

## **12. WALKER RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

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Walker Ranch Community Services District (WRCSD) provides domestic/emergency water and sewer collection, treatment and disposal services. Additionally, WRCSD is charged with inspecting all drainage ditches on a monthly basis to ensure that they are kept free of debris or materials which could affect stormwater runoff. WRCSD also provides snow removal on private roads around the water and sewer systems in order to gain access to the systems in the winter months. The District pays PG&E for electricity related to street lighting. This is the first Municipal Service Review (MSR) for the District.

### **AGENCY OVERVIEW**

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#### **Background**

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Walker Ranch CSD was formed in 1995<sup>168</sup> as a dependent special district of the County. The purpose for the formation, according to the formation resolution, was to ensure adequate and orderly maintenance of community services for the Walker Ranch property.

The principal act that governs the District is the State of California Community Services District Law.<sup>169</sup> CSDs may potentially provide a wide array of services, including water supply, wastewater, solid waste, police and fire protection, street lighting and landscaping, airport, recreation and parks, mosquito abatement, library services; street maintenance and drainage services, ambulance service, utility undergrounding, transportation, abate graffiti, flood protection, weed abatement, hydroelectric power, among various other services. CSDs are required to gain LAFCo approval to provide those services permitted by the principal act but not performed by the end of 2005 (i.e., latent powers).<sup>170</sup>

WRCSD is located on the north end of the Lake Almanor peninsula. The nearest adjacent water and wastewater utility service providers include Hamilton Branch CSD to the east and West Almanor CSD to the southwest.

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<sup>168</sup> LAFCo File Number 1-F-94.

<sup>169</sup> Government Code §61000-61226.5.

<sup>170</sup> Government Code §61106.

### Boundaries

WRCSD's boundary is entirely within Plumas County and includes the Walker Ranch Subdivision. The District's boundaries encompass approximately 4.4 square miles.<sup>171</sup> The District's boundaries are depicted in Figure 12-1.

There have been no annexations to or detachments from the District since its formation.

### Sphere of Influence

The District has not had an SOI adopted by LAFCo. The Commission will adopt an SOI during the SOI updates to follow this MSR.

### Extra-territorial Services

The District has not served water or wastewater connections outside of its boundaries to date.

### Areas of Interest

WRCSD identified two areas of interest where drainage and traffic projects are under consideration. Water and wastewater projects are discussed later in this chapter in their relevant sections.

#### Big Cove Road Drainage Improvement Project

There is a flooding problem that occurs at the intersection of Big Cove Road and Peninsula Drive. Staff has retained a consultant and has determined that existing culvert sizes need to be increased. The project has been designed, but there is an easement dispute (between Peninsula Drive and Lake Almanor) that first needs to be resolved. Funding of the project was initially expected to be on a fair-share basis with certain development contractors, but the present day economic situation is impeding that effort.

#### Clifford Road Traffic Corridor Improvements

The Department of Public Works has conducted a traffic study that focused on level of service and speeds within the Clifford Road corridor. The project is presently in progress. Proposed funding for the construction phase funding has not yet been finalized and may include contributions from the infrastructure fund.

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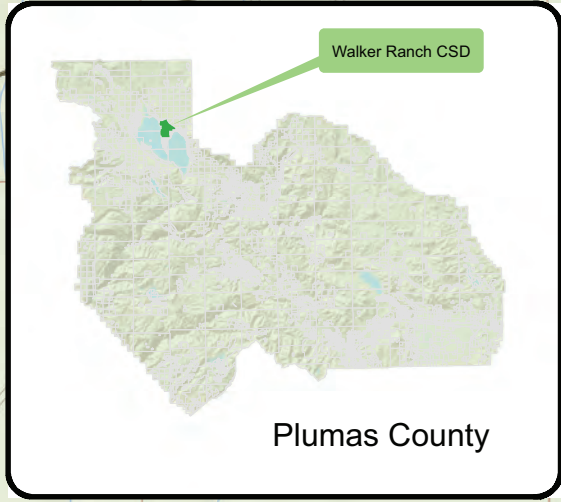
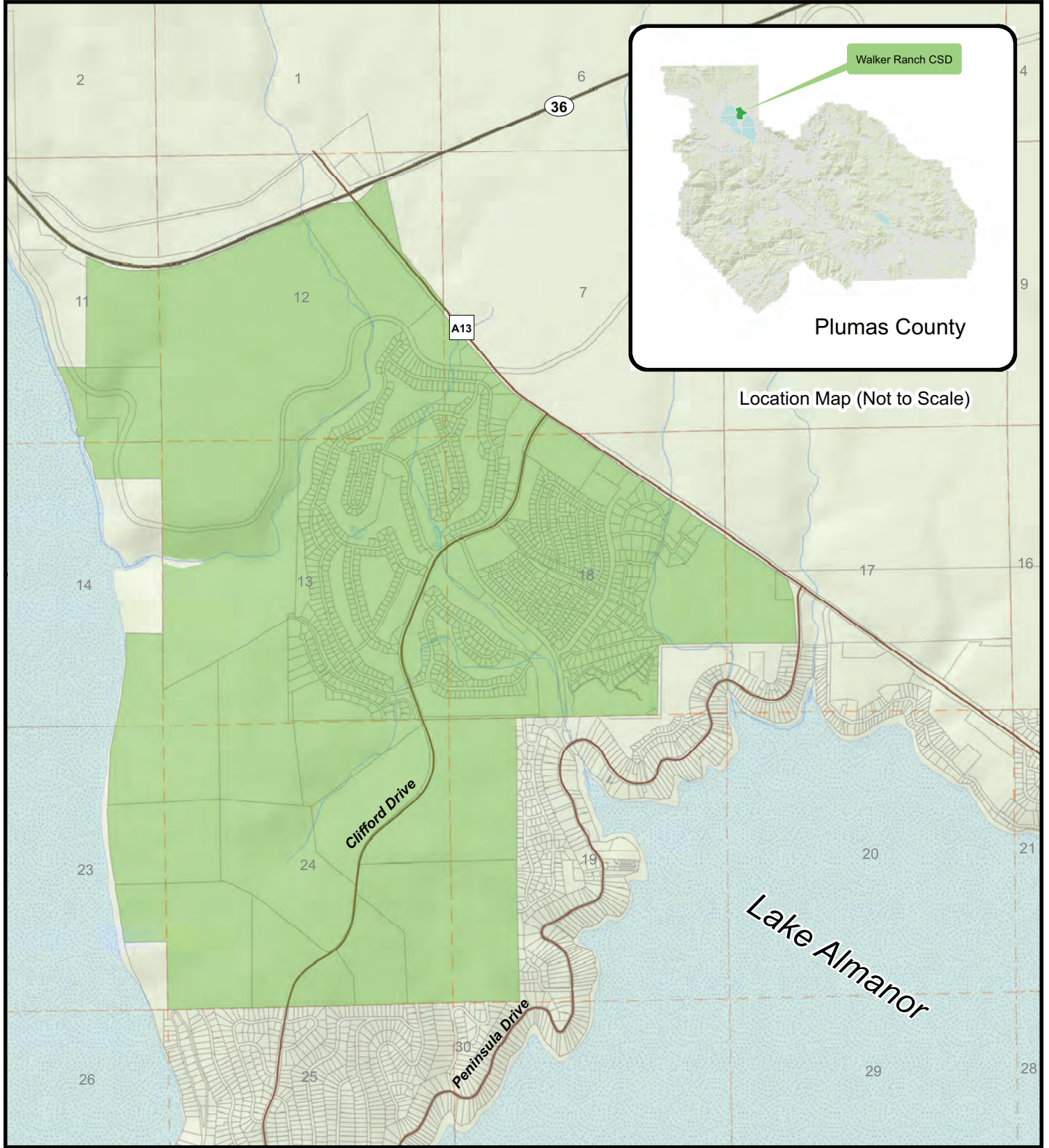
<sup>171</sup> Total agency area calculated in GIS software based on agency boundaries as of July 1, 2012. The data is not considered survey quality.

# Walker Ranch Community Services District

Range 7 East

Range 8 East

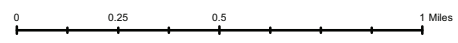
Township 28 North



Location Map (Not to Scale)

## Legend

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Stream / River
- Waterbodies
- Parcels
- Sectional Grid (MDB&M)
- Walker Ranch CSD



Walker Ranch CSD  
Resolution: 95-10  
Formed: June 15, 1995

Walker Ranch CSD (SOI)  
Resolution: None  
Adopted:

Source: Plumas LAFCo Map Created 7/26/2012

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## Accountability and Governance

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WRCSO is governed by a governing body that consists of the five Supervisors of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors. Board members are elected by supervisorial district and serve staggered four-year terms. Current governing board members are Terry Swofford, Robert Meacher, Sherrie Thrall, Lori Simpson, and Jon Kennedy.

The Governing Board meets on the first three Tuesday mornings of every month in the Courthouse Board of Supervisor’s Chambers. The Governing Board meeting agendas are part of the Board of Supervisor’s agendas and are posted on the Plumas County website. Governing Board meeting .minutes are also available on the Plumas County website.

**Figure 13-2: Walker Ranch CSD Governing Body**

<b>Walker Ranch CSD</b>				
<b><i>District Contact Information</i></b>				
<b>Contact:</b>	Robert Perreault, General Manager, Plumas County Engineer			
<b>Address:</b>	555 Main Street, Quincy, CA 95971			
<b>Telephone:</b>	530-283-6222			
<b>Email/website:</b>	<a href="mailto:bobperreault@countyofplumas.com">bobperreault@countyofplumas.com</a>			
<b><i>Governing Body</i></b>				
Member Name	Position	Term Expiration <sup>1</sup>	Manner of Selection	Length of Term
Terry Swofford	District 1	December 2012	Elected	4 years
Robert Meacher	District 2	December 2012	Elected	4 years
Sherrie Thrall	District 3	December 2014	Elected	4 years
Lori Simpson	District 4	December 2012	Elected	4 years
Jon Kennedy	District 5	December 2014	Elected	4 years
<b><i>Meetings</i></b>				
<b>Date:</b>	First three Tuesdays of every month.			
<b>Location:</b>	Board of Supervisors Chambers in the Courthouse			
<b>Agenda Distribution:</b>	Posted on the Plumas County website			
<b>Minutes Distribution:</b>	Posted on the Plumas County website			
Notes: 1) Expiration of term” does not include information on the current election cycle.				

Plumas County makes available its budget, general plan, emergency operations plan and other documents on its website. Online CSD information includes financial information contained in the County budget and a webpage with a short description on the County website. As part of its outreach efforts, WRCSO annually mails the State-required consumer confidence report on the District’s water quality.

If a customer is dissatisfied with the District’s services, complaints may be submitted to the operator. The District’s general manager is notified of any unresolved complaints and oversees the process until complaints are resolved. During its last inspection of the WRCSO system, the County Environmental Health Agency noted a concern that there is no written complaint response program and recommended that one be initiated. The District received no complaints in 2011.



Walker Ranch CSD demonstrated accountability and transparency in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with the document requests.

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## Planning and Management Practices

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The Plumas County Engineering Department manages the District. The County Engineer acts as the general manager of the District and is supported by two other county staff. Other staff members from the Department of Public Works are also available for support as circumstances dictate. The District also contracts with Sierra Water Management for operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater facilities. The District contracts with Sierra Water Management for one operator for both, water and wastewater facilities. The operator occasionally hires part-time help. The District contracts with another company to perform water testing services and an outside accountant for billing services.

County employees are evaluated at a minimum of once a year. County employees track hours worked for WRCSD in a timesheet. The operator is evaluated at times of contract renewals. WRCSD reports that it does not perform formal evaluations of overall district performance, such as benchmarking or annual reports. Incidents are addressed as they arise. The District is regulated by the Plumas County Environmental Health Agency. Regular inspections are completed by the Agency, which evaluates the District's system and operations. The most recent inspection was completed in 2010.

The District's financial planning efforts include an annually adopted budget. The District's financial statements are completed by the County and are not audited individually, but are combined with all other county finances in the County's audit report. Other planning documents include master plans for the Foxwood and Bailey Creek Subdivisions. There is a lack of an overall master plan for the entire District; instead plans have been made for each individual subdivision. Capital improvements are budgeted in the annual budgets when necessary. WRCSD staff has recognized the need for an updated Engineer's Report and has initiated the process to retain a consultant to prepare the updated report.

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## Existing Demand and Growth Projections

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Land uses within the District are primarily residential, with some areas planned for commercial and light industrial uses,<sup>172</sup> including a golf course. The area within the District's boundaries is approximately 4.4 square miles.

### Population

Based on census designated place and census block population in the 2010 census, there are 469 permanent residents within the District.<sup>173</sup>

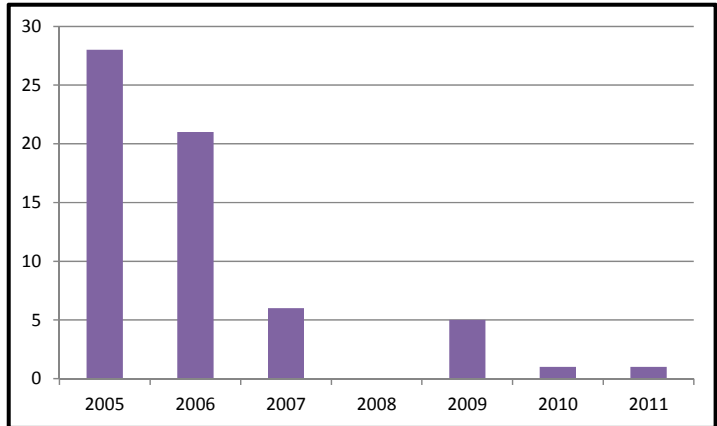
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<sup>172</sup> Plumas County Parcel Application.

Existing Demand

**Figure 12-3: Number of New Connections (2005-2011)**

The District reported that it had observed little change in the level of service demand during the last few years. Generally there have been only a few new water and wastewater connections each year. As shown in Figure 12-3, construction of new dwelling units stalled around 2007. Between 2002 and 2007, WRCSD had between 17 and 33 new connections a year. In 2007, that number drastically declined to six connections in a single year, and new connections have been consistently very low since.



Projected Growth and Development

The District anticipates growth in population and similarly in service demand in the future should the economy recover. At present, the District reported that it anticipates population growth similar to that projected by Caltrans in its recent Almanor Regional Transportation Assessment (ATRA), which assumes a future growth rate of one percent per year in the region.

The State Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Plumas County will grow by five percent in the next 10 years. Thus, the average annual population growth in the County is anticipated to be approximately 0.5 percent. Based on these projections, the District's population would increase from 469 in 2010 to approximately 492 in 2020. It is anticipated that demand for service within the District will increase minimally based on the DOF population growth projections through 2020.

The District reported that the Walker Ranch subdivision has the potential to experience high growth, but the recent recession stalled development. Empty lots are located throughout the property. There are 1,500 unconstructed lots that are proposed to be developed within the Lake Front subdivision. The Trail Head development has 20 empty lots, and Bailey Creek has one development phase left; however, both of these developments are presently in receivership.

The District anticipates an increase in demand for services as the construction economy recovers. Any new major development would require additional water and wastewater capacity, as the existing infrastructure was designed to serve the two existing subdivisions. WRCSD reports that, traditionally, a master plan to address infrastructure needs related to new development would be proposed by the developer, approved by the County, and

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<sup>173</sup> Census designated place Lake Almanor Peninsula, and Tract 5.02 Blocks 1000, 1014 and 1022 in Plumas County.

financed by the developer. For example the Lake Front development includes plans for a wastewater plant to serve the subdivision, which will be expandable for CSD use should the need arise. As future development of the District occurs, however, it will likely be necessary for the District to self-fund its own master plans as part of the future updated engineer reports.

### Growth Strategies

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies. The land use authority for unincorporated areas is Plumas County.

WRCSO does not have an SOI proposal for LAFCO's consideration at this time.

In regards to government structure alternatives, someday, there may be the potential of consolidation of the water systems with Almanor Lake Mutual Water Company (MWC). However, no steps have been taken by either entity towards consolidation at this time; and, to date, there have been no serious discussions of such a future concept. During the SB 610/221 hearings held in 2008, there was a consensus between the water system agencies that an emergency intertie between the two water systems is desirable. Accordingly, a condition of approval imposed on the Lake Front Subdivision development is to provide the materials to WRCSO as a fair-share contribution towards such a future intertie connection for use during emergency situations.

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## Financing

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WRCSO reported that the current financing level was adequate to deliver services; however, the District's revenues have been negatively affected by the economic recession. Due to a slowdown in new development, the District has experienced a decline in connection fee and standby fee revenue. However, WRCSO feels confident about its financing level, due to a high fund balance. At the end of FY 10-11, the District's unreserved cash fund balance was \$113,450, and the reserved cash fund balance was \$1.8 million.

The District operates out of a single fund for administration costs of both water and wastewater services. Total revenue for FY 10-11 was \$141,722, which included 62 percent of income from service charges, 26 percent from engineering charges, eight percent from use of money and property, 3.5 percent from connection fee revenue, and 0.5 percent from reimbursements and refunds. The District does not receive revenue from property taxes or benefit assessments.

The District charges fees for providing services. Connection fees consist of \$1,500 for sewer, \$1,000 for water and \$500 for recreation. The recreation fee is a one-time fee for the establishment of accounts for operation and maintenance of open space, street lights, walking trails and other open space items excluding the golf course. The recreation fee is due and payable at the time of issuance of the permit for connection to the public sewer. Standby fees are \$11 per month for sewer and \$14 per month for water; however, the Board suspended the standby fees about two years ago, as the economy was in decline.

Sewer service charges amount to \$26 per month. For water service, the District charges \$27 per month for the first 10,000 gallons of water used per month, with use of additional water billed at \$1 per 1,000 gallons. It should be noted that while WRCSD has a tiered rate that is intended to promote conservation, that regular single family household use is generally below the threshold of 10,000 gallons that is included in the District's flat monthly charge. These fees and charges were adopted in 1997 upon formation of WRCSD, and have not been updated since.

Since the District operates out of a single fund for both utilities, actual expenditures by service type are not available. The District reported that the completion of an updated engineers report will result in segregation of the expenditures. Total expenditures for FY 10-11 were \$118,058. Expenditures included professional services (57 percent), utilities (25 percent), insurance (six percent), special department expenditures (six percent), equipment maintenance (two percent), office expenses (one percent), well testing services (one percent), and overhead (two percent). Professional services consisted of operator, engineering (including water testing) and accounting services.

Every year the contracted operator submits to the District an estimate of projected costs, including labor and time spent. In the notes, the operator indicates items that may have variable costs depending on certain circumstances. In FY 10-11, WRCSD paid \$57,041 for the services of the operator.

Smaller capital improvement projects are included in the annual budget. Large projects are planned for in advance to ensure availability of sufficient funds. Currently, there is one large project planned by the District. The Big Cove Drainage Improvement Project is estimated to cost over \$100,000. A construction schedule will be established after resolution of the easement problem noted above. Capital improvements are financed from the Capital Improvement Fund.

The District did not have any long-term debt at the end of FY 10-11.

WRCSD has one financial reserve which finances capital improvement projects. A portion of the water and sewer service charges and connection fee fund the reserve. Establishment and use of the capital improvement reserve is the District's management practice, and not a previously adopted formal policy.

The District does not participate in any joint power authorities (JPAs) or joint financing mechanisms.



## WATER SERVICES

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### Service Overview

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WRCSD provides retail water services consisting of groundwater extraction, treatment and distribution to developed lots throughout its boundaries.

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### Staffing

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Water system operation and maintenance are provided by a contract operator. The operator dedicates approximately 15 hours to the WRCSD water system each week. The current operator possesses a certification level of D2 for distribution and T1 for treatment, which exceeds the required certification levels of the water system.

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### Facilities and Capacity

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The District owns and maintains two wells, one of which is inactive. The water supply for the area is provided entirely through the single active well with a capacity of 1,100 gallons per minute. The well water is treated on an as-needed basis by a stand-by chlorine solution with a metering pump.

Water is provided entirely from the Lake Almanor Valley groundwater basin. The water is considered to be generally of excellent quality, but is most vulnerable to turbidity, lead, copper, total coliforms, fecal coliforms, and terrorist attacks. Lake Almanor Valley Basin has locally high levels of copper, lead, iron, manganese, calcium, and boron.<sup>174</sup>

There are three water storage tanks—two welded steel bulk storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of one million gallons and one captive air tank with a capacity of 3,500 gallons.

The distribution system consists entirely of C900 PVC piping and is considered to be in good condition.

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### Infrastructure Needs

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WRCSD must find additional sources of water for back-up to the single Well 1. The back-up sources, in combination with bulk storage, must be sufficient to meet the maximum hourly and daily demands with Well 1 off-line. Additional possible sources include an inter-tie between nearby public water systems and/or drilling additional source wells.

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<sup>174</sup> State Water Resources Control Board, *Lake Almanor Valley Groundwater Basin – California's Groundwater Bulletin 118*, 2003, p. 2.

At the most recent inspection of the facilities, the County Environmental Health Agency noted that the underside of the vent cap on Tank 1 should be scraped to remove peeling paint and the surface recoated to protect from corrosion and possibly flaking into the water. Additionally, the bung on the roof of Tank 2 needed to be fitted with a tight-fitting cap or plug to effectively block the entrance of rain and snowmelt. The District reported that these repairs had been made.

The stand-by generator was non-functional at the time of the County's inspection according to the system operator. As the generator is included in the operating permit, the water system must maintain an operational generator that is capable of providing sufficient back-up power to operate the water system. The operator has received quotes to get the generator repaired, but the improvement has yet to be made.

No needs were identified with respect to the active well. With regard to the distribution system, the District reported that there are eight air relief valves that need to be replaced, and two pressure reducing valves that need to be installed.

It was recommended by the County, in 2012, that the District establish a written main distribution line disinfection program, as well as written valve maintenance and water line flushing programs. In response to this recommendation the District prepared an operation plan that includes these three written programs, as well as others.

Future water system needs for the entire District were recently considered by County agencies during the approval phase of the Lake Front Subdivision. In particular, and in accordance with SB 610/221, the Governing Board conducted public hearings on water supply assessment studies for the Lake Front Subdivision. On January 15, 2008 a motion was adopted to accept the water supply assessment report and supporting findings.

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## Challenges

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The District reported that there were no particular challenges to providing an adequate level of water services.

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## Service Adequacy

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This section reviews indicators of service adequacy, including the Plumas County Environmental Health Agency system evaluation, drinking water quality, and distribution system integrity.

The County Environmental Health Agency is responsible for the enforcement of the federal and California Safe Drinking Water Acts, and the operational permitting and regulatory oversight of public water systems of 199 connections or less. These systems are subject to inspections by the County Environmental Health Agency. During the Agency's most recent inspection in 2010, the Agency noted that WRCSD's facilities were generally in good condition; however, there were a few infrastructure needs identified, most significant of which were the lack of a an operational generator, and the lack of sufficient water supply

to weather a long-term outage at Well 1. Additionally, the County found that WRCSD needed to establish several written plans for regular maintenance of the various aspects of the system, which the District has completed.

Drinking water quality is determined by a combination of historical violations reported by the EPA since 2000 and the percent of time that the District was in compliance with Primary Drinking Water Regulations in 2011. Since 2000, the District has had no health or monitoring violations. By comparison, the other water providers in the Lake Almanor region of the County had an average of 2.16 violations per 1,000 connections served during that same time frame. The median water service provider in the region was in compliance 100 percent of the time in 2011. The District was in compliance with drinking water regulations 100 percent of the time, which was equal the regional average.

**Figure 13-4: WRCSD Water Service Adequacy Indicators**

<b>Water Service Adequacy and Efficiency Indicators</b>			
<b>Service Adequacy Indicators</b>			
Connections/FTE	405	O&M Cost Ratio <sup>1</sup>	\$1,058,740
MGD Delivered/FTE	0.30	Distribution Loss Rate	16%
Distribution Breaks & Leaks (2011)	0	Distribution Break Rate <sup>2</sup>	0
Water Pressure	30 to 85 psi	Total Employees (FTEs)	0.375
Customer Complaints CY 2011:	Odor/taste (0), leaks (0), pressure (0), other (0)		
<b>Drinking Water Quality Regulatory Information<sup>3</sup></b>			
	#	Description	
Health Violations	0		
Monitoring Violations	0		
DW Compliance Rate <sup>4</sup>	100%		
Notes:			
(1) Operations and maintenance costs (exc. purchased water, debt, depreciation) per volume (mgd) delivered.			
(2) Distribution break rate is the number of leaks and pipeline breaks per 100 miles of distribution piping.			
(3) Violations since 2000, as reported by the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System.			
(4) Drinking water compliance is percent of time in compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations in 2011.			

Indicators of distribution system integrity are the number of breaks and leaks in 2011 and the rate of unaccounted for distribution loss. The District reported that no breaks and leaks occurred in 2011, while other providers in the region had a median rate of 11 breaks per 100 pipe miles. The District estimates that the loss rate is approximately 16 percent during peak usage months (May through October), and no loss during winter months (November through April) between the water source and the connections served. By comparison, other providers in the area averaged 12 percent distribution losses.

**Figure 13-5: WRCSD Water Service Tables**

<b>Water Service Configuration &amp; Infrastructure</b>				
<i>Water Service</i>	<i>Provider(s)</i>	<i>Water Service</i>	<i>Provider(s)</i>	
Retail Water	WRCSD	Groundwater Recharge	None	
Wholesale Water	None	Groundwater Extraction	WRCSD	
Water Treatment	None	Recycled Water	None	
<i>Service Area Description</i>				
Retail Water	Developed parcels within WRCSD's bounds.			
Wholesale Water	NA			
Recycled Water	NA			
<i>Water Sources</i>		<i>Supply (Acre-Feet/Year)</i>		
Source	Type	Average	Maximum	Safe/Firm
Lake Almanor Valley	Groundwater	125	1,775	Unknown
<i>System Overview</i>				
Average Daily Demand		111,508 gpd	Peak Day Demand	
			594,000 gpd	
<i>Major Facilities</i>				
Facility Name	Type	Capacity	Condition	Yr Built
Well 1	Well	1,100 gpm	Good	1997
Well 2	Well	Inactive	Good	NA
Storage Tank 1	Storage	500,000 gallons	Good	1997
Storage Tank 2	Storage	500,000 gallons	Good	2000
Captive Air Tank	Storage	3,500 gallons	Good	1997
<i>Other Infrastructure</i>				
Reservoirs	-	Storage Capacity (mg)	1 mg	
Pump Stations	4	Pressure Zones	2	
Production Wells	2	Pipe Miles	45	
Other:				
<i>Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration</i>				
<b>Current Practices:</b> Administration for the District is provided by the County, which operates out of county facilities with other county departments.				
<b>Opportunities:</b> There may be the potential of consolidation with Almanor Lake Mutual Water Company (MWC). No steps have been taken by either entity towards consolidation at this time; however, the proximity of the two water systems presents the opportunity for collaboration in emergency situations. The District plans to install an intertie between the two agencies.				
Notes:				
(1) NA means Not Applicable, NP means Not Provided, mg means millions of gallons, af means acre-feet.				

<b>Water Demand and Supply</b>							
<i>Service Connections</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Inside Bounds</i>		<i>Outside Bounds</i>		
Total	152		152		0		
Irrigation/Landscape	3		3		0		
Domestic	143		143		0		
Commercial/Industrial/Institutional	6		6		0		
Recycled	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
<b>Average Annual Demand Information (Acre-Feet per Year) <sup>1</sup></b>							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	NP	Unknown	125	128	131	135	138
Residential	NP	Unknown	38	39	40	41	42
Commercial/Industrial	NP	Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Irrigation/Landscape	NP	Unknown	86	89	91	93	95
Other	NP	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Supply Information (Acre-feet per Year) <sup>2</sup></b>							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	NP	Unknown	145	149	152	156	160
Imported	NP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	NP	Unknown	145	149	152	156	160
Surface	NP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recycled	NP	0	0	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Drought Supply and Plans</b>							
Drought Supply (af) <sup>3</sup>	Year 1:	Unknown	Year 2:	Unknown	Year 3:	Unknown	
Storage Practices	Storage is for treatment and short-term emergency supply only.						
Drought Plan	The District does not have a drought contingency plan; however the operator has attended an emergency response and drought contingency planning class, offered by the California Rural Water Association and received training on how to plan for the District.						
<b>Water Conservation Practices</b>							
CUWCC Signatory	No						
Metering	Yes						
Conservation Pricing	Yes						
Other Practices	None						
Notes:							
(1) Projected demand based on assumed growth in demand of 0.5 percent annually.							
(2) Amount supplied based on reported 16 percent water loss from the system.							
(3) The District has not estimated available supply during a three year drought.							



<b>Water Rates and Financing</b>			
<b>Residential Water Rates-Ongoing Charges FY 11-12<sup>1</sup></b>			
	<b>Rate Description</b>	<b>Avg. Monthly Charges</b>	<b>Consumption<sup>2</sup></b>
Residential	\$27 per month for the first 10,000 gallons of water used per month, with use of additional water billed at \$1 per 1,000 gallons	\$27	7,600 gal/month
<b>Rate-Setting Procedures</b>			
Most Recent Rate Change	1997	Frequency of Rate Changes	Never
<b>Water Development Fees and Requirements</b>			
Fee Approach	Adopted cover the cost of anticipated capital needs in the system.		
Connection Fee Amount	\$1,000/parcel		
Development Impact Fee	None		
Notes:			
(1) Rates include water-related service charges and usage charges.			
(2) Water use assumptions were used to calculate average monthly bills. Assumed use levels are consistent countywide for comparison purposes.			

## WASTEWATER SERVICES

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### Service Overview

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WRCSD provides collection and disposal of wastewater from 149 septic systems in two community leachfield systems—one in the Baily Creek Subdivision and one in the Foxwood and Trailhead Subdivisions.

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### Staffing

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Wastewater system operation and maintenance are provided by a contract operator. The operator dedicates approximately 15 hours to the WRCSD wastewater system each week. The operator has a Grade 2 certification level, which meets the required certification levels of the system.

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### Facilities and Capacity

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WRCSD operates two leach fields with sand filtration systems and 50 miles of collection lines.

The community wastewater treatment system consists of privately-owned individual septic tanks with pump chambers and submersible pumps discharging to a recirculating sand filter followed by disposal to one of two common leach fields. Poor soil conditions and high groundwater required the developer to provide alternatives to individual on-site sewage disposal.

The District is regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. 96-264), which were issued in 1996. An update to the permit was considered in 2008 by the Regional Water Quality Control Board; however, to date, no new requirements have been adopted.

Within the Bailey Creek development, the existing Bailey Creek leach field is located on private property, under a golf course fairway, owned by Bailey Creek Golf Course. WRCSD does not own the leach field, as the property or easement was never transferred to the District. However, WRCSD continues to maintain the leach field as that was the reasoning behind the formation of the District. In addition, within the Bailey Creek development, there are four lots identified for a future leach field, three of which WRCSD owns in fee, with reservations for the use and construction of a leach field by Bailey Creek. The other lot is owned by the Bailey Creek development. The Bailey Creek leach field was reported as being in good condition. The leach field has a capacity of 2.3 million gallons per year or approximately 6,300 gallons per day. At present, the average dry weather flow into this leach field is 14,833 gallons, which is approximately 235 percent of the system's capacity. While this flow is double the District's permitted capacity, this is the peak demand period when other wastewater systems would generally be experiencing low flows.

Sometime after construction of the Bailey Creek subdivision, and following approval of the Foxwood Subdivision, an 18-acre parcel was granted to WRCSD for wastewater disposal for the Foxwood Subdivision parcels. This currently is home to the Foxwood and Trailhead subdivision leach field. The leach field has a capacity of approximately 20,000 gallons per day.

WRCSD reported that the sand filter is the only form of treatment and is an open air filter bed, which is vulnerable to precipitation and dirt and weeds and consequently reduces effluent flow.

At the time the subdivision developments were first being considered, wastewater treatment expansion was planned to be phased in as the influent flow increased during build out. The initial phase was installation of a recirculating sand filter followed by subsurface disposal to two community leach fields. Phase 2 was planned to be construction of an advance secondary package treatment plant with effluent quality sufficient to be used as reclaimed water for golf course irrigation. At present, the demand for wastewater services is not sufficient to warrant development of a treatment plant.

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## Infrastructure Needs

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WRCSD has considered adding an office building on location within the District's bounds. Presently, the operator works out of his residence. An office building would allow the District's work to be done on site.

Future wastewater system needs for the entire CSD were recently considered by County agencies, during the approval phase of the Lake Front Subdivision. As part of the subdivision review process, the County Engineer requested that a report be prepared by the subdivision applicant that addressed consolidation and regionalization of wastewater treatment. The civil engineer for the subdivision applicant prepared the following reports: *Walker Ranch Community Services District Wastewater Treatment System Consolidation Study* and the *Lake Almanor Peninsula Regional Wastewater Treatment Concept Report*. The reports outlined the potential for regionalized wastewater services, as opposed to the piecemeal approach that had been followed previously.

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## Challenges

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WRCSD reported that there were no particular systemic challenges to providing adequate wastewater service levels, other than the long-range need for a sewer system master plan.

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## Service Adequacy

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This section reviews indicators of service adequacy, including regulatory compliance, treatment effectiveness, sewer overflows and collection system integrity.

The District had no priority violations between the period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. WRCS D did have a single non-priority violation during that same time period for failing to adopt a Sewer System Management Plan as required by State law. As a result of this violation, the District was issued a notice of violation in 2010.<sup>175</sup> The District has acquired the services of an engineering firm to come into compliance with this requirement. One violation equates to almost two violations per 1,000 population served. By comparison, other wastewater providers in the Lake Almanor region of the County averaged one violation per 1,000 population served.

Wastewater treatment providers are required to comply with effluent quality standards under the waste discharge requirements determined by RWQCB. The District reported that in 2011, it was never out of compliance with effluent quality requirements. Other wastewater providers in the Lake Almanor region of Plumas County were not out of compliance in 2011.

**Figure 13-6: WRCS D Wastewater Service Adequacy Indicators**

<b>Wastewater Service Adequacy and Efficiency</b>			
<b>Regulatory Compliance Record, 2009-11</b>			
Formal Enforcement Actions	0	Informal Enforcement Actions	1
<b>Enforcement Action Type</b>		<b>Description of Violations</b>	
Notice of Violation	2010	Failure to adopt a Sewer System Management Plan	
<b>Total Violations, 2009-11</b>			
Total Violations	1	Priority Violations	0
<b>Service Adequacy Indicators</b>			
Treatment Effectiveness Rate <sup>2</sup>	100%	Sewer Overflows 2009 - 2011 <sup>3</sup>	0
Total Employees (FTEs)	0.375	Sewer Overflow Rate <sup>4</sup>	0
MGD Treated per FTE	0.029	Customer Complaints CY 11: Odor (0), spills (0), other (0)	
<b>Source Control and Pollution Prevention Practices</b>			
The largest connection with the most unique load is the Bailey Creek Golf Course Club House. The District does not have a source control program.			
<b>Collection System Inspection Practices</b>			
The system has never been inspected by CCTV, there are check valves in line in the main at all intersections.			
Notes:			
(1) Order or Code Violations include sanitary sewer overflow violations.			
(2) Total number of compliance days in 2011 per 365 days.			
(3) Total number of overflows experienced (excluding those caused by customers) from 2009 to 2011 as reported by the agency.			
(4) Sewer overflows from 2009 to 2011 (excluding those caused by customers) per 100 miles of collection piping.			

Wastewater agencies are required to report sewer system overflows (SSOs) to SWRCB. Overflows reflect the capacity and condition of collection system piping and the

<sup>175</sup> WRCS D reported that there was an administrative error by the State in the issuance of the Notice of Violation in 2010, pertaining to reporting requirements, resulting in lack of notification to the CSD's general manager until 2012. Subsequently, an agreement was reached between the State and WRCS D to rectify the violation by the end of 2012, without further action by the State. Accordingly, in August 2012, the District's general manager retained Vestra Resources, Inc. to provide the necessary engineering support services to rectify the situation by the end of 2012.

effectiveness of routine maintenance. The sewer overflow rate is calculated as the number of overflows per 100 miles of collection piping. The District reported no overflows during the period from 2009 thru 2011, and consequently the overflow rate is zero. Other providers in the region averaged an SSO rate of three per 100 miles of collection piping.

There are several measures of integrity of the wastewater collection system, including peaking factors, efforts to address infiltration and inflow (I/I), and inspection practices. The District's high tourist population during the summer makes it hard to calculate a peaking factor that is indicative of the true amount of I/I that is entering the system. As reported, wet weather flow is actually lower than dry weather flow, due to the high summer demand. The District reported that the part of the system that is underground is pressurized, and consequently, is not susceptible to I/I. However, the sand filter, which is not covered, is susceptible to infiltration due to atmospheric precipitation. WRCS D has not calculated the degree of infiltration at the sand filter, but since the source is precipitation, and the square footage of the sand filter is minimal, it is assumed that the amount is not significant.



**Figure 13-7: WRCSD Wastewater Profile**

<b>Wastewater Service Configuration and Demand</b>				
<b>Service Configuration</b>				
<b>Service Type</b>		<b>Service Provider(s)</b>		
Wastewater Collection		WRCSD		
Wastewater Treatment		WRCSD		
Wastewater Disposal		None		
Recycled Water		None		
<b>Service Area</b>				
Collection:		Bailey Creek, Foxwood and Trailhead subdivisions		
Treatment:		Bailey Creek, Foxwood and Trailhead subdivisions		
Recycled Water:		None		
<b>Service Demand</b>				
Type	Connections (2011) Total	Inside Bounds	Outside Bounds	Flow (mgd) Average
Total	149	149	0	0.011
Residential	143	143	0	Unknown
Commercial	6	6	0	Unknown
Industrial	0	0	0	-
<b>Historical and Projected Demand (ADWF in millions of gallons per day) <sup>2</sup></b>				
2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Unknown	0.015	0.015	0.016	0.016
Note:				
(1) NA: Not Applicable; NP: Not Provided.				
(2) ADWF was only reported for the Baily Creek leach field. Projections are based on the 0.05 percent annual average growth rate projected by DOF for the entire County.				

<b>Wastewater Infrastructure</b>				
<b>Wastewater Collection, Treatment &amp; Disposal Infrastructure</b>				
<b>System Overview</b>				
Treatment level: Primary				
Disposal method: Leach field				
Facility Name	Capacity	Condition	Year Built	
Bailey Creek Leach field	6,300 gpd	Good	1997	
Foxwood Leach field	20,000 gpd	NP	2005	
<b>Collection &amp; Distribution Infrastructure</b>				
Sewer Pipe Miles	50	Sewage Lift Stations	0	
<b>Treatment Plant Daily Flow (mgd)</b>				
Leach field	ADWF (mgd)	% of ADWF Capacity in Use	Peak Wet (mgd)	Peaking Factor
Bailey Creek	0.015	235%	0.009	NA
Foxwood	NP	NP	NP	NP
<b>Infiltration and Inflow</b>				
The District reported that the part of the system that is underground is pressurized, and consequently, is not susceptible to I/I. However, the sand filter, which is not covered, is susceptible to infiltration due to atmospheric precipitation.				
<b>Wastewater Facility Sharing</b>				
<b>Facility Sharing Practices</b>				
Administration for the District is provided by the County, which operates out of county facilities with other county departments.				
<b>Facility Sharing Opportunities</b>				
No further facility sharing opportunities with regard to wastewater services were identified.				

<b>Wastewater Rates and Financing</b>			
<b><i>Wastewater Rates-Ongoing Charges FY 10-11<sup>1</sup></i></b>			
Connection Type	Rate Description	Charges	Demand <sup>2</sup>
Residential	Flat monthly rate of \$26.	\$26.00	250 gpd
<b><i>Rate Zones</i></b>			
None			
<b><i>Rate-Setting Procedures</i></b>			
Last Rate Change	1997	Frequency of Rate Changes	Never
<b><i>Wastewater Development Fees and Requirements</i></b>			
Fee Approach	Adopted cover the cost of anticipated capital needs in the system.		
Connection Fee Amount	\$1,500 per single family residence		
Development Impact Fee	None		
Notes:			
(1) Rates include wastewater-related service charges and strength and flow charges.			
(2) Wastewater use assumptions by customer type were used to calculate average monthly charges. Assumed use levels are 250 gallons per home per day, and are consistent countywide for comparison purposes.			

## **WALKER RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DETERMINATIONS**

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### **Growth and Population Projections**

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- ❖ Walker Ranch Community Services District (WRCSD) serves a population of approximately 469 permanent residents.
- ❖ The District has experienced little growth in recent demand, due to the economic recession and decline in the housing market.
- ❖ Based on DOF projections of approximately 0.5 percent growth annually throughout the County, the District's population would increase to approximately 492 in 2020; however, the DOF's projections may be low, given the development potential in the area.

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### **The Location and Characteristics of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Agency's SOI**

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- ❖ The population threshold by which Plumas LAFCo will define a community is yet to be determined. Specific disadvantaged unincorporated communities and characteristics of the communities will be identified when appropriate as other areas are to be annexed to the District.

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### **Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

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- ❖ There is a need to address drainage issues around Big Cove Road and Peninsula Drive. The District has plans to complete these improvements.
- ❖ The capacity of the water system appears to be more than sufficient to serve current and long-term demand, as the District uses on average less than 10 percent of the available supply daily.
- ❖ The remaining capacity of the two leach field systems is unclear, due to the high demand during the summer months, which are averaged out during the low demand periods throughout the remainder of the year.
- ❖ WRCSD lacks a master plan for all areas within its bounds. The District relies on the plans specific to each new development in the area, and for developers to come up with a means to address needed water and wastewater services. It is recommended

that the District develop a master plan to better prepare for orderly future growth and development.

- ❖ The District needs to establish a written main distribution line disinfection program, as well as written valve maintenance and water line flushing programs.
- ❖ Water system infrastructure needs an additional water source should Well 1 become nonoperational, an operational generator, and storage tank improvements.
- ❖ WRCSD has considered adding an office building on location within the District's bounds; at present, the contract operator works out of his residence.

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### Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

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- ❖ WRCSD reported that the current financing level was adequate to deliver services; however, the District's revenues had been negatively affected by the economic recession.
- ❖ Due to a slowdown in new development, the District has experienced a decline in connection fee and standby fee revenue. However, WRCSD feels confident about its financing level, due to a high fund balance.
- ❖ WRCSD's rates were adopted in 1997 and have not been updated since then. The water and wastewater rates are below the regional median, and it may be appropriate to review the rates to ensure that they are adequately covering services and capital needs.

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### Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

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- ❖ Administration for the District is provided by the County, which operates out of county facilities with other county departments.
- ❖ There is the potential to collaborate with Almanor Lake Mutual Water Company for emergency situations, as well as sharing of specialized equipment.

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

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- ❖ There may be the potential of consolidation with Almanor Lake Mutual Water Company (MWC). No steps have been taken by either entity towards consolidation at this time; however, the proximity of the two water systems presents the opportunity for collaboration in emergency situations.
- ❖ WRCSD demonstrated accountability and transparency in its outreach efforts to constituents and through cooperation with the MSR process.



- ❖ It is a recommended practice that districts maintain a website where all district information is readily available to constituents.