protection Budget for 2008-2009 is as follows:⁴⁰

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 6,708
Services & supplies	19,172
Fixed Assets	132,098
Contingency	<u>4,146</u>
Total	\$162,124

15.6 Stones-Bengard Community Services District Mutual Aid Agreements

CALFIRE station near Stones-Bengard (Grasshopper Fire Station at State Route 139). This station is staffed seasonally (has two Type-III fire engines).

The CALFIRE also has a fire station equipped with one engine at South Eagle Lake, located 12 miles south of Spalding.

15.7 Stones-Bengard Community Services District Board

A five-member Board of Directors governs the Stones-Bengard CSD. The Board members are appointed by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors.

The District Board of Directors complies with the Brown Act and meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office at 509-695 Stone Road. The Board members are as follows:⁴¹

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Larry English	12-4-09
Kay Oring	12-3-10
Ron Rebell	12-4-09

³⁹ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

⁴⁰ Lassen County, 2008-2009 Budget, lassencounty.org

⁴¹ Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

15.8 MSR Stones-Bengard Community Services District Determinations

15.8.1 *Growth and Population Projections for the Stones-Bengard Area MSR Determinations*

- 1-1) For a Community Services District formed under section 61000 et seq. of the Government Code, future annexations may include contiguous or non-contiguous territory.
- 1-2) The District should establish requirements for future annexations.
- 1-3) The District needs to obtain maximum contributions from the summer residents since they are not able to volunteer assistance to the District year-around.

15.8.2 *Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Stones-Bengard CSD*

- 2-1) The Stones-Bengard Community Services District is providing fire protection services with a very limited group of volunteers and a small amount of equipment.
- 2-2) The District needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to assure good working relationships and coordinated efforts for mutual aid.

15.8.3 *Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Stones-Bengard CSD*

- 3-1) The District should follow the suggestions of the auditing firm to maintain sound accounting practices. It is difficult to ask for additional taxes or donations if the finances are not in order.
- 3-2) The District should plan for the future and have a program of gradually increasing fees to cover increasing costs.
- 3-3) The District may have to pay for paid fire fighters in the future.
- 3-4) The District should explore the possibilities for any grants which could help the District.
- 3-5) The District should prepare a Capital Improvement Plan to be prepared for future capital expenditures.
- 3-6) The District should prepare requirements for annexations to the District so that new development will pay all costs.
- 3-7) The District should be familiar with Community Facilities Districts and Mello-Roos Bonds as a means for new development to pay infrastructure costs.
- 3-8) The District has a small budget. Additional funds would be required to service additional territory.

- 3-9) LAFCO recommends establishing District ordinances that promote full cost recovery (cost neutral) for annexations so that the existing residents shall not have to pay increased rates due to a new development being annexed to the District.

15.8.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Stones-Bengard CSD

- 4-1) Fire protection services will require extensive cooperation with other agencies if not shared facilities.
- 4-2) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

15.8.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Stones-Bengard CSD

- 5-1) The Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors, the Local Agency Formation Commission and other districts in the County to see if a County-wide CSA, a County-wide sanitation district and/or a County-wide fire protection district would be a benefit.
- 5-2) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter. The district has developed a website (www.stoneseaglelake.org) for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.).
- 5-3) The District has developed an online presence to help disseminate information to the public.
- 5-4) The District adopts budgets and rate changes at hearings where the public is notified and invited. Information is placed on bulletin boards in the Community and the local newspaper, when required. Letters are sent to landowners/residents for the annual meeting.

16 WEST PATTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

16.1 West Patton Village CSD Background

16.1.1 West Patton Village CSD Location

The Community of West Patton Village (WPV) is situated on the east side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range along U.S. Highway 395 and Lassen County Road A-25 (Susanville Road) and Lassen County Road A-26 (Garnier Road). The Community is located in an unincorporated area in southern Lassen County in the Honey Lake Valley adjacent to the Sierra Army Depot.

Honey Lake is situated north and northwest of the community. The Amadee and Skeedaddle Mountains are to the northeast, the Fort Sage Mountains are to the southeast, and the Diamond Mountains are to the southwest (Basin Research Associates Inc., 2001). The area is located four miles west of the California/Nevada State Line, approximately 55 miles northwest of Reno, Nevada, and 40 miles southeast of Susanville, California.

16.1.2 Herlong Background

The community of Herlong is located within the Herlong Town Center Plan and the Sierra Army Depot Redevelopment and Reuse Area. The Herlong area had a 2000 population of 928. This was a decrease from 1990 (1518) but the new prison just west of the Sierra Army Depot will generate additional housing demand and residential development in the Herlong community.

16.1.3 West Patton Village CSD History

West Patton Village No. 2 Subdivision is a subdivision approved by the County in 1953. The original subdivision consisted of 146 lots. In order to qualify for financing, the developers had to ensure water and wastewater services would be provided.

The West Patton Village No. 2 Water Company was incorporated in March 1954 to initially provide the distribution of domestic water, wastewater, garbage, refuse collection, and disposal.

The water company purchased its water from the Sierra Army Depot. Today, the West Patton Village CSD continues to purchase water from the Sierra Army Depot. Wastewater treatment is provided for the West Patton Village Community Services District through an agreement with the Sierra Army Depot. Refuse collection is provided by a private entity.

As residents moved into the area, a West Patton Village Association was formed in the late 1950's to represent the interests of those living within the subdivision. Problems associated with the provision of garbage collection and disposal, police protection and street lighting services, were brought to the attention of Lassen County in the late 1950's and early 1960's by association representatives. Other problems arose concerning the provision of water and wastewater services to community residents.

In 1961, the West Patton Village association petitioned the Board of Supervisors to form a "Highway Lighting District" for Street Lights only. The Board of Supervisors formed the West Patton Village Lighting District on July 31st, 1961, and a District Board was seated.

In 1962, residents became so dissatisfied with refuse collection service that a local couple proposed to collect the refuse for a fee. In August 1963, there was concern in the West Patton Village area regarding fire protection and who had the control to ensure fire hazards were removed. It was determined the Sierra Army Depot could provide adequate fire protection but fire hazard abatement would be up to the Lassen County District Attorney's office.

In 1968, LAFCO received an application for reorganization of the West Patton Village Lighting District and forming a Community Services District. The proponent of this formation was the Board of Directors of the Lighting District. The boundaries of the Community Services District were to remain the same as the original lighting district formed in 1961.

The residents in West Patton Village were dissatisfied with the rates and services provided by the West Patton Village Water Company—in particular, the maintenance of the wastewater collection and water pipelines. The residents wanted to have control over the wastewater and water services. The formation of a Community Services District enabled the residents to have the power to collect, treat or dispose of sewage, and supply water to its service area.

The Community Services District was reorganized on April 22, 1968 (LAFCO Resolution 68-2). The intent of this action as stated in the resolution was to give the Community Services District the authority to provide for the following services:

- water service
- wastewater collection and disposal
- garbage collection
- street lighting
- parks
- playgrounds
- fire protection
- **library**

The West Patton Village CSD was expanded in 2006, through an annexation consisting of the Herlong Town Planning Area and the Sierra Army Depot Redevelopment Area, to 33,030 acres. At the Same time, the CSD was also authorized to provide fire protection and EMS services as required by the California Health and Safety Code.

16.1.4. Herlong Public Utility District

The Herlong Public Utility District (HPUD) was formed in 2007 originally consisting of 7,146 acres to provide wholesale and retail water and wastewater services in the **entire** Herlong area. An Annexation of 275 additional acres including a well field was approved by LAFCO on February 9, 2009. This district replaced a predecessor agency called the Herlong Utilities Cooperative (HUC) and the Herlong Utilities Cooperative (HUI). The HPUD does not provide fire protection services within the Herlong area. The West Patton Village CSD receives water and wastewater services for the West Patton Village subdivision from the Sierra Army Depot and intends to so in the future.

16.1.5 Herlong Volunteer Fire Department Background

Due to changes in the LAFCO law in 2002 and the CSD law in 2005, the West Patton Village Community Services District (WPVCSD) needed approval from LAFCO to activate a latent power to provide fire protection and EMS services. LAFCO subsequently approved an annexation request by the district to serve the entire Herlong Redevelopment Area including the SAID with structural fire protection and emergency medical services. The District consists of 33,030 acres.

As part of the CSD's function the entity is called the Herlong Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) and managed by the WPVCSD.

The purpose of this action was to provide regional fire protection and emergency services within the Herlong area. There use to be no legal fire protection entity operating in the non-federal portion of Herlong or the immediate area. The County and community are encouraging growth within this portion of the County. Permanent fire protection and EMS services have been identified as a critical component for implementation local planning efforts.

The territory is planned and zoned for residential, commercial, industrial, and public services as shown in the Sierra Army Depot Reuse Plan, the Sierra Army Depot Redevelopment Plan and the Herlong Town Planning and Redevelopment Project.

The SAID has traditionally provided fire protection and emergency services to the area on a limited basis. The BLM is responsible for providing wildland fire protection. The nearest BLM fire station co-located with the Plumas National Forest is approximately 11 miles south of Herlong in Doyle.

The WPVCSD is proposing to enter into mutual aid agreements with the Army Depot and other local fire and EMS service providers. The Sierra Army Depot fire department continues to provide a first responder role for emergencies within the West Patton Village CSD service area.

Shortly after the Annexation was approved, a special tax was approved by the voters whereby the following original tax rates were established for fire and EMS services to landowners and residents of the district:

Residential	\$114.00
Vacant Land	\$ 54.00
Industrial Land	\$ 36.00

These fees are subject to fluctuations of the Consumer Price Index provided the CSD Board of Directors approves the fee increase. There is no sunset clause in the Fire Tax for the CSD.

In addition, developer fees for new fire and EMS infrastructure was were approved by the district as follows:

Residential	\$ 0.69 per square foot
Commercial and other non-residential	\$ 1.48 per square foot

16.1.6 West Patton Village Community Services District Personnel

The WPVCSD hired Fire Chief Harry Ehrman in March 2009. The Department consists of 10 volunteers and one paid chief. The Fire Department is located at 2067 Yuba Street in Herlong where the former WPVCSD office is located.

Fire and EMS response continues to be provided by the SAID to the residents of the WPVCSD. The Army has traditionally provided fire protection and EMS within a 12-mile radius outside the SAID. The only caveat of receiving fire response and EMS is that the SAID is not in need of the fire or EMS equipment and personnel at the exact time is needed at the SAID. Currently, the SAID remains the first responder and WPVCSD resources are also dispatched to the emergency. This will remain until WPVCSD personnel are fully trained.

16.1.7 West Patton Village Community Services District Facilities and Equipment

The West Patton Village CSD is in the process of building its new fire department. Current resources include:

- One Type III, 800-gallon pumper truck
- One First Response truck for EMS

16.1.8 West Patton Village Community Services District Water Supply

Most residents in the community of Herlong are on wells for water because there is no central water system. There is a water system in West Patton Village, a residential area located just west of the SIAD boundary, and a privately owned trailer park located northwest of West Patton Village.

A new water and wastewater system has been developed, including construction of transmission and distribution facilities that will serve members of the Herlong Public Utility District. The District includes territory within the Sierra Army Depot, West Patton Village CSD, Susanville Indian Rancheria, Fort Sage Unified School District, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Local Reuse Authority and the residents of the Herlong community.

The existing Sierra Army Depot is in the process of building a new water treatment facility to bring drinking water into compliance.

A new water system for the HPUD will be used to provide potable water throughout the PUD area with additional fire hydrant coverage. It is expected to take several years for all phases of the project to be completed.

Once infrastructure is funded and installed within the WPVCSD service area fire flows will be adequate for fire protection in developed areas.

16.1.9 West Patton Village Community Services District Mutual Aid Agreements

The Army has a mutual aid agreement with the California Department of Forestry. The WPVCSD has no written mutual aid agreements at this time.

16.1.10 West Patton Village Community Services District Board

The district has a five-member Board of Directors elected at large by voters residing within the District.

The District Board meets at 7:00 PM on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Community Center, and posts their agendas on site and at the Post Office for maximum public notice. All meetings are open to the public. The Board members are as follows:⁴²

	<u>Term Expires</u>
John Everett	12-3-10
Eula Johnson	12-7-12
Patricia Krupa	12-7-12
Alex McGinnis	12-3-10
Roy Shaff	12-3-10

The District has five part-time employees: a manager, an office assistant, and three maintenance persons who deal exclusively with maintenance concerns. Employees are required to go through monthly safety and technical training sessions and this practice has helped them maintain an impeccable safety record.

6.1.11 Finances

The 2009-2010 Fire department Budget for the West Patton Village CSD is \$83,600, which includes funding for its Chief and basic operations and equipment purchases. This budget is supported with \$55,207 from a Special Tax, a contribution of \$12,000 by the Susanville Indian Rancheria, developer fees and miscellaneous revenues.

16.11 MSR West Patton Village Community Services District Determinations

16.11.1 Growth and Population Projections for the West Patton Village CSD Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) The entire West Patton Village CSD territory consists of the Patton Village No. 2 Subdivision and is zoned R-1 (single family residential) planned for low density residential. The remainder of the Herlong area as recently annexed is provided fire protection and EMS services through the WPVCSD.
- 1-2) Opportunities for growth within the West Patton Village CSD are no longer constrained with the mission change at the SAID and Lassen County redevelopment and planning efforts.
- 1-3) The largest employment generators in the foreseeable future in the Herlong area are the FCI Herlong and the SAID with its new mission as a military supply and refurbishment center.

⁴² Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

- 1-4) The federal prison constructed west of the Sierra Army Depot will ultimately generate additional housing demand and residential development in the Herlong community.
- 1-5) The largest elimination of jobs in the County could have been associated with the closure of the SIAD, which survived the 2005 Base Realignment process and has been given a new mission as a supply and refurbishing depot by the Department of Defense. Three hundred people have been recently hired on the base.

16.11.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for West Patton Village CSD

- 2-1) The Herlong area is currently deficient in water for fire protection. However, new water infrastructure is being planned and constructed.
- 2-2) The most important infrastructure need for fire protection is the provision of water services.
- 2-3) Implementation of the new water and wastewater treatment and conveyance systems will allow continued wastewater and water service to existing users in the service area of the District, provide sufficient capacity for anticipated growth, and improve and upgrade existing infrastructure.

16.11.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for West Patton Village CSD

- 3-1) The Herlong VFD has received funding through a special tax.
- 3-2) The Herlong community has traditionally depended on the Sierra Army Depot and will eventually be able to provide its own fire protection and EMS services.
- 3-3) The District will more than likely need to seek grant funding to pay for new equipment.
- 3-4) Developer Fees are used to obtain infrastructure and equipment and Special Taxes are used for training and to operate the Herlong Volunteer Fire Department.
- 3-5) Fees from additional hookups and connections for water and wastewater are placed in separate accounts from the West Patton Village CSD's Fire account. Developer fees will be assessed when the vacant land property has a structure built then the special tax would be levied.
- 3-6) The District (fire service) receives most of its operating revenue from a special tax approved by the voters.
- 3-7) The District has a small budget. Additional funds will be required to service higher density development. The district has anticipated this and has imposed developer fees.

- 3-9) The district realizes it is important for new development to pay for its share of the cost of fire protection and EMS services.

16.11.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for West Patton Village CSD

- 4-1) The WPVCSD takes advantage of sharing infrastructure with the adjacent SIAD as practicable.
- 4-2) Herlong VFD will need to develop relationships with other fire protection agencies in addition to the SIAD and BLM through written mutual and (or) automatic aid agreements.
- 4-3) The Board of Directors should work with the Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

16.11.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for West Patton Village CSD

- 5-1) For a Community Services District formed under section 61000 et seq. of the Government Code; future annexations may include contiguous or non-contiguous territory.
- 5-2) The PUD (former HUC and HUI) is the designated service provider by the Board of Supervisors (by resolution) for water distribution and wastewater collection services to all current and future users within the Herlong area. The West Patton Village Community Services District subdivision will continue to receive both water and wastewater services from the SAID.
- 5-3) The WPVCSD is the only entity in the area empowered to provide a variety of general public services to the area with the exception of Lassen County.
- 5-4) Herlong VFD is part of the West Patton Village CSD.
- 5-5) The District is efficiently managed with two employees and a new fire chief taking care of all aspects of administration.
- 5-6) Since the Herlong VFD is a new organization it will take time for true management efficiency.
- 5-7) The District complies with necessary regulations and has regularly scheduled meetings whereby the public is invited.
- 5-8) The District adopts budgets and rate changes at hearings where the public is notified and invited.
- 5-9) The Board of Directors for the West Patton Village CSD is the Board responsible for the Herlong VFD.

17 WESTWOOD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

17.1 Westwood CSD Background

17.1.1 Westwood CSD Location

The Community of Westwood is within the Lassen County's Westwood/Clear Creek Planning Area. The Westwood/Clear Creek planning area is located in the southwest corner of Lassen County. The unincorporated community of Westwood is approximately 21 miles southwest of Susanville via State Highway 36 (Westwood/Clear Creek Area Plan, 2002).

The area is surrounded by some of the most northerly Sierra Nevada and the southern edge of the Cascade Range. Westwood lies at an elevation of approximately 5,100 feet above sea level. Dyer Mountain is approximately four miles south-southeast with an elevation of 7,475 feet above sea level. A large resort, residential, and commercial development was approved by Lassen County for the Dyer Mountain area (Westwood/Clear Creek Area Plan). A Draft Master Environmental Impact Report was has been completed for this project (April 2005) and is currently in litigation.

17.1.2 Westwood CSD Climate

The climate in Westwood can be described as "rigorous" in winter with occasional below-zero temperatures and snow packs from twelve inches to over six feet between December and March. Summer months are pleasant with warm days (average temperature around 85 degrees) and cool nights (Westwood/Clear Creek Area Plan, 2002).

17.1.3 Westwood CSD Surrounding Area

All of the land within and surrounding the communities of Westwood, Pine Town and Clear Creek is in private ownership. Roseburg Resources and clients of W.M. Beatty & Associates own the majority of this high value timberland and manage it mainly for sustained timber production. Other private ownership is mainly in the form of small residential lots. Federally managed land is at least three miles away from the Westwood-Clear Creek community area (Westwood-Clear Creek Community Fire Safe Plan, 2004).

17.1.4 Westwood CSD Population

The Westwood CSD serves a population of 2,100 residents with official Federal Census population tabulations rounding out at 1,998 people. The Federal Census states that the number of persons per household in Westwood is 2.51, compared to the County average of 2.59.

Westwood is a Census Designated Place (CDP) so Census Data is available for the community. Median income for the Westwood area according to the 2000 Federal Census is \$13,178, less than the County average of \$14,749. Data from the 2000 Census indicates that approximately 22.5% percent of Westwood's population is living below the poverty level, quite a bit higher than the Lassen County average of 14%.

In 2000, there were 795 households of which 36.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 46.4% were married couples living together, 12.6% had a female householder with no husband present,

and 34.5% were non-families. Individuals made up 28.1% of all households and 10.2% of the households had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.51 and the average family size was 3.10.

The age of the population was as follows as reported in the 2000 Census:

Under 18 years of age	31.4%
18 to 24 years of age	6.1%
25 to 44 years of age	26.9%
45 to 64 years of age	24.3%
65 years of age or older	11.3%

17.2 Westwood Community Services District Personnel

The Westwood CSD has ended its contract with CALFIRE and is operating with eleven volunteer firefighting personnel and one paid Chief. The former contract with CALFIRE ended in June 2004. State regulations mandate that volunteer firefighters must receive the same training and outfitting as paid personnel.

The Westwood Fire Department can function with the number of available personnel to service a population of 2,100 people.

SIFC handles dispatch for the Fire Department. Ambulance services are provided by SEMSA. Westwood CSD provides a storage location for the ambulance equipment.

17.3 Westwood Community Services District Facilities and Equipment

The Westwood Fire Department uses one fully operational fire station located **at 206 3rd Street** in Westwood. The location of the Fire Department does not seem to inhibit response time within Westwood Boundaries—fire response time is approximately 5 minutes, and EMS response time is even better at approximately 2-3 minutes. To the most remote parts of the Community (i.e., County Road 44) takes a little longer than 5 minutes.

Fire Department equipment is in good condition and includes all of the necessary components to provide good fire protection service. Equipment meets all NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards and passed a California Highway Patrol (CHP) inspection.

Equipment includes the following:

2 fire trucks with **600** gallons pump capacity **at 1000 to 1250** gpm

2 Basic 4WD Rescue Vehicles (**Basic Life Support**)

Jaws of Life

Snow Mobiles

17.4 Westwood Community Services District Training

Firefighter and volunteer training includes Wednesday evening drills and firefighter training in Lassen County. Level of training for firefighters and EMS personnel utilized by the Westwood CSD can be characterized as well trained in comparison to other fire suppression and emergency service provider agencies in the area. The department has **6 volunteers who are Basic Life Support Certified and one volunteer who is certified in Advanced Life Support** (Forest Duerksen, Chief of the Westwood Fire Department, October 2009).

17.5 Westwood Community Services District Water Supply

The Westwood CSD supplies potable water for municipal and commercial uses for the Community of Westwood. Westwood receives its water for municipal/commercial use primarily from Walker Springs. The Westwood Community Services District has water rights to 2,000 gpm from Walker Springs (1,300 AFY (acre feet per year) = 328.6 million gallons in 2004). Currently, the District has a pumping capacity of 1,800 gpm (restricted by the District's booster pump capacity).

17.6 Westwood Community Services District Finances

The Westwood Fire Department is funded through property taxes. Revenue from these taxes has not kept up with rising costs associated with running a fire department and ambulance service. The District has attempted three special elections to pass a special tax for fire protection and EMS, which have failed at the ballot box. The District has reduced cost over the years by eliminating paid staff to the extent possible, Westwood CSD has hired one paid Fire Chief to serve the District.

Major expenses included workers compensation, personnel costs, and equipment. Total estimated expenditures in 2009-2010 are \$227,892. The 2008-2009 expenditure budget actual figure was \$156,493.

As of June 30, 2009, the District had total assets of \$3,720,546. The District has long-term liabilities of \$1,882,068 consisting of interest payable for infrastructure including 2 water loans and sewer bonds.

The Westwood CSD Final Budget for 2009-2010 shows an increase in income and expenses for fire protection from \$180,923 in FY 2008-2009 of the same amount. The major expenses are personnel/training related costs for the Chief and eleven volunteers.⁴³

17.7 Westwood Community Services District Mutual Aid Agreements

The CALFIRE station is located in Westwood—their response time is excellent even to remote parts of the District. During winter months there is one engine **normally in Westwood from Sunday's through Thursday's**, which rotates with the Susanville station and response times for this engine depend upon the rotation schedule.

17.8 Westwood Community Services District Board

The Principal Act for the CSD may be found in the Government Code Section 61000-61936. This division is known as the Community Services District Act.

⁴³ Westwood CSD, Final Budget 2009-2010.

The Westwood CSD is an Independent District. The five-member Board of Directors is composed of registered voters residing within the District who are elected at large by registered voters residing within the District. Each director serves a four-year term of office or until his/her successor is elected and qualified. The Board members are as follows:⁴⁴

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Sheri Binswanger	12-7-12
David Escobar Jr.	12-3-10
Kristine House	12-7-12
Elta Silva	12-7-12
Ted Tamborski	12-3-10

The Board meets the first Monday of every month where the public is invited to attend. Agendas are posted at the District Office, and the Post Office.

Randy Buchanan is the District Manager and the Fire Chief is Forest Duerksen. The Westwood CSD also has a Secretary position, and two paid technician positions

The Westwood CSD is located at 319 Ash St, Westwood, CA 96137. Phone: (530) 256-3211, Fax: (530) 256-3212.

17.9 MSR Westwood Community Services District Determinations

17.9.1 Growth and Population Projections for the Westwood Area MSR Determinations

- 1-1) At this time population growth in the district would be limited to a population served by 164 water connections, which at 2.51 persons per household would be an additional population of 411 persons.

17.9.2 Capacity and Infrastructure MSR Determinations for Westwood CSD

- 2-1) **The District has resolved its problem of not having 2-inch or larger hoses on Engines 922 and 923, which was one of the factors that has caused the District’s ISO rating to increase (worsen).**
- 2-2) The Westwood CSD receives adequate fire protection service considering that the District relies on volunteers.
- 2-3) The District has adequate water pumping and storage capacity with one spring source (Walker Spring). The total amount of water produced by this water system during 2003 was 346,758,988 gallons.

⁴⁴Julie M. Bustamante, Lassen County Clerk-Recorder
 220 S Lassen St, Suite 5, Susanville, CA 96130
 530-251-8216, FAX 530-257-3480 E-Mail: JBustamante@co.lassen.ca.us

17.9.3 Financial Ability MSR Determinations for Westwood CSD

- 3-1) The Westwood CSD has **approved special assessments and continues to examine other alternative funding methods to finance the Fire Department.**
- 3-2) The CSD supplies other services, which compete with fire protection for funding.
- 3-3) The Westwood CSD may need to ask again for a special tax for fire protection.
- 3-4) The Westwood CSD **regularly applies for grants to upgrade equipment whenever feasible and has been successful in a grant for the installation of water meters which will be completed in 2010.**
- 3-5) Westwood CSD **has approved a developer fee in 2007 to cover the impacts of new development within the district for various services including fire.**

17.9.4 Opportunities for Shared Facilities MSR Determinations for Westwood CSD

- 4-1) With the exception of CALFIRE and Clear Creek CSD, the Westwood CSD is not near any other communities in Lassen County which would facilitate shared facilities.
- 4-2) The Westwood CSD needs to work with other fire protection districts as much as possible to have joint training sessions and to coordinate fire protection efforts.
- 4-4) Cooperation with Lassen County regarding public services is adequate, but the Westwood CSD believes development in unincorporated areas should be more closely reviewed and coordinated to ensure that new development includes adequate provisions for fire safety and ambulance services.
- 4-5) The Board of Directors should work with the County Board of Supervisors and other local fire protection agencies to establish whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service.

17.9.5 Government Structure and Accountability MSR Determinations for Westwood CSD

- 5-1) The Community Services District is a benefit because fire protection can be coordinated with other services.
- 5-2) The District could develop more programs aimed at improving customer service such as development of a Mission Statement, safety training workshops, distribution of a District Newsletter, or development of a website for increased dissemination of District information (such as meeting times, projects, etc.).

- 5-3) The District has made reasonable efforts to maintain a public dialogue regarding the provision of fire protection services through regularly held public meetings.
- 5-4) The District should consider an online presence or Newsletter to help disseminate vital fire protection information and to inform voters of meetings and recent events.

18 OTHER FIRE PROTECTION AGENCIES

18.1 Public Land Managed by the Federal Government

18.1.1 National Forest Lands

Portions of Lassen County include Lassen National Forest, Plumas National Forest, and Modoc National Forest. Portions of these forests are located in the surrounding Plumas and Modoc Counties. The Lassen, Modoc, and Plumas National Forests administer the USDA Forest Service Lands (610,000 acres total). These lands are managed under the multiple-use concept, which includes recreation, watershed and wildlife uses, timber growing and harvesting, and grazing.

Fire Protection within and adjacent to the Lassen County portions of the Lassen, Plumas, and Modoc National Forests is provided through cooperative agreements for mutual aid between the U.S. Forest Service, CALFIRE, Bureau of Land Management, and local fire districts within Lassen County.

A. Lassen National Forest

The Lassen National Forest Headquarters is located at 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, Phone: (530) 257-2151. The Forest is located in the western part of Lassen County. The forest is divided into three districts: Eagle Lake-Susanville, Almanor-Chester, and Hat Creek.

According to the USDA Forest Service:

“The Lassen Fire Organization includes an Airbase, a Dispatch Center, a Hotshot Crew and a Helitack Crew in Chester. In addition, there are 15 fire engines with crews, three ten person handcrews, three water tenders staffed, six fire-lookout towers staffed, six fire prevention technicians, five fuels officers, and six fire management officers/assistants stationed at one of three districts on the Forest.”

Dave Rameriz, Fire Officer at the Eagle Lake Station, has the following staff and equipment:

- Type III Fire Engine
- Type I Water Tender
- Type I Handcrew
- Type II Handcrew
- Two fire prevention technicians

B. Modoc National Forest

The Modoc National Forest Headquarters is at 800 West 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, Phone: (530) 233-5811. The Modoc National Forest includes a small part in Lassen County along the Modoc County Line.

C. Plumas National Forest

The Plumas National Forest Headquarters is at 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971, Phone: (530) 283-2050. The Plumas National Forest includes a small part in Lassen County along the Plumas County Line.

18.1.2 Bureau of Land Management

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management administers a large area of Federal lands (1,025,000 total acres), especially in the non-timbered central and eastern portions of Lassen County. These lands are also managed under the multiple-use concept.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has established a relationship with CALFIRE that allows the approximately 1,025,000-acres of BLM land in Lassen County to be protected by CALFIRE. Likewise, SRA lands are protected by BLM. First response is provided by the agency with the nearest resources. BLM is also a member of the California Fire Alliance that assists other federal and local agencies in fire management programs.

The National Fire Plan (NFP), prepared following the 2000 fire season, outlined a comprehensive strategy with a commitment to funding for a continued level of "Hazardous Fuel Reduction" and new funding for a "Community Assistance/Community Protection Initiative."

The intent of the initiative is to provide communities interfacing with federal lands an opportunity to get technical assistance and funding to reduce the threat of wildfires. The NFP directed federal agencies to "work directly with communities to ensure adequate protection from wildfires, and to develop a collaborative effort to attain the desired future condition of the land." The key wildland fire management agencies in California have chosen to accomplish this effort through the California Fire Alliance.

According to the Lassen County Fire Plan, Department of the Interior funding will be used to provide technical assistance, training, supplies, equipment, and public education support to rural fire departments, thus enhancing firefighter safety and strengthening wildland fire protection capabilities.

The Doyle BLM Fire Station is staffed seasonally, March to November, with a full staff of seven to eight personnel during the peak fire season. Equipment includes one Type 3 Engine (500 gallon) and one Type 6 Engine (300 gallon). This station is administered out of the BLM Office in Carson City, Nevada.

18.1.3 National Park Service

The National Park Service is responsible for fire protection within the Lassen Volcanic National Park. The Fire Officer for the park is Scott Isaacson; Fire Information Prevention and Education, Phone: 530-595-4444 x5162, Email: scott_isaacson@nps.gov.

18.1.4 United States Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) Fire Department

The SIAD Fire Department has responsibility for providing fire protection with the Depot. However, they will also respond to fire within a twelve-mile radius of the Depot, which includes the community of Herlong.

The Susanville Interagency Fire Center reports the following equipment in service at the Sierra Army Depot:
(29)

Equipment	Type	Gallons	GPM	Drive	Other
Engine	1	500	1000		
Engine	1	660	1000		JAWS
Engine	3	250	250		
Engine	3	250	250		
Water Tender	2	1200	250		

The SIAD Fire Department will provide mutual aid to the BLM, CALFIRE, USDA Forest Service, Milford FPD, and the Doyle FPD on a call-by-call basis.

For over thirty years the Base Commander has authorized the SIAD Fire Department to respond to incidents outside the base.

During the period from May 2000 to May 2001, the Depot Fire Department reported the following off-base responses:

Medical aid	36
Vehicle (extrication)	6
Wildland fires	7
Structure fires	3
Vehicle fires	2
False alarm	1
Flue fire	1
Smoke checks	2
Gas leak (hazardous material)	1
Public service	3

However, the primary mission of the SIAD Fire Department is fire and medical aid incident responses within the base. The SIAD Fire Department could be tied up by a major incident within the Depot and not be able to respond to a call for assistance for an incident outside the Base. Funding cutbacks by the military and the recent downsizing of the Depot could also jeopardize this role.

18.1.5 Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has fewer than 1,000 acres within Lassen County located north and east of Susanville. During the fire season, CALFIRE and Local Agencies are dispatched by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center in response to calls for service for fire or medical emergencies.

BIA is one of the members of the California Fire Alliance. In addition, the Alliance provides funding for fire management practices within the entire state. BIA has also arranged verbal agreements with the Lassen, Plumas and Modoc National Forests and local fire districts within Lassen County to help protect such lands from fire.

18.2 CALFIRE

18.2.1 SRA lands protected by Calfire

CALFIRE has a legal responsibility to provide fire protection on all State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection identifies SRA areas in which the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the State.

These include the following:

- Lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth or grass, whether of commercial value or not.
- Lands, which protect the soil from erosion, retard run-off of water or accelerated percolation.
- Lands used principally for range or forage purposes.
- Lands not owned by the Federal government.
- Lands not incorporated.

CALFIRE has SRA responsibility for the protection of over 31 million acres of California's privately owned wildlands. The CALFIRE unit responsible for emergency and fire protection services in the Lassen County area is the Lassen-Modoc Unit.

CALFIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit
Unit Chief Brad Lutts
697-345 Highway 36
Susanville, California 96130.
Phone: 530-257-4171

Local fire protection agencies/districts are responsible for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA's) LRA's are made up of densely populated areas, cultivated agriculture lands, and portions of the desert. Local responsibility area fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, and by CAL FIRE under contract to local government. State responsibility area is a legal term defining the area where the State has financial responsibility for wildland fire protection. Incorporated cities and federal ownership are not included. The prevention and suppression of fires in all areas that are not state responsibility areas are primarily the responsibility of local or federal agencies. There are more than 31 million acres in state responsibility area with an estimated 1.7 million people and 750,000 existing homes.

According to the District boundary data and Calfire's November 17, 2008 fire zone map for Lassen County, not all Local Responsibility Areas in Lassen County are within the existing boundaries of local fire Districts.

Beyond its wildland firefighting role, CALFIRE responds to an average of more than 286,000 non-wildland emergencies throughout the state each year. The Department responds to medical aids of all types like hazardous material spills, swiftwater rescues, search and rescue missions, and civil

disturbances. Because of the Department's size and major incident management experience, it is often asked by fire districts to assist or take the lead in disasters.

Each of the Lassen County Fire Protection entities has a verbal agreement with CALFIRE, which allows the Fire Protection Districts within the County to call on CALFIRE for assistance in major fires that are beyond the control of a particular Fire Protection District.

During the winters of 2001 through 2003, the Lassen-Modoc Unit had Amador Agreements in the communities of Standish-Litchfield, Westwood, Stones Bendgard, Bieber and Janesville Fire Protection Districts. Due to the costs associated with the service, there are currently no Amador Contracts in Lassen County.

CALFIRE has drafted a comprehensive update of the fire plan for wildland fire protection in California. The planning process defines a level of service measurement, considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis. The overall goal is to reduce total costs and losses from wildland fire in California by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success.

The Lassen-Modoc Unit has eight State funded forest fire stations, including one helitack base, five lookouts, three conservation camps, the Susanville Training Center, and the Susanville Interagency Fire Center.

Five of the eight Lassen-Modoc Unit fire stations are located in Lassen County as follows:

- Bieber Station (two engines)
- Eagle Lake Station (one engine)
- Susanville Station (two engines)
- Westwood Station (two engines)
- Grasshopper Station (two engines)

CALFIRE provides assistance to fire districts for structure fire protection within the Unit as well as with paid departments in Susanville City and the SAID. The Lassen-Modoc Unit also works closely with the State Departments of Fish and Game, Transportation, Highway Patrol, and County and City agencies.

The Lassen-Modoc Unit operates the following facilities and equipment:⁴⁵

Fire Stations	8
Front line fire engines	13
Reserve fire engines	2
Lookouts	5
Conservation camps	3
Susanville Training Center	-
Medium bulldozers	3
Medium helicopter	1

⁴⁵CALFIRE Lassen-Modoc Unit-www.cdf.lmu.org/about.htm

The CALFIRE Station at Bieber has two Type III engines, one helicopter, and one bulldozer. The level of service provided is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during fire season which is generally the months of June to October; however, in some recent years fire season has ended later. During the remainder of the year the station is staffed, as personnel are available.

The CALFIRE station near Stones-Bengard (Grasshopper Fire Station at State Route 139) station is staffed year-round and has two Type-III fire engines.

CALFIRE also has a fire station at South Eagle Lake, located 12 miles south of Spalding, equipped with one Type III engine.

The CALFIRE stations in Westwood and Susanville have two Type III engines. During the winter season staffing is provided 24/7; however, with reduced personnel. Supplementary fire protection and EMS services are provided from either Westwood or Susanville according to a rotation schedule for one engine.

18.2.2 Conservation Camps

The Intermountain Conservation Camp, located north of State Route 299 at the base of Big Valley Mountain, has four 17-person fire crews available for quick response if needed.

The Antelope Conservation Camp is located at the High Desert State Prison east of Susanville and has 5 crews.

The Devils Garden Conservation Camp in Modoc County has 5 crews.

18.3 Private Company: Sierra Pacific Industries

The Sierra Pacific Industries Company maintains forest land in Lassen County but no mills. The office for the company is located in Redding with contact information as follows:

Sierra Pacific Industries
P.O. Box 496028
Redding, CA 96049-6028
Phone: (530) 378-8000
E-mail sierra@spi-ind.com

19 *SUMMARY*

District	Population (estimate)	Budget (Fire)	ISO	Vehicles	Paid Staff	Volunteers	Calls	Water
1. Big Valley Fire Protection District	510	2008-09 \$94,654		6	0	10	75	yes
2. City of Susanville Fire Department	13,541			12	8	30	738	yes
3. Clear Creek Community Services District	200 + vacation	2008-09 \$93,056		3	0.5	10		yes
4. Doyle Fire Protection District	985	2008-09 \$38,974		7	0	15	141	tank
5. Hallelujah Junction Fire Protection District	200	\$14,733		contract	contract	contract		
6. Janesville Fire Protection District	3,510	2008-09 \$242,417	8b 9	8	1	15-25		tanks
7. Lake Forest Estates Fire Protection District	600	2005-06 \$9,582		4	0	10		
8. Little Valley Community Services District	210	0		4	0	6-12	10	
9. Madeline Fire Protection District	60	2008-09 \$27,967		5	0	0		water tower
10. Milford Fire Protection District	478	2008-09 \$89,505						
11. Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District	250	2008-09 \$9,846		3	0		11	wells
12. Spalding Community Services District	Vacation-2,000	2008-09 \$90,218		7	0		10	limited
13. Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District	764	2005-06 \$95,545		6	0	10		
14. Stones-Bengard Community Services District	200 + vacation	2008-09 \$162,124		3	0	4	12	yes
15. Susan River Fire Protection District	3,500	2004-05 \$191,100		8	0	25	109	yes
16. West Patton Village Community Services District	928	2009-10 \$83,600		SIAD	1	10		yes, in part
17. Westwood Community Services District	2,100	2009-10 \$227,892		4	2	7		yes

20. LAFCO PRIORITIES

Lassen LAFCO should develop a relationship with the Fire Departments and the Lassen Fire Chiefs Association to determine if any reorganizations are, in fact, possible. The LAFCO could encourage the use of mechanisms such as Joint Power Authorities prior to any actual changes in district boundaries.

The Madeline Fire Protection District, which has ceased to function, should be the top priority for a change of organization or consolidation with another district.

LAFCO should help fire protection agencies work with Lassen County and other agencies to explore whether sharing administrative duties would provide a higher level of service and overall benefit to their communities.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALS/BLS	Advanced Life Support/Basic Life Support
AWWA	American Water Works Association
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CALFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CKH Act	Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CSA	County Service Area
CSD	Community Services District
CSDFD	Community Services District [Volunteer] Fire Department
EMD	Emergency Medical Dispatch
EMS	Emergency Medical Service
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
FCI	Federal Correctional Institution
FD	Fire Department
FPD	Fire Protection District
FRA	Federal Responsibility Area
gpm	gallons per minute
HUC	Herlong Utilities Cooperative
ISO	Insurance Service Organization
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission

LFFPD	Lake Forest Estates Fire Protection District
LMUD	Lassen Municipal Utility District
LNF	Lassen National Forest
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
MSR	Municipal Service Review
OES	Office of Emergency Services
psi	pounds per square inch
PNF	Plumas National Forest
PPE	personal protective equipment
PUD	Public Utility District
RACs	Resource Advisory Committees
SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
SIAD	Sierra Army Depot
SIFC	Susanville Interagency Fire Center
SOI	Sphere of Influence
SPI	Sierra Pacific Industries
SRA	State Responsibility Area
WBA	W.M. Beatty & Associates
WPV	West Patton Village
WPVCSD	West Patton Village Community Services District
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

DEFINITIONS

Agriculture: Use of land for the production of food and fiber, including the growing of crops and/or the grazing of animals on natural prime or improved pasture land.

Aquifer: An underground, water-bearing layer of earth, porous rock, sand, or gravel, through which water can seep or be held in natural storage. Aquifers generally hold sufficient water to be used as a water supply.

Bond: An interest-bearing promise to pay a stipulated sum of money, with the principal amount due on a specific date. Funds raised through the sale of bonds can be used for various public purposes.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): A State Law requiring State and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project.

Chaparral: Spanish word meaning “where the scrub oak grow.” A diverse plant (shrub) community with some of the more common species being chamise, manzanita, Christmasberry, California scrub oak, mountain mahogany, and many varieties of ceanothus.

Community Facilities District: Under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 2082 (Section 53311, et seq.) a legislative body may create within its jurisdiction a special tax district that can finance tax-exempt bonds for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, and/or operation of public facilities, as well as public services for district residents. Special taxes levied solely within the district are used to repay the bonds.

Defensible Space: That area which lies between a residence and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and which provides an opportunity for firefighters (and the homeowner) to safely defend the residence.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A report required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area, determines what effects or impact will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action, and identifies alternatives or other measures to avoid or reduce those impacts. (See California Environmental Quality Act.)

Federal Responsibility Area (FRA): Area that is the appropriate Federal agency’s financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires (e.g. National Forest, National Park Service, Department of defense, etc.).

Firebrand: Any burning material such as leaves, twigs, glowing embers that is carried aloft by the convective heat in a smoke column and falls some distance away from the main fire front that could start another fire.

Firebreak: An existing barrier, or one constructed before a fire occurs, from which all of the flammable materials have been removed; designed to stop or check creeping or running but not spotting fires.

Fire Hazard: Fuel complex, defined by volume, type, condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of both ease of ignition and of fire suppression difficulty.

Fire Season: The period of mid-May through October when vegetation cures, dries out, and is most flammable.

Impact Fee: A fee, also called a development fee, levied on the developer of a project by a county or other public agency as compensation for otherwise-unmitigated impacts the project will produce. California Government Code Section 77000, et seq., specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions on use of the fund.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): A five-or seven-member commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts, and merger of districts with cities. Each county's LAFCO is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals. The LAFCO members generally include two county supervisors, two city council members, and one member representing the general public. Some LAFCOs include two representatives of special districts.

Local Responsibility Area (LRA): Land which is not under State or Federal financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires such as the incorporated area of a city.

Mello-Roos Bonds: Locally issued bonds that are repaid by a special tax imposed on property owners within a community facilities district established by a governmental entity. The bond proceeds can be used for public improvements and for a limited number of services. Named after the program's legislative authors.

Sierran Mixed Conifer Forest: A forest type found throughout the Sierra-Nevada Mountain Range consisting of a wide variety of tree species, including ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, white fir, Douglas fir, California red fir, and incense cedar.

Slash: Debris such as tree tops, branches, leaves and bark generated from tree cutting or other vegetation manipulation practices.

Snag: Standing dead tree or section thereof.

Spotting: Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the updraft and wind and start new fires beyond the main fire. Spotting usually occurs with low humidity.

State Responsibility Area (SRA): Areas of the State in which the financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires has been determined by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to be primarily the responsibility of the State.

Urban Intermix: An intermingling of structures and natural forest fuels within a forest setting.

Wildfire: Any unwanted fire occurring in a wildland setting.

Wildland: Uncultivated land other than fallow, neglected, or maintained for such purposes as wood or range-forage production, wildlife, recreation, protective watershed cover, wilderness.

Wildlife Habitat: Vegetation, climate, and other natural conditions suited to the life needs for an animal species to survive and reproduce.

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