

8. LONG VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Long Valley Community Services District (LVCSO) provides fire protection, emergency medical and limited recreation services. This is the first municipal service review (MSR) for the District.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

The District's formation was approved in 1976, but was not recorded by the Board of Equalization until 1981.

The principal act that governs the District is the State of California Community Services District Law.⁹⁹ 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).¹⁰⁰

LVCSO is located in the south central part of Plumas County and includes the communities of Cromberg and Camp Layman. The closest fire protection districts to LVCSO are Greenhorn Creek CSD, located to the northwest of the District, and Graeagle FPD to the southeast.

Boundaries

LVCSO's bounds are entirely within Plumas County. The present boundary area contains 2.7 square miles and consists of two non-contiguous parts, the smaller of which is located to the southeast of the larger portion, along SR 70. The larger of the two areas contains an island,¹⁰¹ which lies outside of the fire protection district. The island consists of two parcels, which are zoned as agricultural preserve and timber preserve and contain no structures.

Since the formation of the District, there has been one boundary change. In 1985, the District annexed the territory of Camp Layman.¹⁰²

⁹⁹ Government Code §61000-61226.5.

¹⁰⁰ Government Code §61106.

¹⁰¹ APNs 122060047 and 122070005.

¹⁰² LAFCO Resolution 8-ANNX-84.

Sphere of Influence

The sphere of influence (SOI) for the District was established on August 26, 1976 upon approval of the District's formation. The sphere of influence was last updated on August 18, 1981. The current SOI is larger than the LVCSO boundary area and extends outside its bounds to the west of the larger portion of the District, as well as includes the island within the District.¹⁰³ The District's SOI is 3.8 square miles in size, compared to 2.7 square miles of territory within its bounds.

Extra-territorial Services

LVCSO occasionally provides services outside of its bounds through mutual aid agreements with Quincy FPD, Plumas Eureka CSD and Graeagle FPD. The District is also in the process of establishing an automatic aid agreement with Greenhorn Creek CSD, based on which both districts will be dispatched simultaneously to the same incidents.

Additionally, each fire provider in Plumas County has informally agreed to a service area that extends outside of their LAFCO-approved boundaries, in order to minimize those areas without a defined first responder. In the case of LVCSO, the District's service area extends to northwest and southeast along SR 70 and includes the island excluded from LVCSO's bounds, the territory between the two district areas, along with a small area to the northeast of the District. The service area encompasses about 6.9 square miles. LVCSO, similar to other fire departments in the County, does not receive property tax revenue in the territory that lies outside of its bounds, and in effect is providing free services to these areas without reimbursement. While fire districts have the option to charge for service outside of their bounds, the District does not have a fee schedule and does not charge for responding outside of its boundaries.

Areas of Interest

The two areas of interest for LVCSO are the island located within the District and the Two Rivers Soccer Camp. As previously mentioned, the island is zoned as agricultural preserve and timber preserve and, at present, contains no structures. As the District is responsible for structural fire protection, there is currently no need for the annexation of this area to LVCSO. However, if in the future, the area is rezoned and becomes inhabited, the existence of the island should be revisited by LAFCO.

Two Rivers Soccer Camp is located outside of the District's boundary area, but within its service area. According to LVCSO, the camp is extremely difficult to access and the District struggles to provide services there. The owner of the camp reportedly refuses to attend to the condition of the roads leading to the camp or discuss the possibility of annexation into LVCSO or the neighboring Graeagle FPD.

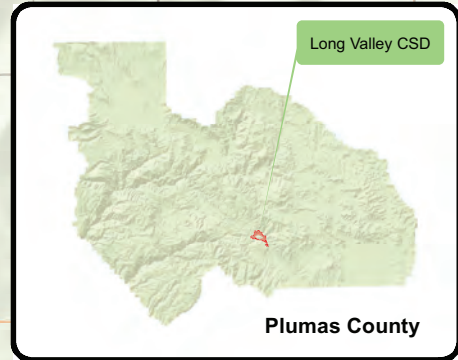
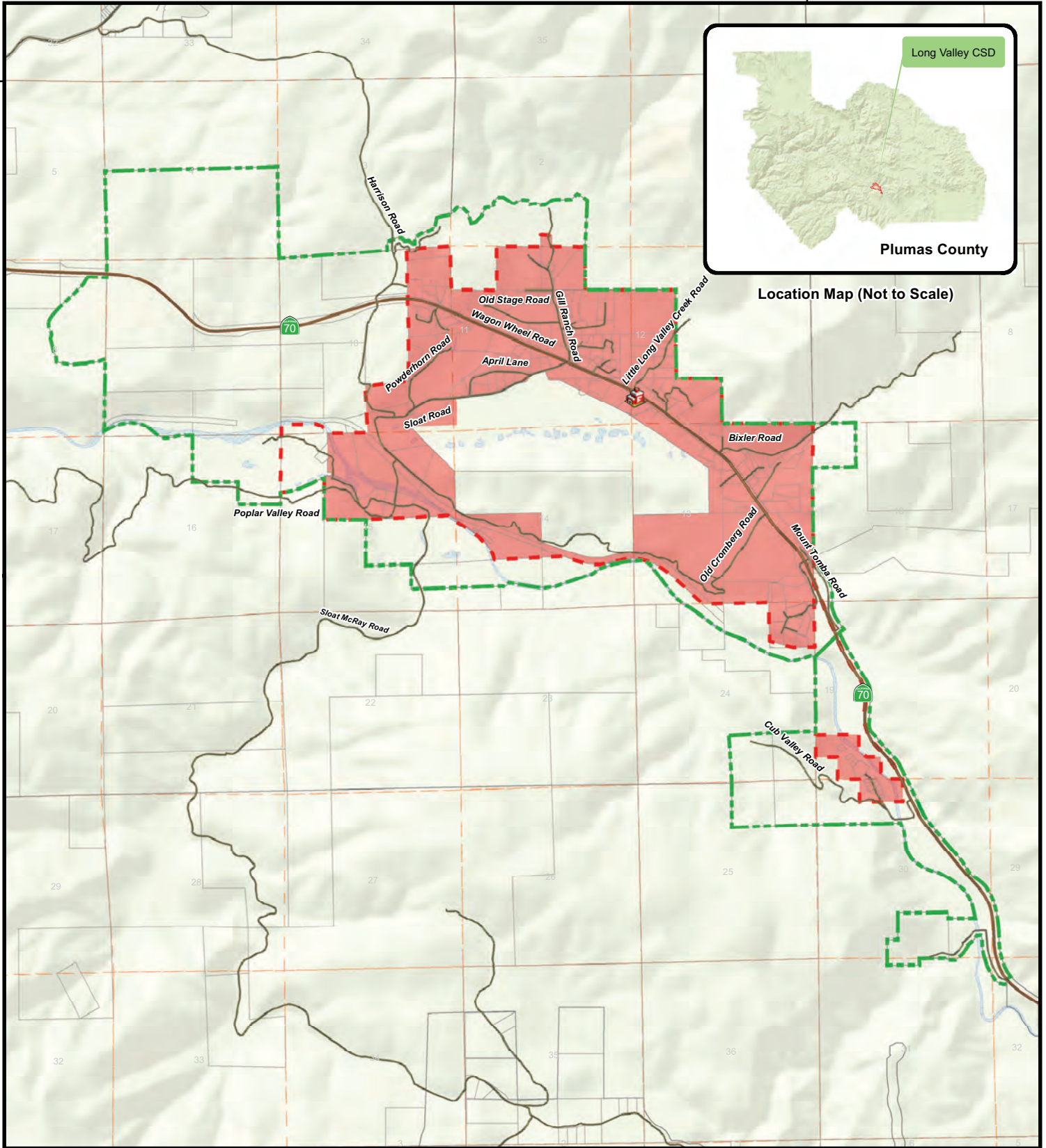
¹⁰³ LAFCO records are unclear as to whether the island that is excluded from LVCSO's bounds is included within the District's SOI. Two maps of the District's SOI were found with not dates to identify which is the most recent. Given that the excluded area is also within the District's service area, it was assumed by LAFCO that the area was also included in the District's adopted SOI.

Long Valley Community Services District

Range 11 East

Range 12 East

Township 23 North

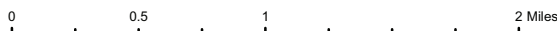


Location Map (Not to Scale)

Legend

- Major Roads
- CA State Highway
- Stream / River
- Waterbodies

- Parcels
- Sectional Grid (MDB&M)
- Long Valley CSD (SOI)
- Long Valley CSD Boundary
- Long Valley CSD Service Area
- Fire Stations



Long Valley CSD
 Resolution: 75-2784
 Adopted: August 18, 1981
 Long Valley (SOI)
 LAFCo Resolution: 83-27 76-42
 Adopted: August 26, 1976
 Source: Plumas LAFCo Map Modified 9/30/2013

Accountability and Governance

LVCSO is governed by a five-member board of directors elected at large to four-year terms. Three out of the five current members were appointed; there are presently no vacancies. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 8-2.

The Board meets regularly on the second Tuesday or Wednesday of every quarter. The time of regular meetings depend on board member availability. Board members meet at the town hall or the RV park. Board meeting agendas are posted at the post office, at the fire station and at the town hall. Minutes of the meetings are available upon request.

Figure 8-2: Long Valley CSD Governing Body

Long Valley CSD				
<i>District Contact Information</i>				
Contact:	Dan Kenney, Board Member			
Address:	P.O. Box 30226, Cromberg, CA 96103			
Telephone:	530-836-1380			
Email/website:	dkenney50@hotmail.com			
<i>Board of Directors</i>				
Member Name	Position	Term Expiration	Manner of Selection	Length of Term
Art Hinton	President	December 2013	Appointed	4 years
Robert Greene	Vice-president	December 2013	Elected	4 years
Lawrence Van Bergen	Director	December 2013	Appointed	4 years
Ken Muir	Director	December 2013	Elected	4 years
Dan Kenney	Director	December 2013	Elected	4 years
<i>Meetings</i>				
Date:	Quarterly on second Tuesday or Wednesday.			
Location:	Town hall or RV park.			
Agenda Distribution:	Posted post office, fire station and town hall.			
Minutes Distribution:	Available upon request.			

In addition to the required agendas and minutes, the District tries to reach its constituents through community activities such as an open house in the spring, a pancake breakfast in June, and by placing notices in the newspaper. LVCSO encourages its constituents to attend regular board meetings.

If a customer is dissatisfied with the District's services, complaints may be submitted by writing a letter to the fire department. The chief is usually the person responsible for handling complaints; more serious matters are handled by the Board. The District reported that it had not received any complaints in the last several years.

LVCSO demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCO. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with interview and document requests.

Planning and Management Practices

The District currently has 11 sworn personnel, of whom seven are firefighters, three are captains and one is fire chief. The firefighters report to the captains who are accountable to the chief. In addition to sworn staff, there is a non-sworn Board secretary and a general manager. All personnel are volunteers.

The volunteer general manager manages bills, mail and correspondence with the insurance company. The board president and the chief are responsible for day-to-day operations of the District. LVCSO does not conduct employee evaluations or evaluations of the District as a whole, such as annual reports or benchmarking. Employee workload is tracked through the training schedule, a log for professional development, and a maintenance log.

The District's financial planning efforts include an annually adopted budget and financial statements. The District does not adopt a capital improvement plan (CIP), nor does it plan for capital improvements in other ways. LVCSO reported that it did not have any funding for capital improvements and therefore did not see a need to plan for capital projects. All new equipment is funded through grants. The District has not adopted any additional planning documents.

Government Code §53901 states that within 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year each local agency must submit its budget to the county auditor. These budgets are to be filed and made available on request by the public at the county auditor's office. All special districts are required to submit annual audits to the County within 12 months of the completion of the fiscal year, unless the Board of Supervisors has approved a biennial or five-year schedule.¹⁰⁴ The most recent audit for LVCSO was completed for FY 09. The District should ensure it is meeting the adopted audit requirements as determined by the Board of Supervisors and submitting budgets annually to the County as legally required.

Special districts must submit a report to the State Controller of all financial transactions of the District during the preceding fiscal year within 90 days after the close of each fiscal year, in the form required by the State Controller, pursuant to Government Code §53891. If filed in electronic format, the report must be submitted within 110 days after the end of the fiscal year. The District has complied with this requirement.

Existing Demand and Growth Projections

Land uses within the District are designated as suburban residential, secondary suburban residential, limited access rural residential, resort and recreation, mining and some wetlands. . The District's bounds encompass approximately 2.7 square miles.

Population

There are approximately 216 permanent residents within the District, based on GIS estimate. The District's population density is 80 residents per square mile. According to LVCSO, the District population is about 240-260 people at any given time.

Existing Demand

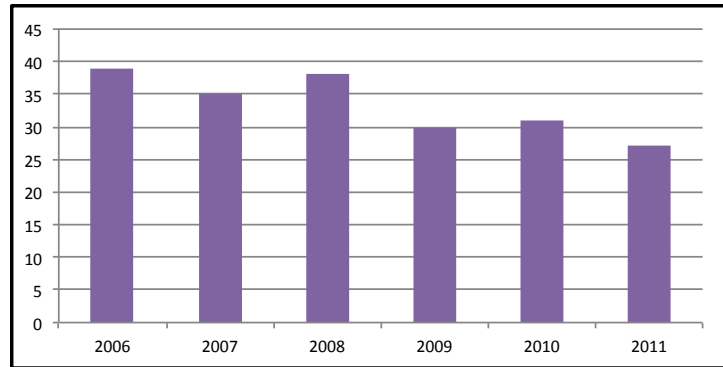
The District reported that it experienced peak call volume during summer months. Vehicle accidents in winter also constitute a large percentage of calls for LVCSO. Calls for medical emergencies are consistently high in volume throughout the year, similar to other fire districts in the region.

¹⁰⁴ Government Code §26909.

The District reported that it had observed no change in service demand in the last few years with an average number of annual calls fluctuating between 30 and 40. According to LVCSO, the number of residents has been fairly constant, consisting of an aging population, which can result in an increase in demand for medical emergency services.

Figure 8-3: Long Valley CSD Number of Calls by Year, 2006-2011

As shown in Figure 8-3, the number of calls slightly decreased from 2006 to 2011.



Projected Growth and Development

LVCSO anticipates no growth in service demand within the District in the next few years. However, no formal population or demand projections have been conducted by LVCSO. Reportedly, no new developments are planned within the district boundary area and SOI. The District also reported that the County had not been notifying LVCSO about any new or prospective developments.

LVCSO reported that it had sufficient capacity to serve current and future demand; however, serving possible future growth may be challenging if more volunteers are not recruited. In addition, in the absence of any grants, the District will face the problem of outdated and inoperable equipment.

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The State Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Plumas County will grow by four percent from 2010 to 2020. Thus, the average annual population growth in the County is anticipated to be approximately 0.4 percent. Based on these projections, the District's population would increase from 216 in 2010 to approximately 225 in 2020. It is anticipated that demand for service within the District will increase minimally based on the DOF population growth projections through 2020.

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 the County.

The County enforces the codes that it has enforcement power over, which does not encompass all State fire codes. The County ensures that new construction meets the requirements of the latest adopted edition of the California Building Standards. The County enforces the County codes that have been adopted in lieu of the California Fire Safe regulations. The County does not have authority to enforce PRC 4291, which requires defensible space around structures; however, the County does have some enforcement authority over vegetation removal around buildings that was adopted prior to PRC 4291. In addition, the Board of Supervisors, through the adoption of the General Plan and county codes, regulates development standards to be followed in processing subdivisions, including fire protection.

The proposals for new developments are sent for review to the appropriate fire provider, if a development is within district's boundaries. The County reported that as SOI maps have not been digitized, it has been challenging to ensure that proposals go to the appropriate district if a proposed development was within that district's SOI but outside its boundaries. The County and Plumas LAFCo are working on a process to ensure that all appropriate districts are contacted for review of proposed developments.

The County has several policies in the existing general plan, which impacts the fire providers of new developments.

- 1) Turnouts are now required in every new development.¹⁰⁵
- 2) The County encourages development to be located adjacent to or within areas where fire services already exist or can be efficiently provided.¹⁰⁶
- 3) The County requires new developments within areas not currently served by a fire provider to be annexed into an existing fire district or create a funding mechanism, such as a CSD, to cover the costs of fire service provision.¹⁰⁷
- 4) Sustainable timber and biomass production and harvesting as well as intensive forest management practices are encouraged to reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfires.¹⁰⁸
- 5) There is a minimum requirement of two roadway access points, which are maintained on a year-round basis by the County or the State.¹⁰⁹
- 6) Minimum public and private road standards: roads providing access to two or more lots have to conform to a two-lane standard of no less than 16-foot traveled way.¹¹⁰
- 7) Bridges are required to be designed for an 80,000 pound vehicle load.¹¹¹
- 8) All access roads must be marked with an approved sign; and all lots must be identified by an address.¹¹²
- 9) All developments within boundaries of a structural fire service provider may be required to contribute to the maintenance of the structural service proportionate to the increase in demand for fire service resulting from the development.¹¹³
- 10) As a condition of development it is required to provide long-term maintenance of private roads to the standards of original improvements, including roadside vegetation management.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁵ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.604 (k).

¹⁰⁶ Plumas County, *General Plan*, 1984, pp. 28 & 29.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*,

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.*

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

11)The County encourages biomass thinning programs in high fire risk areas.¹¹⁵

The County is in the final stages of updating its general plan. The suggested new policies in the General Plan update that would impact fire service providers, but had not yet been adopted as of the drafting of this report, include:

12)The County shall review and update its Fire Safe ordinance to attain and maintain defensible space though conditioning of tentative maps and in new development at the final map or building permit stage.

13)The County will consult Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps during the review of all projects. The County will work with fire protection agencies to develop community fire plans and require appropriate building setbacks and fuel modification requirements within fire hazard zones.

14)In order for the new development to be approved, the County must conclude that adequate emergency water flow, fire access and firefighters and equipment are available.

15)New developments have to show that they have adequate access for emergency vehicles to access the site and for private vehicles to evacuate the area.

16)New developments within high and very high fire hazard areas are required to designate fuel break zones that comply with fire safe requirements.

17)The County will work with Forest Service and fire districts in developing fire prevention programs, identifying opportunities for fuel breaks in zones of high and very high fire hazard and educating public.

18)Fire, law enforcement, EMS, resource management, and public health response partners are encouraged to conduct joint training exercises.¹¹⁶

The County has not adopted the new standards for development yet. The revised General Plan may be adopted in 2013. County zoning code will then go through a revision process in order for the zoning code to implement the General Plan.

Not all private property in Plumas County is located within a local structural fire protection district. This issue has been well-documented in Board of Supervisor reports and correspondence, newspaper articles, and former Grand Jury reports. Identifying and reducing the number of such parcels has been the task of local fire districts, county staff, the feasibility study group and volunteer groups who collectively have spent countless hours quantifying the problem, educating the public, and encouraging solutions.

Over the past few years, these efforts have been very successful. A summary of the activities and their impacts are listed to help solve this important problem:

- ❖ Updated General Plan Policies: The updated General Plan will require fire protection for any new development, preventing the number of parcels outside a fire district from increasing and encouraging annexations.

¹¹⁴ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.601.

¹¹⁵ Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 4 Section 4-2.101.

¹¹⁶ Plumas County General Plan, Draft Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures, 2010.

- ❖ **Building Permit Review:** Applications for new construction are reviewed by County staff to determine if the property is outside a district. Permit applicants are provided a resources and a handout on what it means to be outside a district.
- ❖ **GIS Website Update:** The Planning Department's GIS data on fire district boundaries is now available on the County's website, making it easy for fire districts and the public to determine whether a parcel is within a district.
- ❖ **District Sphere of Influence Updates:** The Local Agency Formation Commission continues work on updating fire districts' spheres of influence. These spheres indicate areas of likely district growth and serve as a blue print for possible future district annexations.
- ❖ **Fire Protection Communication Plan:** Completed in August 2012, the Fire Protection Communication Plan is a comprehensive tool to guide fire districts through the process of educating the public and gaining support for service agreements or annexations.
- ❖ **Close-of-Escrow Notification on Fire District Status:** As directed at the October 2, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting, County staff is investigating options for escrow notification of property buyers regarding fire district status.
- ❖ **Firewise and Fire Safe Communities Development:** The Plumas County Fire Prevention Specialist continues working throughout the County to encourage firewise and fire safe activities to reduce the risk and consequences from wildfire.

With regard to possible governance structure alternatives, the District reported that it had considered annexing the Two Rivers Soccer Camp located southeast of the District along SR 70, but gave up on the idea, because with no improvements to the condition of the road to the camp, it would be impossible to bring equipment to the area. The LVCSO Board is also interested in discussing consolidation options; however, believes that given its financial constraints, that consolidation options may be limited.

Financing

The District reported that current financing levels were adequate for operations but not for capital improvements. LVCSO reported that equipment would need to be replaced in the near future and would have to be solely financed through grants. A majority of the District's current equipment is new and was financed through grants.

To improve its current financing level, the District is looking into billing for out-of-district calls and non-resident calls. This new source of funding is expected to aid operational costs but not cover capital improvement needs.

The County keeps accounts for the District's finances and tracks revenues and expenditures. The District's total revenue for FY 11-12 was \$19,679. Sources of revenue included special tax income (94 percent), property tax income (one percent) interest income (one percent), and other revenues and donations (four percent).

The District's principal source of funds is derived from a special tax, which consists of \$50 per year on each parcel less than 10 acres without a residential dwelling, \$60 on each parcel 10 acres or greater without a residential dwelling, \$85 per year for each parcel with

a residential dwelling and \$35 for each additional residential dwelling. The District charges \$0.06 per square foot on structures or buildings over 100 square feet used in a business or trade, and \$1.50 per trailer space for RV parks. The voters approved an increase to the special tax in 2005.

LVCSD's expenditures in FY 11-12 amounted to \$14,170, which was spent on employee benefits (21 percent) and services and supplies (79 percent).

The District does not perform any capital improvement planning, as it currently does not have enough funding for capital improvements. LVCSD has identified a need for replacement of one 1983 engine. There are currently no funds to finance the replacement; the District is looking into acquiring a grant for this capital purchase. The replacement cost could range from \$25,000 (used) to \$280,000 (new).

LVCSD has a management practice of maintaining an unrestricted fund balance for contingencies. At the end of FY 11-12, the fund balance was \$52,260.

The District does not have any long-term debt.

The District does not participate in any joint financing arrangements under joint powers agreements (JPAs).

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Service Overview

LVCSD provides wildland and structural fire suppression, responds to vehicle fires and medical emergencies, provides basic life support (BLS), and offers fire prevention in the form of outreach through newsletters and informal on-site inspections.

LVCSD provides contract services to USFS for wildland fire suppression. The District is reimbursed for time over four hours of being on the scene.

The District receives contract services from other agencies. LVCSD contracts with All Star Fire, a company in East Bay, for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) maintenance services. Checks are performed every other year for a flat fee of \$1,600 per inspection. LN Curtis Technicians are hired to perform annual inspections on the air compressor, which costs \$700 to \$800 per inspection. Bookkeeping and accounting are provided by a district volunteer.

Collaboration

LVCSD is in the process of setting up an automatic aid agreement with Greenhorn Creek CSD, according to which both fire departments will be dispatched simultaneously to the same incidents. The District has mutual aid agreements with Quincy FPD, Plumas Eureka CSD and Graeagle FPD. In addition, the District participates in the Training Master Plan through the Plumas Fire Chiefs Association.

Dispatch and Communications

The County Sheriff is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); consequently, most landline emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are directed to the Sheriff. Most cell phone emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are answered by the Sheriff's Office; however, some are

answered by CHP and redirected to the Sheriff. The Sheriff provides dispatching for most fire providers in the County except for the ones in northern part of the County, which are served by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center. The Forest Service has its own dispatch. The sheriff dispatch center has a first responder map, which it uses to identify what provider to dispatch to an incident. All territory within the County has a determined first responder; although, many areas lie outside the LAFCo-approved boundary of the districts and lack an officially designated fire provider.

The District reported that to comply with Federal Communications Commission requirements the radio frequency in the County was split in half, which caused problems in signal transmission and limited coverage.

Staffing

LVCSD has 11 sworn personnel—three captains, seven firefighters and one fire chief. None of the staff is paid. The median age of the firefighters is 56, with a range from 28 to 73.

The District reports that its staffing levels have not changed significantly in the last few years. LVCSD tries to recruit more volunteers through recruitment posters, notices at the post office, mailings, and word of mouth. In addition, the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association is working to assist fire departments in the County in their recruitment efforts.

Currently, there are three certifications in the California firefighter series; Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II. While the Volunteer Firefighter focuses on skills and tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, Firefighter I & II prepares the fire fighter to perform essential and advanced fireground tasks as well as allowing entry into all tracks of the certification system. According to the California State Fire Marshal, all paid, volunteer and call firefighters must acquire Firefighter I certification; however, there is no time limit as to how long they may work before attaining certification. Firefighter I certification requires completion of the 259-hour Firefighter I course, which includes training on various fireground tasks, rescue operations, fire prevention and investigation techniques, and inspection and maintenance of equipment. In addition to this course, Firefighter I certification also requires that the applicant have a minimum of six months of volunteer or call experience in a California fire department as a firefighter performing suppression duties.¹¹⁷ LVCSD has five Firefighter I and two EMT I certified personnel.

The District provides training for its volunteers. Regular training sessions take place on two nights of each month for a minimum of three hours each time. New firefighters must attend a firefighter academy organized by Quincy FPD and additional joint trainings with USFS. The District reported that the primary challenge to attaining State-mandated training levels for volunteers was the distance firefighters had to travel for their training courses, which consequently resulted in higher cost.

¹¹⁷ State Fire Marshal, Course Information and Required Materials, 2007, p. 44

Facilities and Capacity

LVCSD operates one fire station located at 58880 SR 70 in Cromberg. The station was constructed in the late 1970s and was reported to be in excellent condition. The station is not staffed. Housed at the LVCSD station are an old water tender (1981-1,600 gallons of water), a 1983 fire engine, a 2006 international diesel water tender (2,500 gallons), and two wildland engines. The station is used to store equipment and vehicles; it also contains a small kitchen, restrooms and a shower. LVCSD makes its station available to USFS in during emergencies.

The District's water reserves are represented by a 10,000-gallon tank kept at the fire station. LVCSD also has access to a swimming pool at the local motel and a pond.

Currently, the District has sufficient capacity to provide adequate services within its service area; however, future growth may present a problem, if LVCSD does not recruit additional personnel.

Infrastructure Needs

The District reported that it neither needed to upgrade nor replace its existing fire station as renovations and an addition have been recently done at the facility. The 1983 fire engine is in need of replacement. There is no current need for additional facilities or vehicles.

Challenges

The District's main challenge is a lack of funding for needed capital purchases. In addition, LVCSD identified multiple areas within its service area with limited access, including narrow roads and poorly maintained streets. Difficult to serve areas include the Cromberg community north of SR 70 and the Two Rivers Soccer Camp. The camp is located in the District's service area and is difficult to access. The owner of the camp has failed to maintain the roads and apply for the area to be added a fire district.

Service Adequacy

While there are several benchmarks that may define the level of fire service provided by an agency, indicators of service adequacy discussed here include ISO ratings, response times, and level of staffing and station resources for the service area.

Fire services in the communities are classified by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization. This classification indicates the general adequacy of coverage, with classes ranking from 1 to 10. Communities with the best fire department facilities, systems for water distribution, fire alarms and communications, and equipment and personnel receive a rating of 1. LVCSD has an ISO rating of 9. The District was last evaluated in 2012.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a performance standard for volunteer and combination fire departments (NFPA 1720). This standard, among other guidelines, identifies target response time performance for structure fires. The response time is measured from the completion of the dispatch notification to the arrival time of the first-responder at the scene. Though not a legal mandate, NFPA 1720 does provide a useful

benchmark against which to measure fire department performance. NFPA 1720 recommends that the response times for structure fire be nine minutes in urban demand zones at least 90 percent of the time, 10 minutes in suburban zones at least 80 percent of the time and 14 minutes in rural zones at least 80 percent of the time. Response times in remote zones are directly dependent on travel distances.¹¹⁸ LVCS D falls under the definition of a rural demand zone.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area: the more urban an area, the faster a response has to be. The California EMS Agency established the following response time guidelines: five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wildland areas. The District's response zones include rural and wilderness classifications. The District tracks its response times for each incident. LVCS D provided a sample of service calls and response times for calendar year 2012. Based on the provided sample, the District's median response time was six minutes and 90th percentile response time was 14 minutes.

The service area size¹¹⁹ for each fire station varies between fire districts. The median fire station in Plumas County serves approximately eight square miles. A station in La Porte FPD services the most expansive area of 151 square miles. Densely populated areas tend to have smaller service areas. For example, the average service area for Quincy FPD's fire station is six square miles. By comparison, each fire station in LVCS D serves approximately 6.9 square miles.

The number of firefighters serving within a particular jurisdiction is another indicator of level of service; however, it is approximate. The providers' call firefighters may have differing availability and reliability. A district with more firefighters could have fewer resources if scheduling availability is restricted. Staffing levels in Plumas County vary from nine call firefighters per 1,000 residents in Quincy FPD service area to 231 in La Porte FPD. By comparison, LVCS D has approximately 51 firefighters per 1,000 residents.

¹¹⁸ Urban demand zone has population density of more than 1,000 people per square mile; suburban zone—between 500 and 1,000 people per square mile, rural zone—less than 500 people per square mile, and remote zone is identified by eight or more miles of travel distance to an incident.

¹¹⁹ Service area refers to the area that the agency will respond to, based on a first responder map used by the Sherriff's office.

Figure 8-4: Long Valley CSD Service Profile

Fire Service					
Facilities					
Firestation	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Vehicles	
LVCSD Station	58880 SR70, Cromberg, CA 96103	Excellent	Unstaffed	Old water tender, 1983 fire engine, 2006 international diesel water tender, 2 wildland engines	
Facility Sharing					
Current Practices: LVCSD informally makes its station available to USFS in case of emergencies.					
Future opportunities: The District did not report any future opportunities to share facilities with other entities.					
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies					
The District reported a need to replace its 1983 fire engine. No other facility or vehicle needs were identified.					
District Resource Statistics		Service Configuration		Service Demand	
Staffing Base Year	2012	Configuration Base Year	2012	Statistical Base Year	2011
Fire Stations in District	1	Fire Suppression	Direct	Total Service Calls	34
Stations Serving District	1	EMS	Direct	% EMS	59%
Sq. Miles Served per Station ¹	6.9	Ambulance Transport	EPHD, PHD	% Fire/Hazardous Materials	15%
Total Staff ²	11	Hazardous Materials	County	% False	0%
Total Full-time Firefighters	0	Air Rescue/Ambulance Helicopter	CareFlight	% Misc. emergency	18%
Total Call Firefighters	11	Fire Suppression Helicopter	USFS	% Non-emergency	9%
Total Sworn Staff per Station ³	11	Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	0%
Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	51	Fire/EMS Dispatch	Sheriff	Calls per 1,000 people	157
Service Adequacy			Service Challenges		
Response Time Base Year	2012	The District lacks funding for capital improvements. LVCSD also reported that there are areas in its service area which are hard to serve: Two Rivers Soccer Camp and area north of SR70			
Median Response Time (min)	6	Training			
90th Percentile Response Time (min)	14	Training takes place on two nights of the month for at least 3 hours each time. New firefighters must attend the Quincy FPD fire academy and participate in joint trainings with USFS.			
ISO Rating	9 (2012)				
Mutual & Automatic Aid Agreements					
LVCSD is in the process of setting up an automatic aid agreement with Greenhorn Creek CSD according to which both fire departments will be dispatched to same incidents. The District has mutual aid agreements with Quincy FPD, Plumas Eureka CSD and Graeagle FPD.					
Notes: 1) Primary service area (square miles) per station. 2) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel. 3) Based on ratio of sworn full-time and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.					

RECREATION SERVICES

Service Overview

LVCSO provides limited recreation services in the form of an insurance policy for a town hall building. The building is owned by LVCSO and located on land that belongs to a neighboring property owner. The town hall is managed by a small committee that provides regular updates to the LVCSO Board of Directors. The committee is not a part of LVCSO and provides updates as a courtesy to the District. Building maintenance and insurance costs are financed through fundraising. LVCSO uses the town hall for its regular Board of Directors meetings; the building is also used for various meetings of community groups and organizations, which are occasionally charged for the use of the premises. The facility, which is about 10 years old and consists of meeting space, kitchen and event space was reported to be in excellent condition. Approximately three to four years ago, the County administered improvements on the building financed by a rehab grant applied for and received by the town hall managing committee.

LONG VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DETERMINATIONS

Growth and Population Projections

- ❖ As of 2010, Long Valley Community Services District (LVCSO) had a population of 216.
- ❖ The District reported that it had observed little change in service demand in the last few years.
- ❖ LVCSO anticipates limited growth in service demand within the District in the next few years. No new developments are planned within the District's bounds and SOI.

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

- ❖ 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.

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

- ❖ Currently, the District's facilities appear to have sufficient capacity to provide adequate services to existing demand. Although, there is presently adequate facilities and equipment, outdated vehicles may present a problem in the future. Current response times meet California EMS Agency and NFPA standards for response to medical emergencies and structural fires, respectively.
- ❖ LVCSO reported that the District would only be able to finance future capital improvements through grants.
- ❖ Current infrastructure needs include the replacement of the 1983 fire engine. The fire station was reported to be in excellent condition.
- ❖ The District does not adopt a capital improvement plan (CIP), nor does it plan for capital improvements in other ways. All new equipment is funded through grants.
- ❖ LVCSO fire services appear to be adequate. The District has satisfactory response times based on industry standards. While the District's ISO is high compared to urban service providers, it is similar to other rural providers.

Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

- ❖ The District reported that current financing levels were adequate for operations but not for capital purchases. Although the District's equipment is fairly new, a majority

of it will need to be replaced in the near future. LVCSO has been successful at financing capital improvements through grants in the past.

- ❖ To improve its financing resources, the District is looking into billing for out-of-district calls and non-resident calls. This new source of funding is expected to aid operational costs but not cover capital improvement needs.
- ❖ The District does not have any long-term debt.
- ❖ LVCSO has a management practice of maintaining an unrestricted fund balance for contingencies. At the end of FY 11-12, the fund balance was \$52,260.

Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

- ❖ LVCSO is in the process of setting up an automatic aid agreement with Greenhorn Creek CSD, according to which both fire departments will be dispatched simultaneously to the same incidents.
- ❖ The District has mutual aid agreements with Quincy FPD, Plumas Eureka CSD and Graeagle FPD.
- ❖ LVCSO participates in the Training Master Plan through the Plumas Fire Chiefs Association.
- ❖ The LVCSO Board of Directors meets at and insures the town hall, which is used by other community organizations for meetings and events.
- ❖ The District makes its fire station available to USFS during emergencies.

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

- ❖ LVCSO demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCO. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with the document requests.
- ❖ LVCSO practices outreach efforts; however, the District lacks a website where district information is made available to the public. It is recommended that every public service provider have a website to keep constituents aware of the agency's activities.
- ❖ The District is interested in discussing various consolidation options, however, believes that given its financing constraints options may be limited.