

TRINITY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

December 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity County Library Meeting Room

351 Main Street, Weaverville

AGENDA

The Commission will hold a hybrid meeting which will allow public participation in person and online via Zoom video conference. Commissioners will attend in person in accordance with the Brown Act unless otherwise noticed or approved in accordance with AB 2449. Instructions for remote public participation are included below.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84393317666?pwd=eWR2TWg4bFc1MFhWVUNQazNSbUQxUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 9331 7666

Passcode: 740955

Call in: 1 (669) 900-6833

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A. Roll Call

2. **PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR (Potential Action)**

A. Approval of Minutes from the August 15, 2023 Commission Meeting

B. Approval of 2024 Commission Meeting Schedule

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

This portion of the meeting provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda, provided that the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff for reply in writing.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS (Potential Action) - None**

6. **BUSINESS (Potential Action)**

A. Preview of Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

i. Weaverville Fire Protection District – Draft Agency Profile

ii. Douglas City Community Services District – Draft Agency Profile

B. Expiring Commissioner Terms Update

7. **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE (Information Only)**

A. CALAFCO Conference (October 18-20) Report

B. CALAFCO Legislative Update (December 2023)

8. **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The next LAFCo meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity County Library Meeting Room in Weaverville.

The Commission may take action upon any item listed on the agenda. Unless otherwise noted, items may be taken up at any time during the meeting.

All persons are invited to provide public testimony and submit written comments to the Commission. All written materials received by staff before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission. If you wish to submit written material at the meeting, please supply 10 copies.

Accessibility

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible. If other accommodations are required to assist a person with a disability to participate in the meeting, please contact the Executive Officer or Commission Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Disclosure & Disqualification Requirements

Any person or group of persons acting in concert who directly or indirectly contribute \$1,000 or more in support of or in opposition to a change of organization or reorganization that has been submitted to Trinity LAFCo must comply with the disclosure requirements of the Political Reform Act of 1974 applicable to local initiative measures to be submitted to the electorate. These requirements contain provisions for making disclosures of contributions and expenditures at specified intervals; they may be reviewed at Government Code §§56700.1 and 81000 *et seq.* Additional information about the requirements pertaining to local initiative measures to be presented to the electorate can be obtained by calling the Fair Political Practices Commission at (916) 322-5660.

A LAFCo Commissioner must disqualify herself or himself from voting on an application involving an “entitlement for use” (such as an annexation or sphere amendment) if, within the last twelve months, the Commissioner has received \$250 or more in campaign contributions from the applicant, any financially interested person who actively supports or opposes the application, or an agent (such as an attorney, engineer, or planning consultant) representing the applicant or an interested party. The law (Government Code Section 84308) also requires any applicant or other participant in a LAFCo proceeding to disclose the contribution amount and name of the recipient Commissioner on the official record of the proceeding.

Late-Distributed Materials. Any material submitted to the Commission after this agenda is posted will be made available for public inspection as soon as possible on the LAFCo website trinitylafco.org.

Contact LAFCo Staff. For additional information please contact krystle@trinitylafco.org.

TRINITY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

August 15, 2023

Trinity County Library Meeting Room
351 Main Street, Weaverville

MINUTES

HYBRID In-Person and Virtual Teleconference

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of the proceedings and discussion associated with the business on the Commission's agenda; rather, what follows is a summary of the order of business and general nature of testimony, Commission deliberation, and action taken. Votes are shown in abbreviated format when unanimous (Ayes-Noes-Abstain).

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A. Roll Call

Chair Carpenter-Harris called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members present: Commissioners Anna Burke, Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Dan Frasier, Jake Grossman-Crist, Andrew Johnson, Joseph Kasper and Alternate Commissioner Todd Corbett.

Members absent: Commissioner Liam Gogan and Alternate Commissioner Ric Leutwyler.

Staff Present: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer (EO), Krystle Heaney, Clerk/Analyst

*Attended remotely for "just-cause" in accordance with AB2449.

2. **PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No presentations were given.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes from the June 20, 2023 Commission Meeting.

Commissioners noted that they reviewed the prior meeting minutes and had no comments or changes.

Motion to approve the consent calendar was presented by Commissioner Kasper, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and passed by 6-0-0 roll call vote.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

No public comment was provided.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. Post Mountain Public Utility District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided information on the Post Mountain PUD MSR/SOI Update and went over the changes made since the draft agency profile was presented in June. The District has recruited an additional board member and is now meeting regularly. However, based on the status of the District staff recommends adopting a provisional sphere with a number of steps that need to be taken by the District in order to improve governance, financial standing, and the provision of services. If the District is unable to make progress on these items within 12 months, then a zero sphere will be adopted for the District.

Commissioners held discussion including the potential benefits and drawbacks of adopting a provisional sphere and the possibility of dissolving the District. In the event that Hayfork FPD annexed the Post Mountain area their special assessment would be extended to the area which would help cover the additional expense of providing fire services to the area. However, these discussions are still a year or more away.

Chair Carpenter-Harris opened the public hearing and invited comments from those in attendance.

President of the Post Mountain PUD Board of Directors, Peter Dobo, addressed the Commission and

stated that the District is committed to improving and is not interested in reorganization at this time. He explained that their current assessment for road maintenance brings in approximately \$25,000 annually but current expenses exceed this amount. The District is unable to fix roads because there is not sufficient income to do so. He also indicated there is renewed community interest in supporting the District and accomplishing the list of improvements set forth by LAFCo. There is also currently no interest in electrification of the Post Mountain area with Trinity PUD as it would be costly and potentially create hazardous fire conditions with overhead powerlines.

The public hearing was closed and Commissioners held additional discussion on how much of the improvement list would need to be completed in one year in order to maintain the District. Staff clarified that it is ultimately a Commission decision based on the level of effort seen from the District and whether or not the Commission feels the District can continue to improve.

Commissioner Grossman-Crist left the meeting at 4:45pm prior to the vote due to technical issues.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-04 approving the Post Mountain PUD MSR/SOI Update and provisional SOI as presented by staff was presented by Commissioner Kasper, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and passed by 5-0-0 roll call vote.

6. **BUSINESS**

A. Expiring Commissioner Terms Update

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of expiring Commissioner terms. There is currently one vacancy for the Alternate Public Member that was published in the local newspaper. In an effort to future spread the word, staff created flyers that are to be posted around Weaverville.

B. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Year End Financial Report

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the Commissions financial standing for FY 2022-23. Under for revenues but also under for expenses. Only dipping into reserves about 3k. Auditors office does a good job of sending out invoices.

7. **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE (Information Only)**

A. CALAFCO Conference (October 18-20) and Voting Delegates

B. CALAFCO Board Recruitment

C. CALAFCO Legislative Update

EO Santsche provided a brief overview of CALAFCO. The annual conference is in October but Trinity LAFCo typically does not send a delegate. EO Santsche can act as voting delegate for the Commission if they so choose. There is also active recruitment going on for open CALAFCO Board of Director seats. The CALAFCO meetings typically move from location to location but they are also offering online options now. The Commission gave direction to EO Santsche to figure out how to designate her as voting delegate for CALAFCO.

Commissioners asked if its possible to get approval from the state to do remote meetings if there is a local emergency. EO Santsche stated that there is legislation in progress that may help with this which was included in the Commission's packet.

8. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kasper noted that they met with Chris Norden about establishing a Trinity County chapter of CSDA (California Special Districts Association) including the potential for virtual meetings. A CSDA chapter would allow for greater communication among districts in the county and across the state. They indicated that all are welcome to join and help get the chapter established.

Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding establishment of a local CSDA chapter including

potential fees and activities. Potential benefits include greater amounts of shared information and resources.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Carpenter-Harris noted a correction to the next meeting date, which will be held on October 17, 2023 [*subsequently cancelled*], and adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Colette Santsche
Executive Officer

Heidi Carpenter-Harris
Chair

DATE: _____

DATE: _____



AGENDA ITEM 3.B.

MEETING: December 19, 2023
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Approval of 2024 Commission Meeting Schedule

BACKGROUND

It has been Trinity LAFCo's policy to have Regularly Scheduled Commission Meetings on the third Tuesday of even calendar months beginning at 4:00 p.m. Each year the Commission adopts the meeting schedule for the calendar year.

DISCUSSION

This agenda item is to provide the opportunity for the Commission to formalize the following dates as Regular Scheduled Commission Meetings for 2024. Should there be a need for additional meetings, it may be scheduled as a Special Commission Meeting at a future date:

- February 20, 2024
- April 16, 2024
- June 18, 2024
- August 20, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- December 17, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission accept and approve the provided dates for regularly scheduled Commission meetings in 2024 or provide direction to staff with alternate dates.



AGENDA ITEM 6.A.

MEETING: December 19, 2023
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Preview of Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, LAFCos are required to prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) prior to or in conjunction with its mandate to review and update each local agency's sphere of influence (SOI) every five years or as needed. The legislative intent of the MSR is to inform the Commission as to the availability, capacity, and efficiency of local governmental services prior to making sphere of influence determinations. Municipal service reviews may also lead LAFCos to take other actions under their authority, such as forming, consolidating, or dissolving one or more local agencies in addition to any related sphere changes.

DISCUSSION:

This MSR evaluates fire services provided in the broader Weaverville region and includes four different agencies:

- Douglas City Community Services District (CSD)
- Junction City Fire Protection District (FPD)
- Lewiston Community Services District (CSD)
- Weaverville Fire Protection District (FPD)

Attached for the Commissions review are two of the four agency profiles including Douglas City CSD and Weaverville FPD. Staff have been able to work with district representatives to obtain information about the current provision of fire services such as staffing, calls for service, governance, finances, and other supporting information. Staff will continue to work with the districts and anticipates bringing forward the next two draft agency profiles in February 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission receive the staff report and provide direction as necessary.

Attachments:

- A – Weaverville FPD Draft Agency Profile
- B – Douglas City CSD Draft Agency Profile

6.0 WEAVERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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6.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Agency Overview

The Weaverville Fire Protection District (herein referred to as “Weaverville FPD” or “District”) provides fire protection services to the community of Weaverville, located in eastern Trinity County off of State Route 299. Weaverville is the most populated community in the County and offers the largest selection of grocery stores, restaurants, lodging opportunities, health facilities, and more. This community is also the Trinity County seat and is where numerous governmental offices are located, such as the County Courthouse.

Table 6-1: Weaverville FPD Contact Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Primary Contact(s) | Todd Corbett, Fire Chief Serena Brown, Admin Officer |
| E-mail Address | chief@wfdca.org wfdclerk@wfdca.org |
| Physical/Mailing Address | 125 Bremer Street / PO Box 447 |
| Phone Number | 530-623-6156 |
| Website | https://www.wfdca.org/district |

District Principal Act

The District's principal act is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (California Health and Safety Code §13800-13970). The principal act dates to 1921 and was comprehensively updated by the California Legislature in 1947, 1961 and most recently in 1987. It empowers FPDs to provide a moderate range of municipal service functions tied to fire services including fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material emergency response, ambulance, and other services related to life and property protection.

Weaverville FPD is currently authorized to provide fire protection, rescue, search and rescue, and public assistance. Other services authorized in the District's principal act but not identified in the formation resolution or by documented activation of powers are “latent,” meaning that the District could exercise these services in the future if LAFCo permitted the authorization, per Government Code §56824.10-14. At this time, the only latent power available for activation is the provision of ambulance services. The District currently has no interest in expanding its provided services to include this latent power.

Formation and Development

Historically, Weaverville has experienced numerous devastating fires which prompted the establishment of the community's first de facto fire department, a Hook and Ladder company, in 1860. In April 1898, a three-member board was appointed by the County Supervisors to act as Fire Commissioners and later in the month, the Weaverville Fire Protection District was formed in order to establish more formal fire protection in the area. The District did not serve as an organized firefighting department and instead, largely enacted fire safety regulations within the community.

In 1905, another disastrous fire hit the area, highlighting the need for an organized firefighting department to be established in the community. As a result, the Fire Commissioners purchased firefighting equipment including a hand pumper engine, hose carts, and fire hydrants in 1906. Later that year, a 40-member Weaverville Volunteer Fire Department (herein referred to as “Weaverville VFD” or “Department”) was established.

The two organizations, the Weaverville FPD and VFD, work together as one entity to provide fire protection services. The Weaverville FPD is the governing agency that determines Fire ordinances, enforces regulations, and oversees the functions and operations of the VFD. The Weaverville VFD, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, is able to engage in fundraising opportunities within the community and provide additional support for the volunteers. The FPD is limited in the type and amount of support it can directly offer volunteers due to being subject to additional regulations that the VFD is exempt from.

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

The District's boundary encompasses approximately 4,073 acres or 6.4 square miles (**Figure**). Within the District's boundary there are 1,887 parcels; a majority of the parcels are developed with residential uses or commercial facilities.

The nearest major roadways are State Route 3 and State Route 299 which run through Weaverville. As the most developed community in the County, the majority of the roads throughout the community are paved major access roads.

Currently, the District's adopted sphere of influence is larger than its jurisdictional boundary, indicating the need for services and potential annexation in the future. However, there are areas beyond the current sphere that are not within any local jurisdiction responsible for providing fire protection services.

Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in the Weaverville FPD are subject to the Trinity County General Plan (1988) and Zoning Regulations (Trinity County Code Title 17). The County is in the process of updating its General Plan, with an anticipated completion expected in August 2025. Upon completion and adoption of the Trinity County General Plan 2050, land use designations will be subject to this plan instead of the 1988 version. The Weaverville area is subject to the Weaverville Community Plan of 1997 (Plan), which serves to supplement the Trinity County General Plan.

The main core of the community consists of land use designations public facility, commercial, single family residential – high and low densities, multi-family residential – high and low densities, and industrial (**Figure**). Areas outside of this main core are largely designated as open space, rural residential, and community expansion. The District is bordered almost entirely by agricultural designated lands, with a small amount of open space and rural residential.

Figure 6-1: Weaverville FPD Boundary and SOI

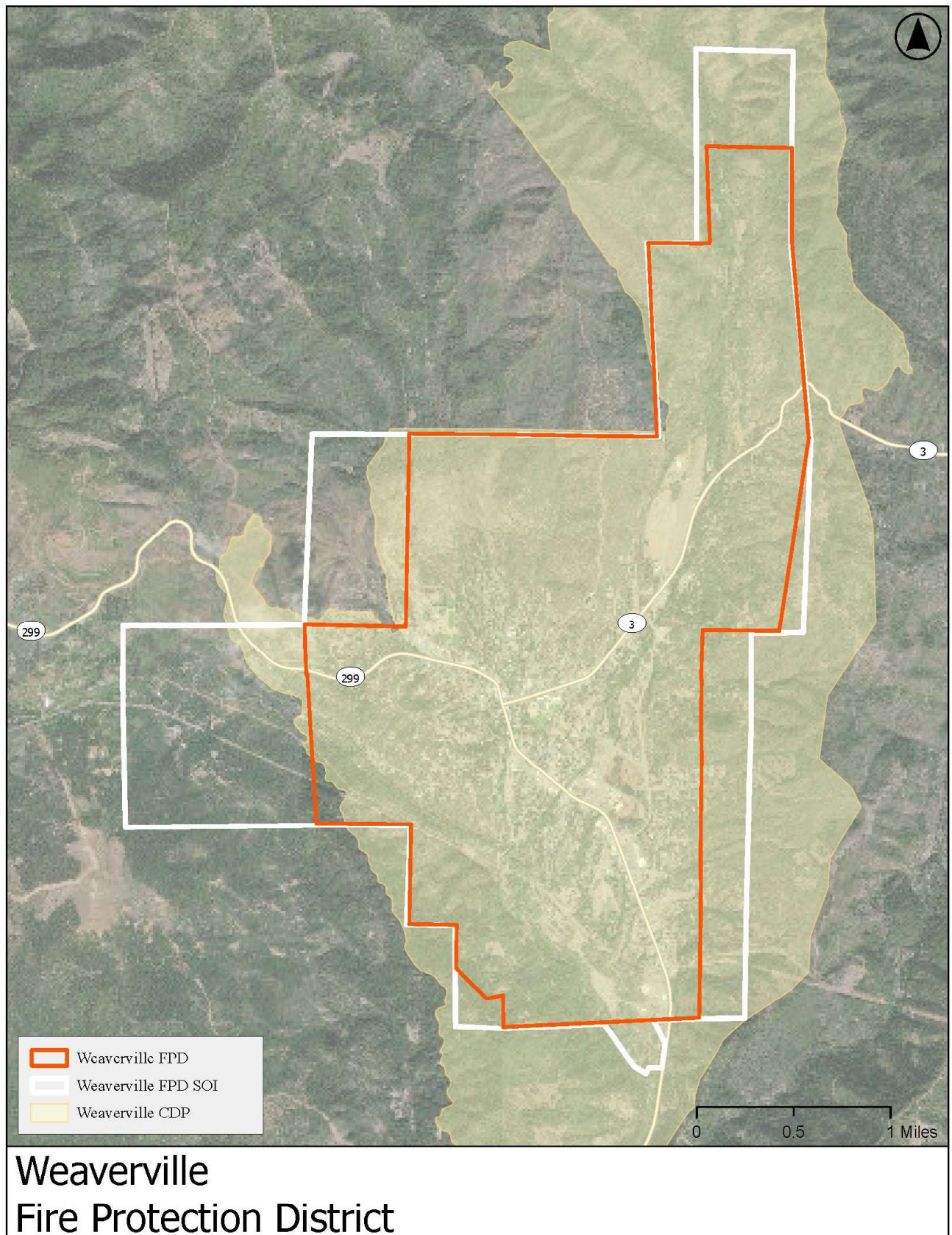
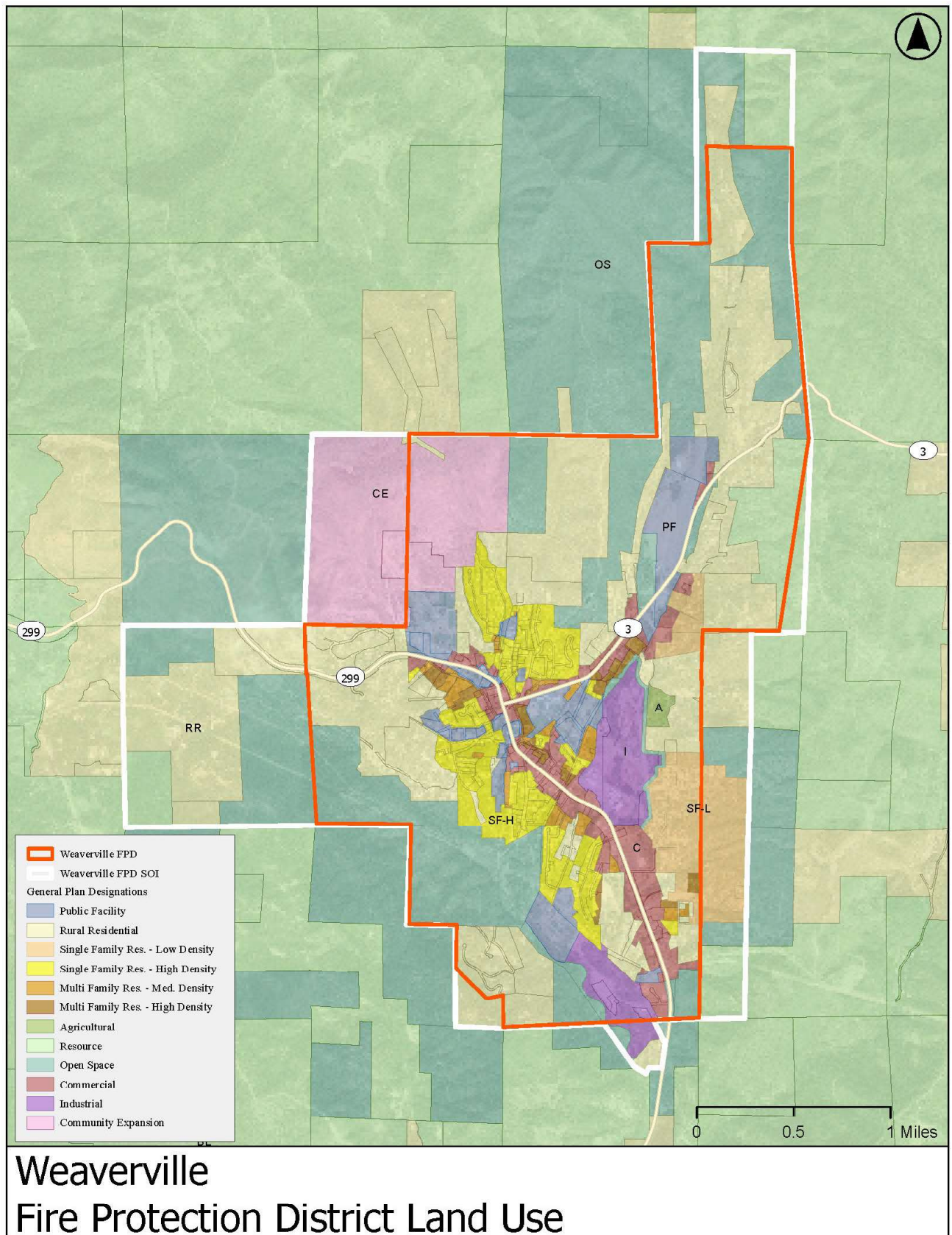


Figure 6-2: Weaverville FPD Land Uses



Growth and Population

The population of Weaverville FPD is approximately 3,667 according to the 2020 decennial Census data. American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic and Housing Estimates approximate the District's 2021 population to be 3,962. However, the ACS 5-Year data estimates have a large margin of error and are known to be less accurate than decennial Census data. Personal communication with the District also supports the population to be approximately 3,667; as such, this estimate is used for the purposes of this report.

Trinity County's population was estimated to be 16,112 as of the 2020 decennial Census. According to the California Department of Transportation (DOT), the County's population is expected to decline by 0.4 percent per year from 2021-2026.

Based on the estimated population and historical growth for the area, it is unlikely that the District will grow substantially over the next five to ten years. It is likely that the District's population will follow a similar trend to that of the County, declining by 0.4 percent each year.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

The 2021 estimated median household income (MHI) of the District is \$42,023¹ according to the ACS 5-Year Estimates, which is approximately 50 percent of the estimated 2021 California MHI of \$84,907. The County has an estimated MHI of \$42,206, which is approximately 50 percent of the State's MHI. Thus, both the County and the District qualify as disadvantaged.

6.2 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

Weaverville FPD is an independent special district served by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected to four-year staggered terms. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 125 Bremer Street (Fire Station #21) in Weaverville, CA.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act which requires agendas to be posted at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public. Board agendas and notices are posted at the bulletin board in Fire Station #21, the District's website, and in The Trinity Journal at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings.

Table 6-2: Board of Directors

| Board Member | Title | Term |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Rick Wetzel | Chairman | 12/4/2020 -12/6/2024 |
| Bill Fischer | Vice-Chairman | 12/4/2020 -12/6/2024 |
| Todd Watkins | Commissioner | 12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026 |
| Larry Helsley | Commissioner | 12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026 |
| George Owen | Commissioner | 12/4/2020 -12/6/2024 |

¹ Table S1903 Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2021.

Staffing

Weaverville FPD currently employs two full-time paid positions: a Fire Chief/Marshal and an Administrative Officer. The Fire Chief/Marshal currently conducts inspections of businesses, residences, sprinklers, life safety, and other compliance inspections; enforces the fire code; investigates fires to determine origin and cause; and oversees the functions and operations of the District.

Accountability and Transparency

SB929 was signed into law on September 14, 2018, requiring all independent special districts to have and maintain a website meeting all the special district transparency requirements of State law including the availability of agendas, policies, and financial information by January 1, 2020. Weaverville FPD does maintain a website (<https://www.wfdca.org/district>) and is in compliance with all of the requirements of SB929. The specific requirements of SB929 and the District's compliance status for each requirement are delineated below (**Table 6-3**).

Table 6-3: SB929 Website Posting Requirements

| Type of Requirement | Description of Requirement | Is the District in compliance? |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| District Contact Information | The bill does not state the specific contact information required. We recommend posting, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Physical address o Mailing address o Phone number o E-mail address | Yes |
| Most Recent Agenda | The most recent agenda must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting o Linked on the homepage of the website, navigating directly to the current agenda o Searchable, indexable, and platform-independent (simply put, post the agenda as a PDF) | Yes |
| Financial Transaction Report | The State Controller's report for the District's Financial Transaction report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website. | Yes |
| Staff Compensation Report | The State Controller's report for the District's Staff Compensation report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website. | Yes |
| Enterprise System Catalog | As required by SB272, the Enterprise System Catalog must be posted. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Current system vendor o Current System product o System's purpose o A description of categories or types of data o Department that is the prime data custodian o Frequency in which system data is collected and updated | Yes |

The District has contact information posted in a visible area of the website. Board meeting agenda packets and meeting minutes are posted in freely accessible locations for District residents in advance of the meeting in compliance with the Brown Act. The current agenda is posted on the homepage of the website, directly linking to a PDF copy of the agenda. Additionally, the website contains links to the State Controller's Financial Transaction Report website and the State Controller's Compensation Report website, where District financial

information can be found. The District also has the Enterprise System Catalog posted on the website. Although not a requirement of SB929, the District is encouraged to make the last three, or most recent, fiscal year budgets and the most recent audit available online to further increase transparency beyond what is required by State law.

6.3 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Service Overview

Weaverville FPD owns and maintains two fire stations that serve the greater Weaverville area: Fire Station #21, located at 125 Bremer Street, and Fire Station #2, located at 290 East Weaver Street. Both stations are in good condition and have undergone facility improvements in recent years.

Fire Station #21 has a full gym onsite and is available for use by volunteers. This station has received energy-efficient upgrades on LED lighting fixtures, five HVAC units, and new, insulated garage doors. Security cameras have been recently installed at this station. The District recently implemented a carcinogenic reduction program at Fire Station #21, which included the purchasing of a structure gear extractor and dryer and a standard clothing washer and dryer. Washing firefighting gear separate from normal clothing prevents normal clothing being contaminated with the carcinogens that are washed off of gear.

Fire Station #2 has recently undergone remodeling. Originally, Fire Station #2 was used to store reserve apparatuses but now has been restaffed with the responding apparatuses. The remodeling of this station consisted of renovating the living quarters to resemble a studio apartment with a kitchen; replacing the electric and plumbing infrastructure; and the building of a multi-purpose day recreation room.

Demand

Weaverville FPD receives an average of 500 calls per year. In 2022, the Department responded to 695 calls, an all-time record. The number of calls the Department has received each year has been steadily increasing since 2018 (**Table 6-4**). Overwhelmingly, Medical Public Assistance calls are the largest type of incident the Department responds to; from 2018-2022, these incidents made up between 59 percent and 64 percent of the total calls.

Table 6-4: Weaverville FPD Call Status Summary

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Structure Fire | 11 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 7 |
| Vehicle Fire | 7 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| Flue Fire | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Smoke Check | 36 | 52 | 44 | 38 | 37 |
| Vegetation Fire | 14 | 20 | 22 | 14 | 11 |
| Fire False Alarm | 28 | 27 | 37 | 46 | 48 |
| Fire Other | 4 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 10 |
| Medical Public Assistance | 316 | 362 | 329 | 382 | 445 |
| Medical Motor Vehicle Accident | 42 | 35 | 32 | 31 | 32 |
| Rescue Public Assistance | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Public Assistance False Alarm | 15 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Public Assistance Other | 27 | 50 | 52 | 71 | 84 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Fuel Spill HazMat | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Propane Leak HazMat | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| HazMat False Alarm | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| HazMat Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL CALLS | 510 | 581 | 555 | 644 | 695 |

Personnel

Weaverville FPD typically has approximately 26 volunteers on its roster. At the beginning of 2023, the Department had 27 volunteers. This is a decrease from the 2022 roster counting 30 volunteers. The Department has a core group of volunteers that respond to nearly all calls, with other volunteers supplementing this core group. The Department averages 2,300 volunteer hours per year. However, this average does not include the time spent on-scene for vehicle accidents, fire-related calls, or the numerous community events the volunteers participate in throughout the year.

Recruitment and Retention

Weaverville VFD hosts fundraising events such as their Fourth of July Barbeque Fundraiser, Open House, and Engine Demo; Mother's Day Rose Delivery Fundraiser; Firewood Raffle; Valentine's Day Rose Sale; and more throughout the year. The Department is always looking for new members and attempts to recruit volunteers through the following methods:

- Public Events – The VFD is active in the community and attends numerous public events throughout the year including local football games, elementary and high school events, the Historic Car Show, Fire Prevention Week, Halloween events, the Harvest Festival, and more. Typically, the Department provides life-safety standbys at events. This includes having staff members and necessary equipment located at and fully dedicated to the event, should services be required at any point. When services are not required, the VFD is able to increase the community's engagement with the Department and provide interested parties with recruitment opportunities, education on the Department's operations, and other information as needed.
- Social Media – The Department is very active on their Facebook page and in addition to providing the community with important information, promotes available volunteer opportunities. The VFD attended the Trinity County College and Career Expo in May 2023 and heavily promoted this event on their Facebook page by posting past and present VFD volunteers' first-hand accounts of their experiences volunteering with the Department. Additionally, the District has a small YouTube presence where interested parties can visually learn more about the VFD's operations,
- Newspaper Publications – Including the Trinity Journal and other publications.
- Mini-movie – The Trinity Theatre, a local movie theatre in Weaverville, offers advertising that plays prior to movies being shown. The VFD has created a mini-movie that is shown in this manner as a recruitment tactic. As the only movie theatre in Trinity County, this theatre is frequented by members of neighboring communities in addition to those residing in Weaverville. As such, this recruitment and advertising tactic has a widespread reach.
- Website – The VFD website has a section specifically pertaining to volunteering with the Department. There are easily accessible links to the volunteer brochure and membership application, which has options to apply for Explorer (aged 14-21), Regular (18+), or Support Services. The Explorer Program allows for youth to explore careers in the fire or

emergency services field. Support Services volunteers assist the volunteer firefighters before, during, and after, an incident through means of maintenance, public events, marketing, cooking, fundraising, recruitment and retention, and more components.

Training

Weaverville FPD volunteers participate in four trainings per month; each training is approximately two to three hours long for a total of eight to twelve training hours logged each month. Each year, the District averages approximately ___ training hours. The volunteers on the 2023 roster largely hold the training qualifications of Fire Responder (EMR), Wildland (CICCS), and Fire Fighter I or above (**Table 6-5**). Many of the volunteers are qualified in certain training subjects due to training experience, notably Hazmat First Responder Operations and Rope Rescue, but have not yet received official certification in the subject.

Table 6-5: Training Qualifications

| Training Qualification | # of Members Trained | # of Members Qualified |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Fire Fighter I or above | 13 | 17 |
| Wildland (CICCS) | 13 | 17 |
| First Responder (EMR) | 18 | 12 |
| EMT | 0 | 7 |
| Paramedic | 0 | 2 |
| HazMat First Responder Ops. | 3 | 27 |
| Rope Rescue | 10 | 20 |
| Swift Water Rescue | 10 | 11 |
| Fire Investigation | 1 | 1 |
| Fire Instruction | 2 | 2 |
| Driver/Operator | 5 | 17 |

Infrastructure and Facilities

For training, the District used to utilize the training tower located at Shasta College approximately 48.5 miles away from Fire Station #21. This location added an approximate two-hour round-trip commute on top of the two-to-three-hour monthly trainings, which is inconvenient and difficult to accommodate. The District has been looking into other training location options and recently constructed a new live fire training facility, funded entirely by community donations. Live fire training structures are a critical component to firefighter training, as they provide the ability to train with live fire in a controlled environment.

The land for the training facility was acquired during a land trade with the Bureau of Land Management over 40 years ago and is partly owned by the County due to its proximity to the County yard. The construction of the live fire training structure is a multi-phase project, with Phase I coming to completion in the coming months. At present, the facility consists of three large shipping containers which are placed in a configuration that resembles a residential structure. Phase 2 will incorporate additional shipping containers to create a second-story layout. Once Phase 2 is complete, likely in 2024, firefighters will be able to train with ladders, rappelling, and ventilation to practice civilian rescue and fire suppression from a second story.

Weaverville FPD currently has five fire trucks, one water tender, and four utility vehicles in service (**Table 6-6: Weaverville FPD Apparatus Information Table 6-6**). The District also has three legacy

vehicles, two of which are used in local parades, and the other which is located in the Richard C. Barrien Fire Museum in Weaverville.

Table 6-6: Weaverville FPD Apparatus Information

| Station | Station Address | Apparatus | Common Name | Year | Type | Pump (GPM) | Tank (Gal) |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------|------|------------|------------|
| Fire Station #21 | 125 Bremer Street | 2131 | International/BME | 1997 | 3 | 500 | 500 |
| | | | Freightliner/Pierce Pumper | 2005 | 1 | | |
| | | | HME Hi-Tech TCM | 1995 | 1 | | 600 |
| | | | Rescue Vehicle | 2009 | | | |
| | | B2103 | Utility Vehicle | 2015 | | | |
| | | | Ladder Truck | 1990 | | | |
| | | 2161 | Utility Vehicle | 2016 | | | |
| | | 2141 | Water Tender | 2016 | 6 | 500 | 2000 |
| | | C2101 | Utility Vehicle | 2019 | | | |
| | | 2132 | Wildland Model 34 | 2023 | 3 | | 500 |
| Fire Station #2 | 290 East Weaver Street | | American LaFrance Model 12 | 1917 | | 350 | 85 |
| | | | GMC Van Pelt Co., Inc | 1953 | | 1000 | 500 |

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest being 10.

As of 2022, the Weaverville FPD's rating is a 3/3Y. The Department has a "3" rating for properties located within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and a "3Y" rating for properties located within five road miles of a fire station but more than 1,000 feet away from a fire hydrant. As a part of the PPC survey, it was identified by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) that Fire Station #2 did not meet the minimum requirements for recognition. The community of Weaverville benefits from reduced insurance premiums as a result of the 3/3Y rating.

Challenges and Needs

One of the largest challenges the Department faces is the recruitment of volunteers. Recruitment of volunteer firefighters is typically very difficult in rural communities, and Weaverville is no exception. Despite the numerous recruitment tactics the Department employs, it is still a challenge to have a consistent volunteer roster each year. The Department has observed a steep decline in the number of people willing to become volunteers in recent years. While the Department does have a small group of dedicated volunteers, this group is becoming very burnt out and overworked due to the large commitment. The Department was originally set up as a volunteer firefighting department based on a call volume that was vastly smaller than that of today. As the Department's call volume increases, the workload and commitment

are becoming increasingly too much for a volunteer firefighter to handle. As such, the District is in critical need of additional paid staff. The District is very interested in exploring funding options that would allow for the Weaverville VFD to transition to a combination department with career staff, supplemented by volunteer or reserve staff.

The District is experiencing an increase in inspections and code compliance visits due to an increase of businesses, new developments, and expanding this service to include the cannabis industry. At present, the Fire Chief is taking on the job duties of Fire Marshal as well as those associated with being Chief. He is responsible for facilitating these compliance visits, which takes up a large amount of his workload. The hiring of an additional paid staff member would cover these job duties of conducting yearly testing; ensuring code compliance of buildings, schools, residences, and other facilities; conducting other inspections; and more. This would allow for the Fire Chief to be less burdened with responsibilities, allowing him to focus more on Chief-related tasks such as managing the operations of the District. Paid firefighters, such as a Captain/Firefighter or Captain/Engineer, would also be beneficial for the District. These positions would provide daytime fire coverage and complete tasks around the station including general maintenance, testing, inspections, and other tasks.

Accomplishments and Successes

The District has had numerous notable accomplishments in recent years. One of the largest successes of the District is the completion of improvements to Fire Station #21 and #2. These improvements are detailed in the *Infrastructure and Facilities* section of this document.

In 2023, the District was able to purchase a new Type III Wildland Engine, which cost over \$500,000. Community donations and support from the Trinity River Lumber Mill and Schmidbauer Family Trust provided much needed funding to support this purchase. Wildland fire is the largest vulnerability for the District, highlighting the need to increase wildland firefighting capabilities through the acquisition of wildland infrastructure. This 2023 BME Wildland Model 34 engine will respond to wildland fires and structure protection in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

Additionally, the District has implemented programs to improve firefighters' health and wellness. These programs include the carcinogenic reduction program, described above, and physical and mental health support. While the District has a full gym available at Fire Station #21, the District also offers programs that finance the cost of other gyms' memberships so that volunteers may work-out at other facilities. The District also provides the funding for volunteers to see a therapist, with transportation provided. Volunteers may opt to see a therapist at any time and for any reason with District support. If volunteers are injured while engaging in Department activities that prevent them from working their normal day job, the District offers an income replacement insurance plan.

Goals

In the near future, the District has three main goals. In 2024, the District is aiming to complete Phase 2 of the live fire training facility as described above. As soon as funding allows, the District has two apparatuses they'd like to purchase: A Type VI Wildland Engine and a new Type I Structure Engine.

A Type VI wildland engine is smaller and lighter than other wildland engines, such as the new Type III wildland engine purchased in early 2023. The smaller size of the Type VI engine will be beneficial for maneuvering narrow driveways and bridges with weight limits. This engine is a pickup truck with firefighting capabilities and does not require a special license for operation, making it easily operable by the volunteers.

The Trinity County Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) amend Section 17.18.060 of the Trinity County Code to change the height limit of the Multiple Family District (R-3) zone throughout the County from 25 feet to 45 feet. At the November 7th, 2023, BOS meeting, the BOS approved the ordinance to allow the height limit change exclusively within the Weaverville Fire District boundaries, as opposed to the entire County. The Weaverville FPD is the only fire protection service provider in the County that has a ladder truck that can reach the new 45 feet height limit. The District's current structure engines are aging, with 1991 and 2004 models. As such, the District is looking to invest in a taller ladder truck to ensure that fire suppression services can be provided as taller buildings are built in Weaverville. This taller ladder truck would be a new Type I Structure Engine.

Shared Services

Weaverville FPD is available for mutual aid upon request and is frequently called to aid. The District has automatic aid agreements with Douglas City CSD and Lewiston CSD to respond on 1st alarm to all structure fire calls. At this time, there is no automatic aid agreement between Junction City FPD and Weaverville FPD. Historically, the District has given more mutual aid than they have received (**Table 6-7**). The District has provided mutual aid response to every community in the County besides Kettenpom/Zenia.

Table 6-7: Mutual Aid Statistics 2018-2022

| | Mutual Aid Given | Mutual Aid Received |
|------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2018 | 7 | 1 |
| 2019 | 12 | 4 |
| 2020 | 14 | 1 |
| 2021 | 14 | 2 |
| 2022 | 25 | 0 |

The District and CAL FIRE enact annual agreements for cooperative wildland fire management activities. As part of these agreements, both entities engage in mutual aid on District lands that are intermingled or adjacent to CAL FIRE managed lands. Additionally, the District receives seasonal reimbursements for in-unit wildland fire assignments (via assistance by hire and equipment rental). Weaverville FPD typically provides staff resources and supplies a water tender and one or more engines.

Other Service Providers

Water

The Weaverville Community Services District (WCSD), the largest water service provider in the County, provides water services to Weaverville although some households may rely on individual water wells as their water source. The WCSD primarily sources its water from surface water including East and West Weaver Creeks, Trinity River, wells, and springs. The service area is approximately 8,350 acres or 13 square miles and the WCSD serves approximately 3,554 customers.

Wastewater

The Weaverville Sanitary District provides wastewater services within Weaverville. The Weaverville SD is responsible for the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of the community's wastewater. Existing facilities consist of collection and transmission lines including 50 miles of pipeline, one lift station, and a treatment plant located at 630 Mountain View Street.

The SD serves approximately 1,300 service connections and there is no anticipated expansion of wastewater services.

Solid Waste Disposal

The Weaverville Transfer Station is located at 173 Tom Bell Road and provides solid waste disposal services for Weaverville and nearby communities.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD) manages and distributes power throughout most of Trinity County. TPUD purchases its power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) pursuant to a first preference right to power produced by the Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project². TPUD does not operate any generation assets but instead provides sub-transmission and electricity distribution to approximately 12,000 customers in a 2,200 square mile area in Trinity County. There are nine substations which are both owned and operated by both WAPA (five served from this transmission system) and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) (four served from this transmission system). Trinity County has eight hydroelectric facilities that are either operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or privately owned. These facilities are part of California's Central Valley Project and generate hydroelectric power. Energy produced by these facilities is managed by WAPA and transmitted to customers by TPUD.

PG&E is the only designated natural gas provider in the County. However, despite this designation, PG&E does not offer natural gas service to most areas within the County, leaving residents to rely on propane for natural gas needs.

Telecommunications

Verizon, AT&T, and other major service providers provide wireless telephone and broadband internet services to Weaverville. Wired telephone and cable internet service is offered by Velocity Communications. Velocity Communications offers services to over 700 square miles across Trinity, Shasta, and Humboldt Counties, including the Trinity County communities of Hayfork, Trinity Center, Lewiston, Junction City, Douglas City, and Weaverville. Satellite internet service is provided by HughesNet, Space Exploration Technology's (SpaceX) Starlink, and Viasat.

Emergency Medical Services

Trinity Life Support Community Services District (TLSCSD) operates two ambulances, one stationed in Hayfork and one in Weaverville, with a 2,100 square mile response area. Annually, the TLSCSD receives an average of 1,500 calls. The TLSCSD provides training in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, and public safety first aid while also offering American Heart Association community and professional level courses.

TLSCSD was formed in 2021 after a successful special election, which included voter approval of a special tax at a flat rate of \$45 per year for each parcel developed with residential or commercial uses, which generates approximately \$258,000 per year. In June 2022, TLSCSD entered into a contract with Mountain Communities Healthcare District (MCHD) for administrative, professional, and technical staffing support. The managing support agreement allows TLSCSD to maintain all their real property assets including ambulances and collectible taxes, while MCHD provides all ambulance services staffing, including administrative support (HR, billing, finance, administration, and other resources) to provide better economies of scale and reimbursement through MCHD's Critical Access Hospital designation.

² Trinity River Division Act of 1955

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is provided by the Trinity County Sheriff's Office. The California Highway Patrol is responsible for traffic control for State Route 299 and State Route 3, both of which are in close proximity to the District.

Parks and Recreation

The Weaverville/Douglas City Parks and Recreation District (Parks and Recreation District) serves the areas of Weaverville and Douglas City. The Parks and Recreation District maintains Lee Fong Park and Lowden Park Pool, administers adult and youth programs, and maintains any clinics and camps associated with those programs. Programs and clinics include sports such as basketball, volleyball, flag football, and soccer and focus on developing fundamental skills. Lee Fong Park, located off of Main Street in Weaverville, offers a disc golf course, amphitheater, covered picnic and BBQ areas, fruit trees, views of the Trinity Alps, and private function rentals.

Resource Conservation

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a countywide agency that protects and manages the natural resources of Trinity County through the provision of technical assistance and the implementation of projects and programs. The TCRCD also engages in educational programs and works to increase education on conservation throughout the County. The TCRCD engages in numerous wildfire mitigation projects including the implementation of the Trinity County Wildfire Mitigation Project and a myriad of fuels reductions and defensible space projects. For over 20 years, the TCRCD has engaged in fuels reductions projects that have resulted in the thinning of thousands of acres throughout the County's forests. Additionally, the TCRCD is in close collaboration with the Trinity County Fire Safe Council (TCFSC) in the development of the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and the 2010, 2015, and 2020 updates to the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

6.4 FINANCING

Financial Overview

The Weaverville FPD Board of Directors is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. The District Board is responsible for adopting an annual budget. In addition, monthly financial reports are presented to the Board for review and approval. The basic financial statements of the District are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 13890-13906 requires a preliminary budget to be adopted on or before June 30 of each year and a final budget to be adopted on or before October 1 of each year. A copy of the final budget must be forwarded to the County Auditor-Controller (HSC 13895). Weaverville FPD complies with this requirement.

Revenues and Expenditures

Weaverville FPD is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as "ad valorem" taxes) and charges for services, including CAL Fire reimbursements. The main expenditures of the District are from funding reserve salaries, regular salaries, and equipment maintenance.

Table 6-8: Financial Data (FY 2021-22 through FY 2023-24)

| | FY 2021-22 | FY 2022-23 | FY 2023-24 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Property Tax | | | |
| Charges for Services | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Interest | | | |
| <i>Total Revenues</i> | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | \$433,310.80 | \$491,044.18 | \$498,239.01 |
| Services and Supplies | \$265,478.24 | \$265,703.00 | \$261,869.77 |
| <i>Total Expenditures</i> | \$698,789.04 | \$756,747.18 | \$760,108.78 |
| Net Gain/(Loss) | | | |

State Controller’s Office

The District has submitted overall revenues and expenditures to the State Controller’s Office consistently since 2003. According to the State Controller’s Office, the District had an overall revenue of \$804,119 and expenditures of \$688,919 in FY 2021-2022. This is a net gain of \$115,200. Over the past six fiscal years reviewed, the District has operated at a net gain for five of the years (Table 6-9).

Out of the years reviewed, the largest source of revenue for the District was from current secured and unsecured revenues with the exception of FY 2021-2022, where charges for current services were the majority revenue source. Expenses consisted of the following: services and supplies; employee benefits; salaries and wages; and principal payments on long-term debt. Either services and supplies or salaries and wages were the largest contributing factors to the overall expenditures.

Table 6-9: State Controller’s Office Summary

| | FY 2016-2017 | FY 2017-2018 | FY 2018-2019 | FY 2019-2020 | FY 2020-2021 | FY 2021-2022 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Revenues | \$357,919 | \$667,392 | \$646,105 | \$352,739 | \$537,878 | \$804,119 |
| Expenditures | \$293,243 | \$451,373 | \$518,321 | \$404,731 | \$466,856 | \$688,919 |
| Net Gain/(Loss) | \$64,676 | \$216,019 | \$127,784 | (\$51,992) | \$71,022 | \$115,200 |

Audits

The District prepares annual audits. The most current audit will be available in early 2024. This section will be updated once the audit report is received.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Weaverville FPD receives a percentage of ad valorem property taxes and relies on community donations, grants, and seasonal reimbursements from CAL FIRE (via strike team response, assistance by hire, or equipment rental) to fund services. The District does not have a special tax or assessment in place, which could be levied within the district boundary to effectively manage recurring costs, such as those associated with staffing, insurance, utilities, fuel, and equipment. In order to increase revenue to a sustainable level, the District could consider the following actions:

- Annex into the District any out of district service areas which receive goodwill services.
- Adopt an ordinance and fee schedule which charges out-of-district residents for services provided; especially for response to traffic accidents on Highway 299 or Highway 3.
- Pursue a special tax or assessment which would require approval from registered voters or property owners within the District boundaries.

3.0 DOUGLAS CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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3.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Agency Overview

The Douglas City Community Services District (herein referred to as “Douglas City CSD” or “District”) provides fire protection services to the rural communities of Douglas City, Steiner Flat, Steel Bridge, and adjacent rural residential areas, located in eastern Trinity County off of State Route 3 and State Route 299. Douglas City is nestled just north of the Trinity River and is a small commercial and residential center known for its access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Nearby populated communities include Hayfork (approximately 25 miles west of Douglas City), Weaverville (approximately 6 miles north of Douglas City), and Lewiston (approximately 11 miles east of Douglas City).

Table 3-1: Douglas City CSD Contact Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Primary Contact | Marty Mather, Fire Chief Lisa Harper, Secretary Amy Curry, Bookkeeper |
| E-mail Address | firechiefdcvfd@gmail.com |
| Physical/Mailing Address | 100 Steiner Flat Road PO Box 10 Douglas City, CA 96024 |
| Phone Number | 530-623-5110 |
| Website | N/A |

District Principal Act

The District's principal act is the Community Services District Law, Division 3 of Title 6 of the Government Code ([§61000-61250](#)) which authorizes CSDs to provide up to 32 types of governmental services within their boundaries. Douglas City CSD is currently authorized to provide fire protection services, rescue services, and hazardous material emergency response services in the same manner as a fire protection district, formed pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law, Part 2.7 (commencing with Section 13800) of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code. The District does not provide ambulance services.

Other services, facilities, functions, or powers enumerated in the District's principal act but not identified in the formation resolution or by documented activation of powers are “latent,” meaning that they are authorized by the principal act under which the District is formed but are not being exercised. Latent powers and services activation require LAFCo authorization as indicated in Government Code §56824.10-14.

Formation and Development

Douglas City CSD was formed as an independent special district on March 29, 1976, by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 25-76) after confirmation of voters on March 2, 1976. The District was organized under the Community Services District law for the purpose of providing fire protection services to the community. In 1985, a sphere of influence was established to be coterminous with the District's boundary (Resolution No. 85-11).

As identified in the Douglas City Community Plan (Plan) of 1987, the Poker Bar area located to the northeast of the District was the only concentrated residential area not served by the District. The Plan recommended that this area be annexed into the District. Subsequently, LAFCo

approved a sphere of influence amendment to include the Poker Bar/McIntyre Gulch area and the Blanchard Flat area (Resolution No. 87-06). On November 18, 1987, Trinity LAFCo approved the Poker Bar/McIntyre Gulch Annexation (Resolution No. 87-12) and the Blanchard Flat Annexation (Resolution No. 87-13).

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

Douglas City CSD's jurisdictional boundary encompasses approximately 14,095.5 acres or 22 square miles (based on GIS data). The boundary extends along State Route 299 from Little Browns Creek Road in the northern portion of the District to Old Poker Bar Creek Road in the eastern portion of the District, as well as south along State Route 3 to include the B-Bar-K Road and Deerlick Springs Road areas (**Figure 3-1**). The District boundary abuts Junction City FPD's boundary to the west and there are gaps between the District boundary and the Weaverville FPD to the north, Lewiston CSD to the east, and Hayfork FPD to the south. The majority of the areas between communities are undeveloped territory bisected by a State Highway where traffic collisions and medical calls are demanded. Rural residences along Lewiston Road between Douglas City CSD and Lewiston CSD are not within any local jurisdiction responsible for providing fire protection services. Douglas City Fire responds along 299 up to where Lewiston Road begins, whereas Lewiston Fire is typically the first to respond to calls in this area.

Currently, the District's adopted sphere of influence is mostly coterminous with its jurisdictional boundary apart from the Poker Bar/McIntyre Gulch area to the east and the Blanchard Flat area to the south, where the annexations of these areas in 1987 differed from the adopted sphere boundary. At present, the District's SOI is approximately 15,918 acres or 24.9 square miles. *[To be expanded once proposed SOI is confirmed].*

Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in Douglas City CSD are subject to the Trinity County General Plan (1988) and Zoning Regulations (Trinity County Code Title 17). The County is in the process of updating its General Plan, with anticipated completion in August 2025. Upon completion and adoption of the Trinity County General Plan 2050, land uses will be subject to this plan instead of the 1988 version. The Douglas City area is subject to the Douglas City Community Plan (1987), which serves to supplement the Trinity County General Plan.

Land use in the area served by the District is primarily resource, with moderately sized areas of agricultural and rural residential (**Figure 3-2**). The community core area of Douglas City – which includes the fire station, post office, elementary school, and other residential and commercial uses – has a land use designation of “village” that is applied to areas intended to contain a variety of land uses which serve the needs of the area. Several parcels east of Douglas City along State Route 299 are designated for commercial uses including the Indian Creek Mobile Home and RV Park and the Indian Creek Lodge.

Figure 3-1: Douglas City CSD Boundary and SOI

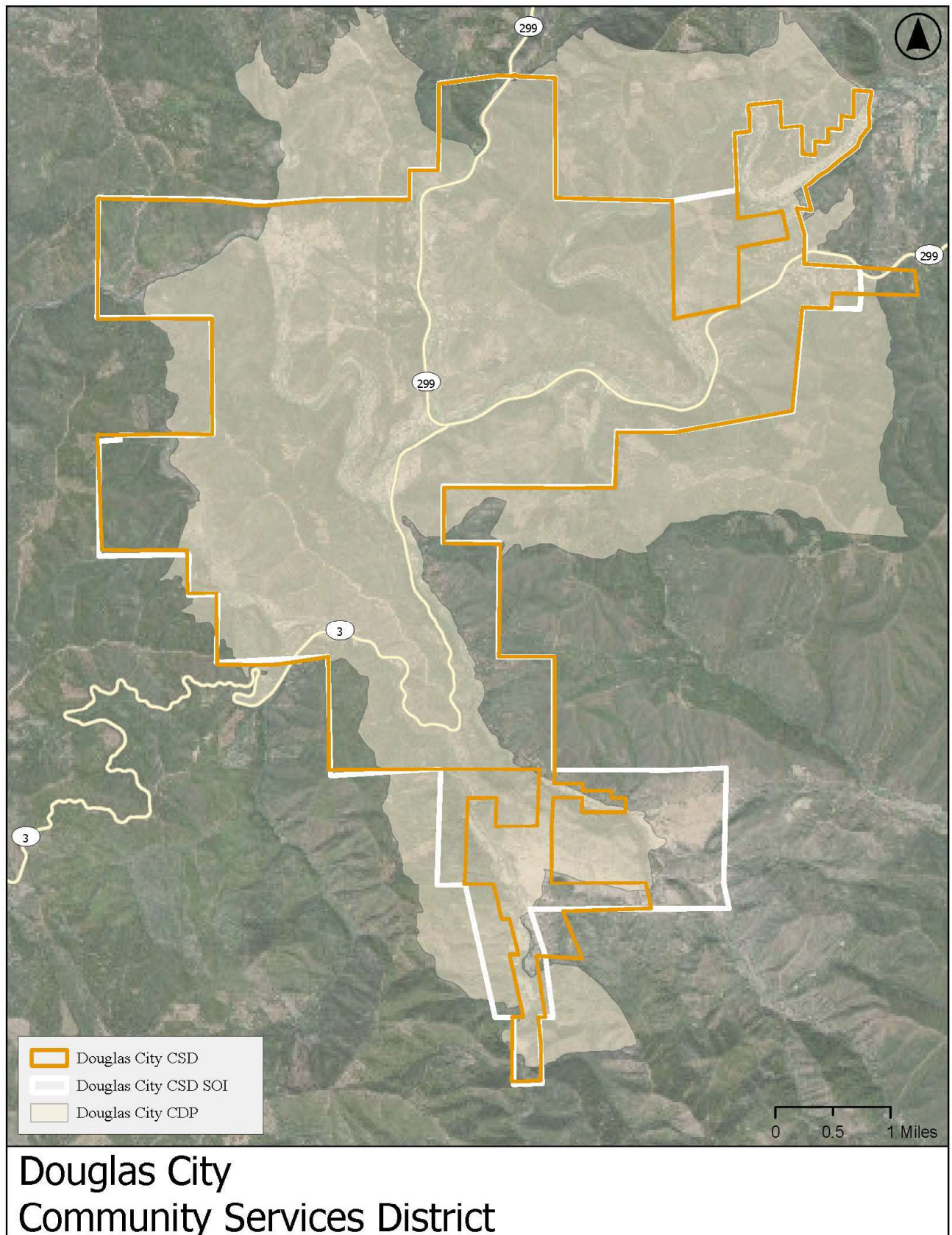
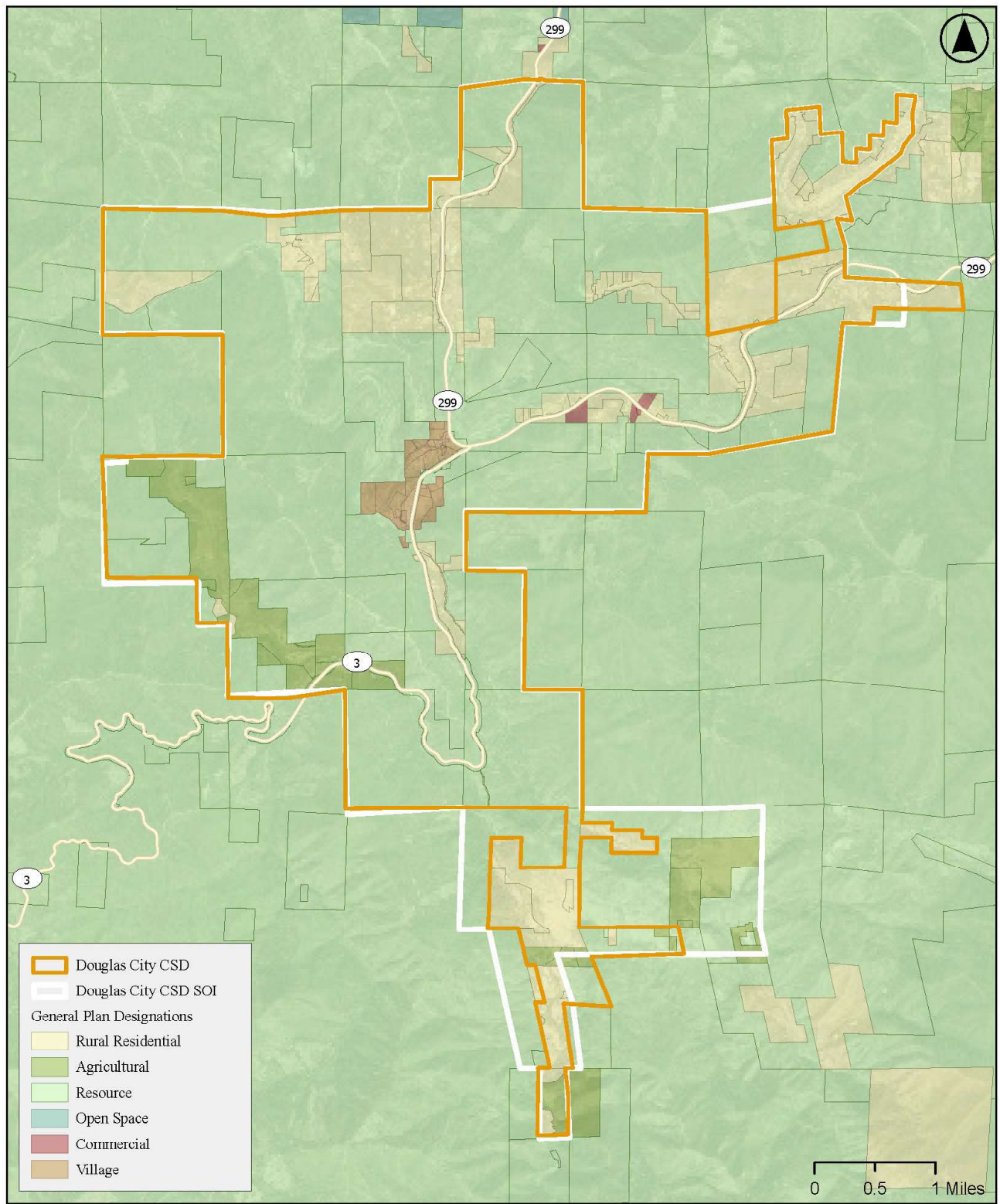


Figure 3-2: Douglas City CSD Land Use



Douglas City CSD Land Use

Growth and Population

The population of Douglas City CDP is approximately 868¹ according to the 2020 decennial Census data. American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic and Housing Estimates approximate the District's 2021 population to be 951². However, the ACS 5-Year data estimates have a large margin of error and are known to be less accurate than decennial Census data.

The Douglas City CDP has similar boundaries to the District but does contain additional lands, particularly in the northeast, that are not included in the District's boundaries. The Douglas City CDP has an area of 19,480 acres which is 5,384 acres more than the District's boundary area; however, much of this additional area appears to be densely forested and undeveloped and as such, likely does not substantially differ from population estimates for the District.

Trinity County's population was estimated to be 16,112³ as of the 2020 decennial Census. According to the California Department of Transportation (DOT), the County's population is expected to decline by 0.4 percent per year from 2021-2026. Based on the estimated population and historical growth for the area, it is unlikely that the District will grow substantially over the next five to ten years. It is likely that the District's population will follow a similar trend to that of the County, declining by 0.4 percent each year.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

The 2021 estimated median household income (MHI) of the District is \$48,346⁴ according to the ACS 5-Year Estimates, which is approximately 57 percent of the 2021 estimated California MHI of \$84,907. The County has an estimated MHI of \$42,206, which is almost 50 percent of the State's MHI. Thus, both the County and the District qualify as disadvantaged.

3.2 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

Douglas City CSD is an independent special district served by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected to four-year staggered terms. Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Main Station located at 100 Steiner Flat Road. Board members do not receive stipends for attending meetings.

Board agendas and notices are posted at the Main Station bulletin board at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act which require agendas to be posted at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public.

Table 3-2: Board of Directors

| Board Member | Title | Term |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Arnold Whitridge | Director | 12/4/2020 - 12/6/2024 |
| James White | Director | 12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026 |
| Angela Blanchard | Vice Chair | 12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026 |
| Dianna Cross | Director | 2/2/2022 - 12/4/2026 |

¹ Table P1, Decennial Census, 2020.

² Table DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, 2021.

³ Table P1 Race, Decennial Census, 2020.

⁴ Table S1903 Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2021.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Terry Merritt | Chair | 12/4/2020 - 12/6/2024 |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|

Staffing

Douglas City CSD does not currently employ full-time or part-time employees. The District has a Fire Chief, Board Secretary, and Bookkeeper that collectively oversee the majority of administrative responsibilities for the District. The Fire Chief receives a \$50 per month stipend for maintaining District facilities. The District currently has 11 volunteers, with two new recruits that are still in training (probationary).

Accountability and Transparency

SB929 was signed into law on September 14, 2018, requiring all independent special districts to have and maintain a website meeting all the special district transparency requirements of State law including the availability of agendas, policies, and financial information by January 1, 2020. In order to increase ease of access, overall transparency, and come into compliance with SB929, the District is encouraged to develop and maintain a website. However, this is often an undue burden for rural districts with limited staffing and resources. SB929 allows for districts to file for hardship each year to be exempt from maintaining a website. It is recommended that the District annually adopt a resolution of hardship until financial and staff resources improve and allow for a website to be maintained without causing undue burden.

As mentioned previously, Board meeting agendas are posted at the Main Station at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in compliance with the Brown Act. Copies of meeting materials and minutes are available upon request. The District complies with all annual audit requirements and files annual Financial Transactions Reports with the State Controller's Office.

Table 3-3: SB929 Website Posting Requirements

| Type of Requirement | Description of Requirement | Is the District in compliance? |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| District Contact Information | The bill does not state the specific contact information required. We recommend posting, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Physical address o Mailing address o Phone number o E-mail address | No. |
| Most Recent Agenda | The most recent agenda must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting o Linked on the homepage of the website, navigating directly to the current agenda o Searchable, indexable, and platform-independent (simply put, post the agenda as a PDF) | No. |
| Financial Transaction Report | The State Controller's report for the District's Financial Transaction report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website. | No. |
| Staff Compensation Report | The State Controller's report for the District's Staff Compensation report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website. | No. |
| Enterprise System Catalog | As required by SB272, the Enterprise System Catalog must be posted. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Current system vendor o Current System product | No. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ System's purpose ○ A description of categories or types of data ○ Department that is the prime data custodian ○ Frequency in which system data is collected and updated | |
|--|--|--|

3.3 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Service Overview

Douglas City CSD owns and maintains two fire stations that serve Douglas City, Poker Bar, and residences along Reading Creek Road and Indian Creek Road in the southeast, B-Bar-K Road in the west, and Deerlick Springs Road to the south.

The District's main station is a three-bay apparatus building located at 100 Steiner Flat Road that currently houses a rescue, Type 1 engine, Type 3 engine, Type 6 engine, and water tender. Recent station improvements include a backup generator for emergency power supply, exterior painting of the building, new roll up door, two duct-free mini-splits for heating and cooling, and exterior cameras. The station is equipped with internet (repeater housed on building), and has space for tables and a screen in one of the bay areas for meetings and trainings.

Fire Station #2 has two bays with two engines and is located at 411 Bridge Road. Fire Station #2 was established to serve homes along Poker Bar in accordance with the recommendations made in the Douglas City Community Plan of 1987. This station does not have an onsite water system. Recently, two 5,000-gallon water tanks were installed for water supply at this location. Recently a duct-free mini-split for heating and cooling was installed at the station.

Demand

Douglas City CSD responds to an average of 160-180 emergency calls per year. The department responded to approximately 178 calls for service in 2021, of which 1 call was structure fire, 109 calls, or 61 percent, were medical related. Other calls, such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 38 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services.

Table 3-3-4: Douglas City CSD Call Status Summary

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------|------|------|------------|------------|------------|
| Structure Fire | | | | 1 | |
| Medical | | | | 109 | |
| Other | | | | 68 | |
| TOTAL CALLS | | | 157 | 178 | 169 |

[To be expanded once call data is received]

Personnel

Douglas City CSD has a chief, two captains, and 8 volunteer firefighters for a total roster of 11 active members, with two in training. All firefighters are CPR and First Responder certified. Of these personnel, __ are trained as Fire Fighter 1 or above, __ are trained in Wildland (CICCS), and __ are trained in Hazardous Materials Operations.

District firefighters participate in a regular drill on the ___of each month, with two eight hour basic skill drills per year for all personnel. Training schedules consist of general operations, safety and medical. The drills are planned and conducted by the department training officers. All volunteers carry radio/pagers for alarm notification. The Department has established Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Incident Management System (IMS) for fire department emergency operations.

| Training Qualification | # of Members Trained |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Fire Fighter I or above | — |
| Wildland (CICCS) | — |
| First Responder (EMR) | — |
| EMT | — |
| Paramedic | — |
| HazMat First Responder Ops. | — |
| Rope Rescue | — |
| Swift Water Rescue | — |
| Fire Investigation | — |
| Fire Instructor | — |
| Driver/Operator | — |

[To be expanded once training data is received]

Recruitment and Retention

Douglas City CSD is always looking for more recruits. Each year the District mails a letter to the community providing an update on the department, encouraging new volunteers, and requesting donations. The District is also working to establish a larger social media presence to provide important information to the community. The Douglas City Fire Belles are also very active in community fundraising efforts to ensure that the Douglas City volunteer firefighters are outfitted with the tools and gear that they need to perform their duties.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The District has one Type I engine, two Type IV engines, and one Type I water tender as of 2022⁵. The District has recently contracted with a company to complete annual testing of pumps, hoses, and ladders (confirm).

Recently the District was able to upgrade SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) worn to provide breathable air in hazardous environments from donations and fundraisers. The equipment has to be inspected and recertified every four years and the original SCBA packs, purchased in 2006, had come to the end of their certifiable life. Twenty new bottles were acquired, and 10 packs were rebuilt at a total cost of \$18,069, which was split evenly between the CSD and the Douglas City Fire Belles. The Douglas City Fire Belles also funded \$1,000 for the



⁵ CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit, 2022 Strategic Fire Plan, 2022.

purchase of three GPS units to aid in their response to wildland fires where the location can only be identified by GPS coordinates.

The District has also been successful in receiving grant funds for equipment purchases. Grants have been received from the Redding Rancheria, McConnell Foundation, Humboldt Area Foundation Disaster Response and Resilience Fund (\$10k), Trinity Trust's Community Response Grant Program (\$5k), CAL FIRE Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant (50/50 match), and others.

Table 3-5: Douglas City CSD Apparatus Information

| Station | Station Address | Apparatus No. | Common Name | Year Built | Type | Pump (GPM) | Tank (Gal) |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------|------------|------------|
| Fire Station #1 | 96024 Steiner Flat Road | 2732 | International | 1987 | Type 3 | 750 | 500 |
| | | 2731 | Ford F550 | 2008 | Type 6 | 120 | 400 |
| | | 2751 | Dodge | 2012 | Rescue | n/a | n/a |
| | | 274__ | International | 1999 | Tender | 450 | 3,000 |
| | | 2711 | Pierce | 1990 | Type 1 | 1,250 | 500 |
| Fire Station #2 | 411 Bridge Road | 2721 | GMC | 1984 | Type 2 | 1,000 | 1,000 |

ISO Rating

The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, Douglas City CSD has a “__” rating. In addition, Douglas City is a certified Firewise Community/USA, which can help provide discounts on homeowners insurance.

Challenges and Needs

Like many small rural departments, Douglas City CSD is challenged with aging equipment and facilities, and member recruitment and retention. The District specifically noted that it needs a Type 3 engine. Currently they only have 2-wheel drive capabilities, and 4-wheel drive is preferred to serve more isolated areas and off-road terrain.

Shared Services

Douglas City CSD is available for mutual aid upon request. The District has automatic aid agreements with Weaverville FPD and Lewiston CSD to respond on 1st alarm to all structure fire calls.

The District and CAL FIRE enact annual agreements for cooperative wildland fire management activities. As part of these agreements, both entities engage in mutual aid on District lands that are intermingled or adjacent to CAL FIRE managed lands. Additionally, the District receives seasonal reimbursements for in-unit wildland fire assignments (via assistance by hire and equipment rental). Douglas City typically provides staff resources and supplies a water tender and one or more engines to accompany.

Douglas City CSD is also partnering with the Watershed Research and Training Center to provide staffing for fuels reduction projects that are planned for the Browns Creek watershed (B Bar K, Jordan Road, Deerlick Springs areas). The Watershed Center provides reimbursement for staffing and equipment rental (engine).

Other Service Providers

Water

The Weaverville Community Services District provides water services to Weaverville and Douglas City. Some households depend on individual water wells.

Wastewater

There are no service providers providing wastewater service to Douglas City; instead, the community relies primarily on individual septic tanks for sewage disposal.

Solid Waste Disposal

Douglas City has two nearby transfer stations available for solid waste disposal: Weaverville Transfer Station at 173 Tom Bell Road, and Hayfork Transfer Station at 372 Dump Road.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD) manages and distributes power throughout most of Trinity County. TPUD purchases its power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) pursuant to a first preference right to power produced by the Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project⁶. TPUD does not operate any generation assets but instead provides sub-transmission and electricity distribution to approximately 12,000 customers in a 2,200 square mile area in Trinity County. There are nine substations which are both owned and operated by both WAPA (five served from this transmission system) and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) (four served from this transmission system). Trinity County has eight hydroelectric facilities that are either operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or privately owned. These facilities are part of California's Central Valley Project and generate hydroelectric power. Energy produced by these facilities is managed by WAPA and transmitted to customers by TPUD.

PG&E is the only designated natural gas provider in the County. However, despite this designation, PG&E does not offer natural gas service to most areas within the County, leaving residents to rely on propane for natural gas needs.

Telecommunications

Verizon, AT&T, and other major service providers provide wireless telephone and broadband internet services to Douglas City. Wired telephone and cable internet service is offered by Velocity Communications. Velocity Communications offers services to over 700 square miles across Trinity, Shasta, and Humboldt Counties, including the Trinity County communities of Weaverville, Hayfork, Trinity Center, Lewiston, Junction City, and Douglas City. Satellite internet service is provided by HughesNet, Space Exploration Technology's (SpaceX) Starlink, and Viasat.

Emergency Medical Services

Trinity Life Support Community Services District (TLSCSD) operates two ambulances, one stationed in Hayfork and one in Weaverville, with a 2,100 square mile response area. Annually, the TLSCSD receives an average of 1,500 calls. The TLSCSD provides training in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, and public safety first aid while also offering American Heart Association community and professional level courses.

TLSCSD was formed in 2021 after a successful special election, which included voter approval of a special tax at a flat rate of \$45 per year for each parcel developed with residential or commercial uses, which generates approximately \$258,000 per year. In June 2022, TLSCSD entered into a contract with Mountain Communities Healthcare District (MCHD) for

⁶ Trinity River Division Act of 1955

administrative, professional, and technical staffing support. The managing support agreement allows TLSCSD to maintain all their real property assets including ambulances and collectible taxes, while MCHD provides all ambulance services staffing, including administrative support (HR, billing, finance, administration, and other resources) to provide better economies of scale and reimbursement through MCHD's Critical Access Hospital designation.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is provided by the Trinity County Sheriff's Office. The California Highway Patrol is responsible for traffic control for State Route 299 and State Route 3, both of which pass through the District.

Parks and Recreation

The Weaverville/Douglas City Parks and Recreation District (Parks and Recreation District) serves the areas of Weaverville and Douglas City. The Parks and Recreation District maintains Lee Fong Park and Lowden Park Pool, administers adult and youth programs, and manages clinics and camps associated with those programs. Programs and clinics include sports such as basketball, volleyball, flag football, and soccer and focus on developing fundamental skills.

Resource Conservation

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a countywide agency that protects and manages the natural resources of Trinity County through the provision of technical assistance and the implementation of projects and programs. The TCRCD also engages in educational programs and works to increase education on conservation throughout the County. The TCRCD engages in numerous wildfire mitigation projects including the implementation of the Trinity County Wildfire Mitigation Project and a myriad of fuels reductions and defensible space projects. For over 20 years, the TCRCD has engaged in fuels reductions projects that have resulted in the thinning of thousands of acres throughout the County's forests. Additionally, the TCRCD is in close collaboration with the Trinity County Fire Safe Council (TCFSC) in the development of the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and the 2010, 2015, and 2020 updates to the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

3.4 FINANCING

Financial Overview

The Douglas City CSD Board of Directors is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. The District's Bookkeeper presents monthly financial reports to the Board for review and approval. The basic financial statements of the District are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Government Code Section 61110 requires a preliminary budget to be adopted on or before July 1 of each year and a final budget to be adopted on or before September 1 of each year. A copy of the final budget must be forwarded to the County Auditor-Controller. Douglas City CSD complies with this requirement.

Revenues and Expenditures

Douglas City CSD is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as "ad valorem" taxes) as well as grants, donations, and interest revenue. Total revenue averaged approximately \$93,000 per year over the last three years, with higher-than-average income in fiscal year 2022-23 due to grants received. Donations, including funding from the Douglas City Fire Belles, account for 45-50% of total revenue. Primary operating expenses are equipment maintenance

and acquisition, supplies, fuel, insurance, and firefighting payroll. The following table provides annual average operating revenue and expenditures for the last three years.

Table 3-6: Douglas City CSD Adopted Budgets (FY 22-24)

| | FY 2021-22 | FY 2022-23 | FY 2023-24 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Property Tax | \$4,000.00 | \$4,100.00 | \$4,350.00 |
| Workman's Comp Contribution | \$1,650.00 | \$1,650.00 | \$1,650.00 |
| Charges for Services | \$15,000.00 | \$19,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| Donations | \$27,200.00 | \$29,000.00 | \$25,500.00 |
| Fire Belles | \$16,100.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| Grants | \$0.00 | \$31,400.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Encumbrances | \$0.00 | \$35,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Misc Income (burn permits, hall rental) | \$400.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$5,100.00 |
| Interest | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Total Revenues | \$64,400.00 | \$136,200.00 | \$79,100.00 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Firefighting (payroll) | \$8,000.00 | \$8,000.00 | \$8,000.00 |
| Supplies (office, firefighting, misc) | \$19,300.00 | \$6,600.00 | \$7,000.00 |
| Maintenance (buildings/equipment) | \$4,000.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Fuel | \$3,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Insurance | \$20,600.00 | \$22,600.00 | \$24,700.00 |
| Utilities | \$4,000.00 | \$4,400.00 | \$5,700.00 |
| Promotion | \$1,000.00 | \$1,100.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Training | \$300.00 | \$900.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Misc Expenses | \$400.00 | \$400.00 | \$400.00 |
| Audit/Financial Transaction Reports | \$5,600.00 | \$600.00 | \$5,600.00 |
| Audit Reserve Fund | (\$2,500.00) | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Contingency | \$700.00 | \$700.00 | \$700.00 |
| Capital Items | \$0.00 | \$31,400.00 | \$0.00 |
| Encumbrances | \$0.00 | \$35,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenditures | \$64,400.00 | \$136,200.00 | \$79,100.00 |

State Controller's Office

The District has submitted annual financial transactions reports to the State Controller's Office consistently since 2003 in accordance with Government Code Section 61118(b). According to the State Controller's Office, the District had an overall revenue of \$260,364 and expenditures of \$158,096 in FY 2021-2022. This is a net gain of \$102,268, which is an increase in financial standing from FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 which had net losses of \$12,803 and \$3,352, respectively. A summary of the past six fiscal years is below (Table 3-5).

Out of the years reviewed, the largest source of revenue for the District was from property owners' contributions or other intergovernmental sources depending on the year. Expenses consisted of the following: services and supplies; employee benefits; salaries and wages; and capital outlay. Typically, either services and supplies or salaries and wages were the largest contributing factors to the overall expenditures.

Table 3-7: State Controller's Office Summary

| | FY 2016-2017 | FY 2017-2018 | FY 2018-2019 | FY 2019-2020 | FY 2020-2021 | FY 2021-2022 |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revenues | \$34,937 | \$105,377 | \$181,223 | \$54,463 | \$50,208 | \$260,364 |
| Expenditures | \$42,362 | \$102,756 | \$133,922 | \$67,266 | \$53,560 | \$158,096 |
| Net Gain/(Loss) | (\$7,425) | \$2,621 | \$47,301 | (\$12,803) | (\$3,352) | \$102,268 |

Audits

The District prepares biennial audits. The most current audit will be available in January for the years ending June 2022 and June 2023. This section will be updated once the audit report is received.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Douglas City CSD receives a small percentage of ad valorem property taxes and relies on community donations, grants, and seasonal reimbursements from CAL FIRE (via strike team response, assistance by hire, or equipment rental) to fund services. The District does not have a special tax or assessment in place, which could be levied within the district boundary to effectively manage recurring costs, such as those associated with insurance, utilities, fuel, and equipment. In order to increase revenue to a sustainable level, the District could consider the following actions:

- Annex into the District any out of district service areas which receive goodwill services.
- Adopt an ordinance and fee schedule which charges out-of-district residents for services provided; especially for response to traffic accidents on Highway 299 or Highway 3.
- Pursue a special tax or assessment which would require approval from registered voters or property owners within the District boundaries.



AGENDA ITEM 6.B.

MEETING: December 19, 2023
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Expiring Commissioner Terms in 2023-24

BACKGROUND

The Commission consists of seven regular and three alternate members as follows:

- County - Three regular members and one alternate appointed by the Board of Supervisors;
- Special Districts - Two regular members and one alternate appointed by the Independent Special Districts; and
- Public Members - Two regular members and one alternate appointed by the Commission.

The term of office for each member pursuant to CKH Act §56334 is four years and until the appointment and qualification of a successor. There are no term limits.

DISCUSSION

Currently the Alternate Public Member position is vacant as it expired on April 30, 2023. The Alternate Public Member position will remain open until filled. Qualifying candidates may be considered at the next LAFCo meeting on February 20th, 2024. Applications received by Monday, February 12th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. will be considered at the Commission's February meeting.

Commissioner Kasper has indicated upcoming resignation to LAFCo and as such, the Special District Seat 2 will be vacant. In April, Commissioner Johnson's seat will also be expiring. Staff will begin the special district election process in January starting with a call for nominations followed by the official balloting process.

Listed below are current Commission members with their Term of Office:

| Designation | Current Member | Term of Office |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| County – Regular Member | Heidi Carpenter-Harris | Annual Appointment |
| County – Regular Member | Dan Frasier | Annual Appointment |
| County – Regular Member | Liam Gogan | Annual Appointment |
| County – Alternate Member | Ric Leutwyler | Annual Appointment |
| Special District – Regular Member (Seat 1) | Andrew Johnson | 4/30/2024 |
| Special District – Regular Member (Seat 2) | Joseph Kasper | 4/30/2026 |
| Special District – Alternate | Todd Corbett | 4/30/2026 |
| Public Member | Anna C. Burke | 4/30/2025 |
| Public Member | Jake Grossman-Crist | 4/30/2027 |
| Public Member – Alternate | Vacant | 4/30/2027 |

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report and provide direction to staff as needed.

CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report as of Wednesday, December 13, 2023

AB 68 (Ward D) Land use: streamlined housing approvals: density, subdivision, and utility approvals.

Current Text: Amended: 4/12/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 12/8/2022

Last Amended: 4/12/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was H. & C.D. on 3/16/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | 2 year | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would require a local government to approve a proposed housing development pursuant to a streamlined, ministerial approval process if the development meets certain objective planning standards, including, but not limited to, a requirement that the proposed parcel for the development be a climate-smart parcel, as described, or be included in the applicable region's sustainable communities strategy as a priority development area. The bill would set forth procedures for approving these developments and would set forth various limitations for these developments. The bill would authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development to review, adopt, amend, and repeal guidelines, rules, and regulations to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, or standards set forth by this process.

Position: Watch

Subject: Planning

CALAFCO Comments: This bill was introduced as a spot holder in December, 2022, then was gutted and amended on March 16, 2023.

It now seeks to set up ministerial approvals for developments and certain water and sewer service extensions for developments that meet certain parameters. Parameters include that the parcel must be in a high or moderate resource area as categorized by the opportunity maps maintained by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, be located within one-mile of transit but be in a very low vehicle travel area, and within one mile of assorted restaurants, bars, coffee shops, etc. Additionally, types of locations that do not qualify are also enumerated. Those include farmlands, wetlands, high fire hazard severity zones (as determined by Cal Fire), in proximity to a hazardous waste site, within a delineated earthquake fault zone, within a special flood hazard area or within a regulatory floodway, lands identified for conservation, protected habitat, and lands under a conservation easement.

3/31/2023: Watch position taken by Leg Committee.

4/21/2023: CALAFCO received word from the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, that this bill will not be heard this year.

Under the procedure that would be established by this bill, a minimum of 30 days notice to LAFCo would be required for the public hearing should a county seek to amend its general plan to increase the planned density on climate resilient lands.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 399 (Boerner D) Water Ratepayers Protections Act of 2023: County Water Authority Act: exclusion of territory: procedure.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/13/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/2/2023

Last Amended: 9/1/2023

Status: 10/13/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 802, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

The County Water Authority Act provides for the formation of county water authorities and grants to those authorities specified powers with regards to providing water service. The act provides 2 methods of excluding territory from any county water authority, one of which is that a public agency whose corporate area as a unit is part of a county water authority may obtain exclusion of the area by submitting to the electors within the public agency, at any general or special election, the proposition of excluding the public agency's corporate area from the county water authority. Current law requires that, if a majority of the electors approve the proposition, specified actions take place to implement the exclusion. This bill, the Water Ratepayers Protections Act of 2023, would additionally require the public entity to submit the proposition of excluding the public agency's corporate area from the county water authority to the electors within the territory of the county water authority. The bill would require the 2 elections to be separate; however, the bill would authorize both elections to run concurrently. The bill would require the ballot materials to include a fiscal impact statement, as described.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Oppose as Amended Letter](#)
[AB 399 Fact Sheet](#)

Position: Oppose

Subject: Detachment Proceedings

CALAFCO Comments: AB 399 was previously AB 530, which did not pass out of policy committee before deadlines.

AB 399, originally addressed the Vehicle Code but was gutted and amended on 6/14/2023 to become: the Water Ratepayers Protections Act of 2023: County Water Authority Act: exclusion of territory: procedure. A fast moving bill, this is proceeding as an urgency bill which would take effect upon passage. The action is being undertaken to counter two detachments that have been approved by the San Diego LAFCo, subject to exit fees.

Under the uncodified County Water Authority Act of 1943, detachment proceedings require a vote of the residents in the detaching district. This bill seeks to add a second vote among the larger population of the full county water authority. While the vote among the residents of the detaching district is essentially consistent with LAFCo laws, requiring a second vote among the larger population of the entire water authority is not. AB 399 would set many precedents including: legislative "fixes" for contested LAFCo decisions; the ability of the legislature to unilaterally change the exit terms for multi-government consortiums after entities join; and the permissibility of requiring double votes on matters.

Staff met with the author on 7/11/2023 who remained steadfast on the bill. The bill was heard the next day (7/12/23) by the Senate Gov & Finance Committee where CALAFCO provided lead opposition. The bill passed by a 5-3 vote and is now headed to the Senate floor for consideration sometime after the summer recess. If AB 399 passes there, it will return to the Assembly. It is unclear at this time whether it would be immediately scheduled for Assembly concurrence, or before the ALGC.

The author's Fact Sheet, as well as CALAFCO's letter in opposition, can be found in the attachments section.

[AB 530](#) (Boerner D) Vehicles: electric bicycles.

Current Text: Amended: 7/13/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/8/2023

Last Amended: 7/13/2023

Status: 9/14/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was TRANS. on 9/14/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | 2 year | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptured |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would prohibit a person under 12 years of age from operating an electric bicycle of any class. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to create an e-bike license program with an online written test and a state-issued photo identification for those persons without a valid driver's license, prohibit persons under 12 years of age from riding e-bikes, and create a stakeholders working group composed of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of the California

Highway Patrol, the Transportation Agency, bicycle groups, policy and fiscal staff, and other relevant stakeholders to work on recommendations to establish an e-bike training program and license. Because the bill would prohibit certain persons from riding electric bicycles, the violation of which would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Subject: Water

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill was relative to greenhouse emissions. However, it was gutted and amended on 5/15/2023 and now addresses county water authorities.

Under existing law, the governing body of any public agency has an option (phrased as a "may") to submit to the voters any proposition to exclude the corporate area of that public agency from a county water authority. This bill would add the procedures under which that optional election would be conducted. Specifically, notice would be required in the manner already defined within subdivision (c) of Section 10. The election would be conducted and returns canvassed as provided by law for the elections in the public agency, and a majority of electors within county water authority territory would be needed for passage. The new procedure would also require that these elections will be separate elections but may run with another election.

On 6/16/2023, this topic was transitioned to AB 399 through the gut and amend process. Amendments of 7/13/2023 make this bill now relative to electric bicycles which is not a concern to CALAFCO. Position updated to -None-.

AB 557 (Hart D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/9/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/8/2023

Last Amended: 9/1/2023

Status: 10/8/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 534, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

The Ralph M. Brown Act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect. Those circumstances are that (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, (2) the legislative body is meeting for the purpose of determining whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, or (3) the legislative body has previously made that determination. If there is a continuing state of emergency, or if state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, existing law requires a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures. This bill would revise the authority of a legislative body to hold a teleconference meeting under those abbreviated teleconferencing procedures when a declared state of emergency is in effect.

Position: Watch

Subject: Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: Similar in scope to SB 411, this bill is follow-on legislation to AB 361 (2022) and seeks to return some of the pandemic-era teleconferencing provisions to the Brown Act and would change the timeline for legislative bodies to reaffirm an emergency from the current 30 days to 45 days. This bill is sponsored by CSDA.

AB 805 (Arambula D) Drinking water consolidation: sewer service.

Current Text: Amended: 3/9/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023**Last Amended:** 3/9/2023**Status:** 5/19/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/19/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | Policy | 2 year | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chapters |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board, if sufficient funds are available, to order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water systems when both of the receiving and subsumed water systems provide sewer service and after the state board engages in certain activities, including, but not limited to, consulting with the relevant regional water board and the receiving water system and conducting outreach to ratepayers and residents served by the receiving and subsumed water systems, as provided.

Position: Watch With Concerns**Subject:** Water

CALAFCO Comments: This bill would authorize the state board, if sufficient funds are available, to order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water systems when both of the receiving and subsumed water systems provide sewer service and after the state board engages in certain activities. Under existing section (b)(3) LAFcos must be consulted and their input considered in regards to the provision of water service but sewer systems seem to be lacking.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 817 (Pacheco D) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.**Current Text:** Amended: 3/16/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)**Introduced:** 2/13/2023**Last Amended:** 3/16/2023**Status:** 5/5/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/16/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | 2 year | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chapters |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. This bill would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the bill would require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote, before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.

Position: Watch**Subject:** Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: This bill appears to be a spot holder in that it currently only makes minor grammatical changes. The lack of substance raises concern regarding future changes to this bill.

3/16/2023: The bill was amended to speak specifically to teleconferenced meetings of subsidiary bodies, defined as a body that serves exclusively in an advisory capacity, and is not authorized to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements. For qualifying bodies, this bill would remove the requirement to post an agenda at the location of the subsidiary body member who was participating from off site- providing that the legislative body that formed the subsidiary body has previously made findings noting that teleconferenced meetings of the subsidiary body would enhance public access, and would promote the attractions, retention and diversity of the subsidiary body. The superior legislative body would need to revisit the matter and repeat those finding every 12 months thereafter. This bill also reaffirms that other provisions of the Brown Act are applicable to subsidiary bodies.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

[AB 828](#) (Connolly D) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Current Text: Amended: 4/17/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amended: 4/17/2023

Status: 4/18/2023-Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W. (Set for hearing on 01/09/2024)

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
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| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Calendar:

1/9/2024 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE, PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2020, and requires all other groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans by January 31, 2022, except as specified. Current law defines various terms for purposes of the act. This bill would add various defined terms for purposes of the act, including the term "managed wetland."

Position: None at this time

Subject: Water

CALAFCO Comments: Adds definitions for Managed Wetlands, and Small community water system to Water Code Section 10721.

4/17/2023: Amended to define agencies and entities required or excluded from existing 10726.4 (a)(4). Amends Water Code section 10730.2 to add language regarding fees, and amends Water Code section 10733 to address groundwater sustainability plans.

Failed to make April policy committee deadline and now cannot be acted upon until January 2024.

[AB 918](#) (Garcia D) Health care district: County of Imperial.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/9/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2023

Last Amended: 9/11/2023

Status: 10/8/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 549, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would form a local health care district in the County of Imperial, designated as the Imperial Valley Healthcare District, that includes all of the County of Imperial. The bill would require the initial board of directors of the Imperial Valley Healthcare District to be appointed from and by specified bodies, including among others, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District Board of Directors, and the Heffernan Memorial Healthcare District Board of Directors. The bill would require the initial board of directors to recommend a permanent funding source mechanism to be presented to and approved by voters via ballot measure. The bill would require the initial board of directors to enter negotiations with El Centro Regional Medical Center to decide the terms of the acquisition of the hospital. The bill would require the initial board of directors to finalize the terms of the acquisition by November 5, 2024. The bill would require the City of El Centro to negotiate in good faith with the Imperial Valley Healthcare District. The bill would require the board of directors to hold a minimum of 3 public meetings between the effective date of the bill and January 1, 2025, as specified. The bill would require the board of directors to recommend to the Imperial County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) dates for the dissolutions of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and Heffernan Memorial Healthcare District and would authorize the board to recommend separate dates for each district's dissolution. The bill would require, by January 1, 2025, the Imperial County LAFCO to dissolve the Heffernan Memorial Healthcare District and the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and would transfer the assets, rights, and responsibilities of the dissolved districts to the Imperial Valley Healthcare District. The bill would require, until the dissolution of both of those districts, the Heffernan Memorial Healthcare District to hold a temporary clerical role for the Board of Directors of the

Imperial Valley Healthcare District, as specified. The bill would extend the terms of the board members of the districts being dissolved until their respective dissolution date or January 1, 2025, whichever occurs first.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO 7-7-23 Letter in Opposition to 7-6-2023 amendments](#)
[CALAFCO Letter in Opposition to 4-17-2023 bill amendment](#)
[CALAFCO Oppose Letter](#)

Position: Oppose

Subject: Other

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill was merely a spotholder that stated an intent to create a countywide healthcare district in Imperial County.

March 23, 2023, the bill was amended with specifics. It now seeks to rename the Pioneer Memorial Healthcare District to the Imperial County Healthcare District (ICHHD) and then sets up what, in essence, is a ministerial process for the countywide expansion of the ICHHD. The expansion process is first initiated by the ICHHD Resolution of Application, which is required to be filed with LAFCo no later than January 5, 2024. The LAFCo then has 150 days to complete the entire process, including the vote. Protest proceedings for that expansion would be waived under this bill. The bill also does not allow the LAFCo to deny the application. The bill also notes that future changes of organization or reorganization of the resulting districts would need to follow the normal provisions of CKH. A copy of CALAFCO's letter in opposition can be found in the attachments section.

4/17/2023: the bill was amended to entirely remove LAFCo involvement. CALAFCO's second letter of opposition that addresses this amended version can be found in the attachments section.

5/15/2023: The bill was amended again with a return of LAFCo into the process. However, it does again require LAFCo approval. As amended, the bill would rename the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District to the Imperial Valley Healthcare District, then authorizes the expansion of the newly formed Imperial Valley Healthcare District to include all of the County of Imperial. As before, the bill requires the newly formed district to submit a resolution of application to the Imperial County LAFCo to initiate proceedings to expand the district, then requires the commission to order the expansion subject to a vote of the registered voters within the territory to be annexed. The bill provides for expansion of the district upon voter approval and providing that a funding source is also approved, if necessary. If expansion is approved, the Heffernan Memorial Healthcare District would transfer its assets, rights, and responsibilities to the Imperial Valley Healthcare District. The bill goes on to address other housekeeping issue such as the composition of the newly formed district board of directors.

7/12/2023, the bill was approved by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee, with the support of Imperial LAFCo.

Position change to Neutral will be recommended to the Legislative Committee on 7/28/2023. Senate Appropriations hearing set for August 14, 2023.

7/13/2023, the bill was again amended. It still forms the new district outside of the LAFCo process and only considers LAFCo in a tangential way. Specifically, Imperial LAFCo is to collaborate with the new health district's board of directors to determine the voting districts and terms of the board positions, to determine the appropriate dates to dissolve the two healthcare districts (and that the dissolution shall occur by January 1, 2025), and to receive annual reports from the new district.

8/14/2023, heard in Appropriations but placed in the Suspense file.

AB 930 (Friedman D) Local government: Reinvestment in Infrastructure for a Sustainable and Equitable California (RISE) districts.

Current Text: Amended: 4/26/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2023

Last Amended: 4/26/2023

Status: 5/19/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. on 4/25/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | Policy | 2 year | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
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| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Current law authorizes certain local agencies to form a community revitalization authority within a community revitalization and investment area, as defined, and authorizes an authority to, among

other things, provide for low- and moderate-income housing and issue bonds, as provided. Current law authorizes a community revitalization and investment plan to provide for the division of taxes within the plan area. This bill would authorize the legislative bodies of 2 or more cities or counties to jointly form a Reinvestment in Infrastructure for a Sustainable and Equitable California district (RISE district) in accordance with specified procedures. The bill would authorize a special district to join a RISE district, by resolution, as specified.

Position: Neutral

Subject: Special District Principle Acts

CALAFCO Comments: This bill has a similar overtone to SB 852 Dodd in 2022 regarding the formation of climate resilience districts outside of the LAFCo process.

As introduced, this bill (AB 930) is focused on the generation of funding and the governance of the expenditure of those funds. However, it should be carefully tracked in case that mission is expanded.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 1379 (Papan D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Amended: 3/23/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amended: 3/23/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/23/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | 2 year | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chapters |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

The Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend unless a closed session is authorized. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. This bill, with respect to those general provisions on teleconferencing, would require a legislative body electing to use teleconferencing to instead post agendas at a singular designated physical meeting location, as defined, rather than at all teleconference locations. The bill would remove the requirements for the legislative body of the local agency to identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, and that at least a quorum of the members participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

Position: Watch

Subject: Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: Originally introduced as a spotholder to address "Local agencies: financial affairs", this bill was gutted and amended on March 23, 2023, and now seeks amendment of the Brown Act's teleconferencing provisions. If successful, GC Section 54953 (b)(3) would be amended to remove the requirement to post agendas for teleconferenced meetings at all locations, and would instead limit the posting to a newly defined "singular designated physical meeting location", which is required to have either two-way audiovisual capabilities, or two-way telephone service for the public to remotely hear and address the body. Additionally, the body would have to hold at least two meetings in person each year.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 1460 (Bennett D) Local government.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/17/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 5/5/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 2/17/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| 2 year | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
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| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Existing law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, provides the exclusive authority and procedure for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts, except as specified. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provision naming the act.

Position: Neutral

Subject: CKH General Procedures, Other

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill makes only a minor nonsubstantive change to CKH in that it would merely add commas to Section 56000 so that it would read: "This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000."

3/24/2023: No change since introduction.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

[AB 1637](#) (Irwin D) Local government: internet websites and email addresses.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/9/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amended: 6/29/2023

Status: 10/8/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 586, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would, no later than January 1, 2029, require a local agency, as defined, that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website utilizes a ".gov" top-level domain or a ".ca.gov" second-level domain and would require a local agency that maintains an internet website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that internet website to a domain name that does utilize a ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domain. This bill, no later than January 1, 2029, would also require a local agency that maintains public email addresses to ensure that each email address provided to its employees utilizes a ".gov" domain name or a ".ca.gov" domain name. By adding to the duties of local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Position: Watch

Subject: LAFCo Administration

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill would have required LAFCOs who do not already have website domains ending with the ".gov" extension to transition to it no later than January 1, 2027. This bill was not considered as having a broad impact on LAFCOs given that 12 of them already use the .gov extension.

5/18/2023: The bill was amended and is not longer applicable to LAFCOs as its definition of a local agency has been narrowly defined to only cities and counties. However, we are continue our Watch position to monitor for potential changes.

[AB 1753](#) (Committee on Local Government) Local government: reorganization.

Current Text: Chaptered: 6/29/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 3/2/2023

Status: 6/29/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 25, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 provides the sole and exclusive authority and procedure for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts. The act requires a petitioner or legislative body desiring to initiate proceedings for a change of organization or reorganization to submit an application to the executive officer of the principal county. The act specifies when an application is complete and acceptable for filing, and requires the executive officer to immediately issue a

certificate of filing when an application is accepted for filing, as specified. Upon the filing of an application or a resolution pursuant to the act, but prior to the issuance of a certificate of filing, current law requires the executive officer to give notice of the filing to the assessor and auditor of each county within which the territory subject to the jurisdiction change is located, as specified. Current law prohibits the executive officer from issuing a certificate pursuant to the provisions described above until resolutions are adopted by specified counties and cities in which they agree to accept the exchange of property tax revenues. Current law authorizes a county and any local agency within the county to develop and adopt a master property tax transfer agreement, as specified. This bill would, if applicable, prohibit the executive officer from accepting for filing an application for change or organization or reorganization and issuing a certificate of filing pursuant to the provisions described above, and would provide that an application is not deemed accepted for filing pursuant to the provisions described above, if an agreement for the exchange of property tax revenues has not been adopted pursuant to the provisions described above.

Attachments:

[AB 1753 CALAFCO Letter of Support, 03-28-23](#)

Position: Support

Subject: CKH General Procedures

CALAFCO Comments: This is CALAFCO's Omnibus bill. It seeks to add two new provisions to CKH. The first, would add section (d)(1) to Government Code Section 56658 and would note that R&T Section 99(d)(b)(6) requires an property tax agreement for an application to be considered complete. The second adds language to GC Sec. 56882 allowing transmission of commission determination by email, providing that the executive officer confirms receipt through an electronic read receipt of other means.

CALAFCO's letter of support can be found in the attachments.

[SB 360](#) (Blakespear D) California Coastal Commission: member voting.

Current Text: Chaptered: 7/21/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/8/2023

Last Amended: 6/14/2023

Status: 7/21/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 108, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

The California Coastal Act of 1976 establishes the California Coastal Commission and prescribes the membership and duties of the commission. The act provides that its provisions do not preclude or prevent any member or employee of the commission who is also an employee of another public agency, a county supervisor or city councilperson, or a member of specified associations or organizations, and who has in that designated capacity voted or acted upon a particular matter, from voting or otherwise acting upon that matter as a member or employee of the commission. This bill would apply the latter provision to a member of a joint powers authority and a member of a local agency formation commission.

Attachments:

[SB 360 Fact Sheet](#)

[SB 360 CALAFCO Letter of Support](#)

Position: Support

Subject: Other

CALAFCO Comments: PRC 30318 currently holds a provision that allows members or employees of certain entities to sit on the California Coastal Commission. This bill would add members or employees of JPAs and LAFcos into that list.

3/24/2023: No change since introduction.

3/31/2023: Position changed to support. The Fact Sheet and a copy of CALAFCO's Support letter can be found in the attachments.

After two minor amendments, the bill was passed on 7/6/2023, Enrolled and presented to the Governor for signature at 11 a.m. on 07/11/2023.

[SB 411](#) (Portantino D) Open meetings: teleconferences: neighborhood councils.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/9/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/9/2023

Last Amended: 8/14/2023**Status:** 10/8/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 605, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would, until January 1, 2026, authorize an eligible legislative body to use alternate teleconferencing provisions related to notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed, if the city council has adopted an authorizing resolution and 2/3 of an eligible legislative body votes to use the alternate teleconferencing provisions. The bill would define "eligible legislative body" for this purpose to mean a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to the act. The bill would require an eligible legislative body authorized under the bill to provide publicly accessible physical locations for public participation, as prescribed. The bill would also require that at least a quorum of the members of the neighborhood council participate from locations within the boundaries of the city in which the neighborhood council is established. The bill would require that, at least once per year, at least a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body participate in person from a singular physical location that is open to the public and within the boundaries of the eligible legislative body.

Position: Watch**Subject:** Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: This bill would permanently add back provisions to Section 54953.4 of the Brown Act that had been temporarily enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The amendment would allow a legislative body to use teleconferencing provisions, and would define the proper procedure for conducting such a meeting, would require the legislative body to take no further action in the event of a broadcasting disruption within the local agency's control until the broadcast can be resumed, would require time public comment periods to remain open until the public comment time has elapsed, and would not only prevent requiring comments in advance but would also require that the public be afforded the chance to comment in real time.

4/24/2023: The bill was amended to make it specific to neighborhood councils and is no longer a concern for CALAFCO. However, we continue to monitor in case of changes.

8/14/2023: Amended to require that a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body must meet in person at a location open to the public at least once per year.

[SB 537](#) (Becker D) Open meetings: multijurisdictional, cross-county agencies: teleconferences.**Current Text:** Amended: 9/5/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)**Introduced:** 2/14/2023**Last Amended:** 9/5/2023**Status:** 9/14/2023-Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Bryan.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency or in other situations related to public health that exempt a legislative body from the general requirements (emergency provisions) and impose different requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The emergency provisions specify that they do not require a legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. These circumstances include if a member shows "just cause," including for a childcare or caregiving need of a relative that requires the member to participate remotely. This bill would expand the circumstances of "just cause" to apply to the situation in which an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, or other specified relative requires the member to participate remotely. The bill would authorize the legislative body of a

multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, as specified, to use alternate teleconferencing provisions if the eligible legislative body has adopted an authorizing resolution, as specified. The bill would also require the legislative body to provide a record of attendance of the members of the legislative body, the number of community members in attendance in the teleconference meeting, and the number of public comments on its internet website within 10 days after a teleconference meeting, as specified. The bill would require at least a quorum of members of the legislative body to participate from one or more physical locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

Position: Watch

Subject: Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: This is a spotholder bill that states an intent to expand local government's access to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and remote access.

3/22/2023: was amended and fleshed out to add teleconferencing provisions to allow legislative bodies of multijurisdictional agencies to meet remotely. Multijurisdictional agencies are defined as boards, commissions, or advisory bodies of a multijurisdictional, cross county agency, which is composed of appointed representatives from more than one county, city, city and county, special district, or a joint powers entity.

The bill is sponsored by Peninsula Clean Energy, a community choice aggregator with a board comprised of local elected officials from the County of San Mateo and its 20 cities, as well as the City of Los Banos.

4/24/2023: The bill was amended to further clarify definitions and the requirements needed for members of an eligible legislative body to meet remotely.

The bill passed Senate Judiciary on 5/2/23, and had its third reading in the Senate on 5/30/2023. 7/12/23: The bill passed the Assembly Local Government Committee.

Amended on August 14, 2023, to require eligible legislative bodies that receive compensation to participate from a physical location that is open to the public.

9/14/2023, the bill was moved into the inactive file.

[SB 768](#) ([Caballero D](#)) **California Environmental Quality Act: vehicle miles traveled: statement of overriding consideration.**

Current Text: Amended: 3/22/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amended: 3/22/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was E.Q. on 3/29/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | 2 year | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA prohibits a public agency from approving or carrying out a project for which a certified EIR has identified one or more significant effects on the environment that would occur if the project is approved or carried out unless the public agency finds either (1) changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment, (2) those changes or alterations are within the jurisdiction of another public agency and have been, or can and should be, adopted by the other agency, or (3) specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the EIR and the public agency finds that those specific considerations outweigh the significant effects on the environment, commonly known as a statement of overriding consideration. This bill would provide that a public agency, in approving or carrying out a housing development project, as defined, a commercial project, or an industrial project, is not required to issue a statement of overriding consideration for significant effects on the environment identified by

a project's vehicle miles traveled or similar metrics if the lead agency has imposed all feasible mitigation measures on the project and it finds no feasible alternatives to the project..

Position: Neutral

Subject: CEQA

CALAFCO Comments: Introduced as a spotholder bill that noted an intent to enact subsequent legislation that would create a new transportation impact analysis for rural areas for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act.

3/22/2023: The bill was amended and would add language into the Public Resource Code to provide that a public agency, in approving or carrying out certain types of projects, is not required to issue a statement of overriding consideration for significant effects on the environment identified by a project's vehicle miles traveled if the lead agency has imposed all feasible mitigation measures on the project and it finds no feasible alternatives to the project.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

[SB 865](#) (Laird D) Municipal water districts: automatic exclusion of cities.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/17/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was GOV. & F. on 3/1/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

| Desk | 2 year | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Current law authorizes a governing body of a municipal water district to adopt an ordinance excluding any territory annexed to a metropolitan water district organized under the Metropolitan Water District Act, if the territory is annexed prior to the effective date of the formation of the municipal water district. Current law requires the Secretary of State to issue a certificate reciting the passage of the ordinance and the exclusion of the area from the municipal water district within 10 days of receiving a certified copy of the ordinance. This bill would extend the number of days the Secretary of State has to issue a certificate to 14 days.

Position: Neutral

Subject: Annexation Proceedings

CALAFCO Comments: Existing law authorizes a governing body of a municipal water district may adopt an ordinance excluding any territory annexed to a metropolitan water district organized under the Metropolitan Water District Act, providing that the territory is annexed prior to the effective date of the formation of the municipal water district. If that happens, the Secretary of State must, within 10 days of receiving a certified copy, issue a certificate reciting the passage of the ordinance that excludes the area from the municipal water district. This bill would extend the Secretary of State's window to issue that certificate from 10 to 14 days.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

[SB 878](#) (Committee on Governance and Finance) Validations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 6/29/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 6/29/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 30, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would enact the First Validating Act of 2023, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities. This bill contains other related provisions.

Attachments:

[Annual Validations Joint Letter of Support](#)

Position: Support

Subject: LAFCo Administration

CALAFCO Comments: This is the first of three annual validating acts. The joint letter of support is in the attachments section.

Passed and approved by the Governor on 6/29/2023.

[SB 879](#) (Committee on Governance and Finance) Validations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 6/29/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 6/29/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 31, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would enact the Second Validating Act of 2023, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities. This bill contains other related provisions.

Attachments:

[Annual Validations Joint Letter of Support](#)

Position: Support

Subject: LAFCo Administration

CALAFCO Comments: This is one of three annual validating acts. The joint letter of support is in the attachments section.

Passed and approved by the Governor on 6/29/2023.

[SB 880](#) (Committee on Governance and Finance) Validations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 6/29/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 6/29/2023-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 32, Statutes of 2023.

| Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Desk | Policy | Fiscal | Floor | Conf. Conc. | Enrolled | Vetoed | Chaptered |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1st House | | | | 2nd House | | | | | | | |

Summary:

Would enact the Third Validating Act of 2023, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

Attachments:

[Annual Validations Joint Letter of Support](#)

Position: Support

Subject: LAFCo Administration

CALAFCO Comments: This is one of three annual validating acts. The joint letter of support is in the attachments section.

Passed and approved by the Governor on 6/29/2023.

Total Measures: 21

Total Tracking Forms: 21