



AGENDA ITEM 6.A.

MEETING: June 18, 2024
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Middle Trinity Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update – Lewiston CSD Agency Profile Preview

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 Middle Trinity 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)

Staff previously presented agency profiles including Douglas City CSD and Weaverville FPD. Staff have continued to coordinate with Lewiston CSD and their draft agency profile is included as Attachment A. Staff will continue to work with Junction City FPD so that a complete administrative draft MSR/SOI Update can be brought to the August 2024 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission receive the staff report, review the Lewiston CSD agency profile, and provide direction as necessary.

5.0 LEWISTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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5.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Agency Overview

The Lewiston Community Services District (herein referred to as “Lewiston CSD” or “District”) provides water, wastewater, street lighting, recreation, and fire protection services to the community of Lewiston, located in eastern Trinity County off of State Route 299. Lewiston is located just south of Lewiston Lake and was formed in 1957 by the Bureau of Reclamation as a government work camp to construct the Trinity and Lewiston Dams, part of the Central Valley Project. Once the dams were completed in 1962 and 1963, respectively, land parcels were sold by the government to residents and other investors.

Today, Lewiston is one of the most populated areas in the County. It offers commercial and residential development including lodging opportunities, a library and educational facilities, restaurants, and numerous recreational opportunities due to its proximity to the Trinity River, Lewiston Lake, and Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Table 5-1: Lewiston CSD Contact Information

Primary Contact	Mel Deardorff, Board President and Fire Chief
E-mail Address	meldeardorff@gmail.com
Physical Address	130 Texas Ave., Lewiston, CA 96052
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 164, Lewiston, CA 96052
Phone Number	530-778-0306
Website	https://lewistoncsd.specialdistrict.org/

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. Lewiston CSD is currently authorized to provide water, wastewater, street lighting, recreation, fire protection rescue, and hazardous material emergency response services. 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 considered “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 §61106 and pursuant to §56824.10-14.

Formation and Development

Lewiston was built along the original frontier between Shasta and Weaverville, consisting initially of a trading post and water ferry. With the discovery of gold in the 1850s, Lewiston became a sizeable mining community through the first half of the 20th century. After World War II, the construction of Trinity and Lewiston Dams as part of the Central Valley Project, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation administrative headquarters, and a large federal housing project brought new employment opportunities and economic activity to Lewiston. Following completion of the dams, the government parcels were sold to residents and other investors. Two major subdivisions were created: Lewiston Park and Lewiston Heights, and various other private parcels, including the Trinity Dam Mobile Home Park.

Lewiston CSD was formed as an independent special district on October 10, 1960, under the Community Services District law for the purpose of providing fire protection services to the community. The formation was approved by Trinity County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 33-60. On January 5, 1962, the Lewiston Trading Company Annexation was recorded. According to the State Board of Equalization records, there was a boundary revision in 1967 and 1976, two detachments approved on November 15, 1976, including the South Pacific Detachment (LAFCo No. 46-76) and Additional Non-Service Area Detachment (LAFCo No. 50-76), and two annexations approved on December 12, 1977, including the Reimann-Ward (LAFCo No. 77-05) and New Lewiston Park Subdivision (LAFCo No. 77-06).

At the time of formation, the District was only authorized to provide fire protection services. In 2010, boundary changes were initiated by Resolution 2010-02 to increase the District's boundaries to its current size of 18,517 acres. In 2012, the powers of providing water and wastewater services were approved by LAFCo Resolution 2012-XX. *[Additional documentation needed to determine when rec/streetlighting services were authorized].*

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

Lewiston CSD's boundary encompasses approximately 18,517 acres or 29 square miles (Figure 5-1). Within the District's boundary there are __ parcels. The nearest major roadways are State Route 299, which runs along the southern border of Lewiston CDP, and Trinity Dam Boulevard, which runs north-south through the District. Access to the District is provided by Lewiston Road, Trinity Dam Boulevard, Rush Creek Road, Deadwood Road, Poker Bar Road, and Browns Mountain Road. The majority of the roads throughout the community are paved, apart from dirt roads in the more isolated areas.

The District's adopted SOI for all services is larger than the District boundary and includes the pockets and islands of non-district territory. An expanded fire only SOI is proposed to match the goodwill fire response area which extends well beyond the District boundary and SOI. According to the Trinity County 2050 General Plan Background Report, Lewiston Fire has a responsibility area of approximately 79 square miles bordered by Browns Mountain in the east, State Route 299 in the south, Trinity Dam to the north, and the Shasta County border to the west.

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.

Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in the Lewiston 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 2025. Upon completion and adoption of the Trinity County General Plan 2050, land uses will be subject to this plan in place of the 1988 version. The Lewiston area is subject to the Lewiston Community Plan (1985), which serves to supplement the Trinity County General Plan. The Lewiston Community Plan is also being updated as part of the General Plan Update process.

Land use in the area served by the District is largely timber, agricultural, unclassified, open space, rural residential, and commercial (Figure 5-2). The lands surrounding the District primarily are designated timber production zone and unclassified.

Figure 5-1: Lewiston CSD Boundary and SOI

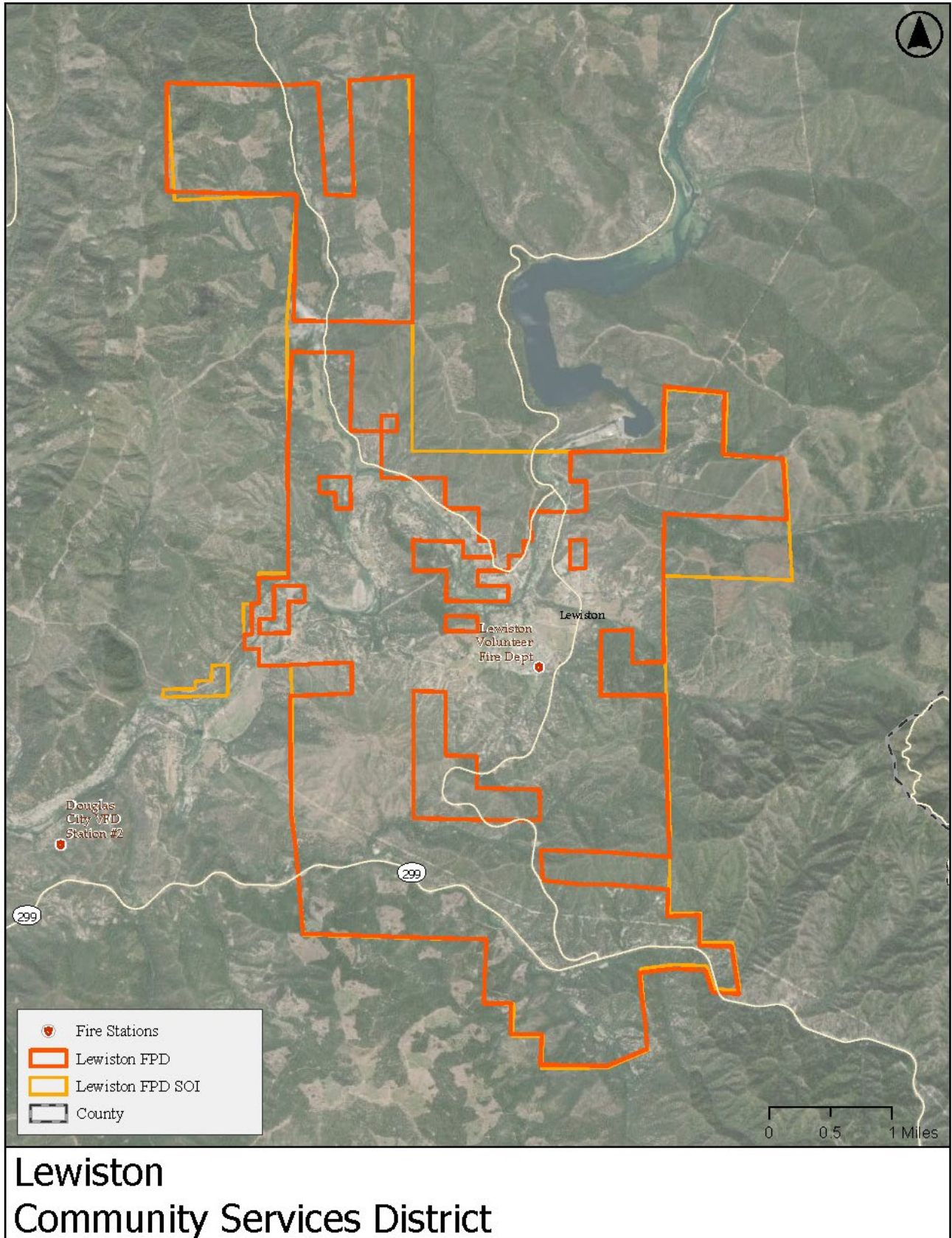
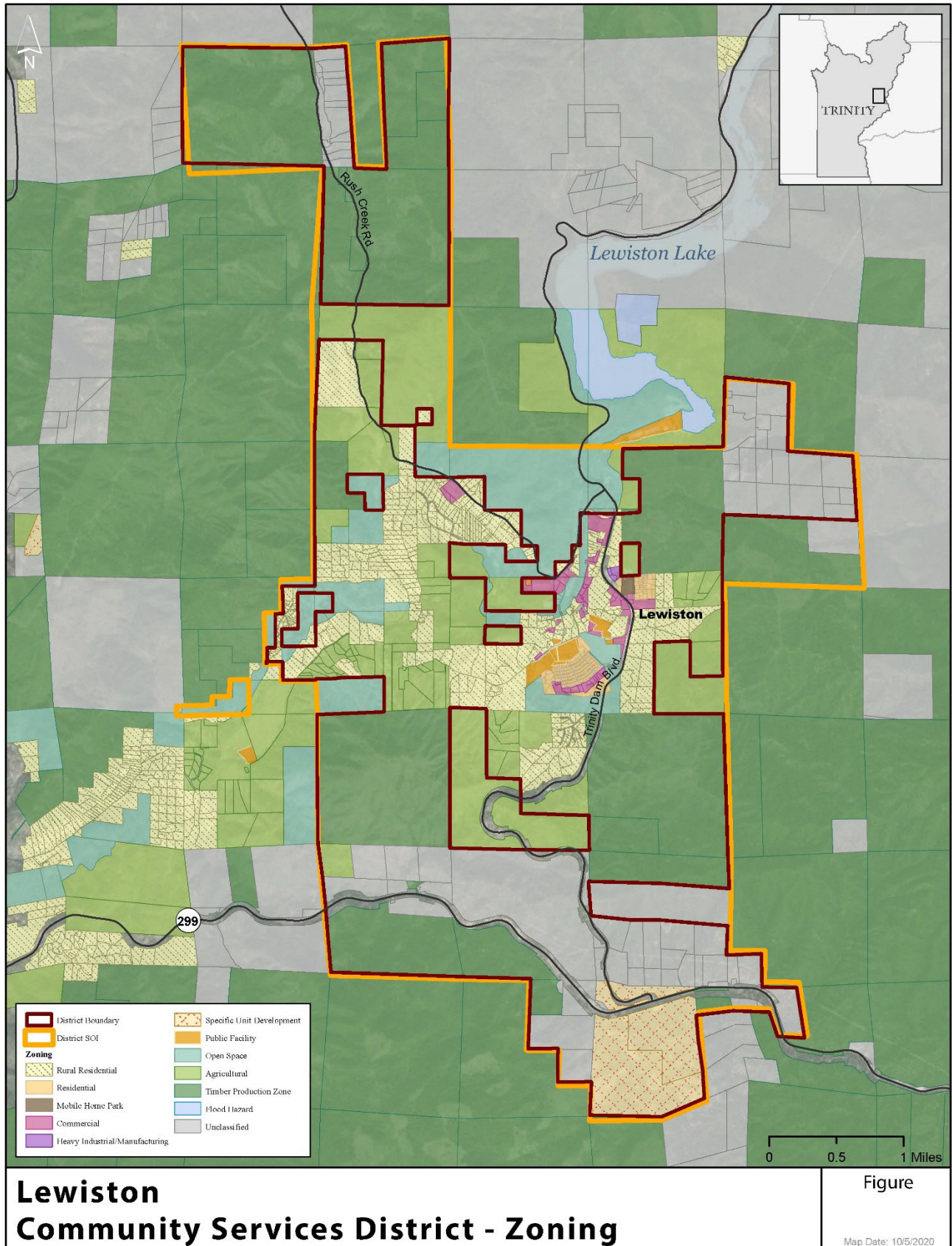


Figure 5-2: Lewiston CSD Land Uses Map



Sources: Boundaries, Roads, Parcels: Trinity County GIS.

Growth and Population

The population of Lewiston census-designated place (CDP) is approximately 1,222¹ according to the 2020 decennial Census data. American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic and Housing Estimates approximate the District's 2021 population to be 1,817². 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 Lewiston CDP has a smaller area in acres (approximately 12,810.8 acres) compared to the District and does not include additional lands to the north and south that are included in the District's boundaries. However, the CDP does include some additional lands to the east and west that are not encompassed in District boundaries. These eastern and western lands in the CDP appear to be more populated than the northern and southern lands in the District. As such, the population estimates for the Lewiston CDP are likely fairly accurate for the District despite the large difference in acreages.

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 \$51,439⁴ according to the ACS 5-Year Estimates, which is approximately 61 percent of the estimated 2021 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.

5.2 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

The District is an independent small district served by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected to four-year staggered terms (Table 5-2). Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the main room of the Lewiston Community Center, located at 130 Texas Avenue.

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 Lewiston Community Center, Fire Station, and "Mini Mart" Community bulletin board at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings.

¹ Table P1 Race, 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.

Table 5-2: Board of Directors

Board Member	Title	Term
Mel Deardorff	President	12/2/2022-12/4/2026
Cydney Cooper	Vice President	12/2/2022-12/4/2026
Jennilea Brookins	Director	12/4/2020-12/6/2024
Vacant	Director	12/4/2020-12/6/2024
James Montgomery	Director	12/2/2022-12/4/2026

Staffing

The District President also serves as fire chief and general manager role. [Expand on staffing, contract services, and succession planning].

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. Lewiston CSD does maintain a website (<https://lewistoncsd.specialdistrict.org/>) and complies with most of SB929’s requirements. The specific requirements of SB929 and the District’s compliance status for each requirement are delineated below (Table 5-3).

Table 5-3: SB929 Website Posting Requirements

Type of Requirement	Description of Requirement	Is the District in compliance?
District Contact Information	SB929 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) 	Partially. The agendas are posted as Word Docs; posting future agendas as PDFs would ensure complete compliance with this requirement.
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 	Yes.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| | o Frequency in which system data is collected and updated | |
|--|---|--|

The District has contact information posted in a conspicuous area of the website. While SB929 does not specifically state the type of contact information required, it is recommended that districts post a physical/mailling address, phone number, and email address. The District has all recommended pieces of contact information available online. Board meeting agendas 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 copy of the agenda. However, SB929 requires that the most recent agenda be searchable, indexable, and platform independent. This requirement can be satisfied by posting agendas as PDFs; the District currently posts agendas as Word documents and is therefore not in compliance with this section of SB929.

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. Although not a requirement of SB929, the District is encouraged to make the last three fiscal year budgets and most recent audit available online to further increase transparency beyond what is required by State law.

5.3 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Non-Fire Services Overview

Water Services

The District provides water services to approximately 204 residential and 31 commercial connections⁵ with a maximum daily demand (MDD) of 99 gallons per minute (GPM) and an operational capacity of 264 GPM⁶. Thus, the District has sufficient capacity to serve its existing and projected future connections. In addition to providing potable water to customers, the District is also responsible for performing fire hydrant maintenance services to aid in the provision of fire services.

Once land parcels in Lewiston were sold to residents after the completion of Trinity and Lewiston Dams, two major subdivisions were created in the community. The Lewiston Valley Mutual Water Company (LVMWC) and the Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company (LPMWC) were established to provide water and wastewater services to the Lewiston Heights and Lewiston Park subdivisions, respectively. The District consolidated local water services through the acquisition of the LVMWC in 2012 and the LPMWC in 2018.

Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company Acquisition

In 2013, the Lewiston Valley Water Intertie Project (Project) began its planning and design phase to connect the Lewiston CSD water system (consisting of the recently acquired Lewiston Valley Water Company) and the Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company (LPMWC). This Project was sponsored by the LPMWC due to boil water notices being issued to customers anytime river water was pumped and treated at the treatment plant due to its age. In 2014 alone, summer

⁵ Water System Details for Lewiston CSD. CA Drinking Water Watch.

<https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWWW/>

⁶ Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., Lewiston Community Services District Water Distribution System Replacement and Well 8 Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, March 2021.

<https://files.ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/268120-1/attachment/fVtQoWp7SVRT6MpL1kuRt0cGRa0DH-15VXjV0D8bjoVB3lpKSMc-e7wKp2bSU7rd5xlGcQ0sQ154Fkzy0>

well production had decreased by 44 percent⁷, requiring water from the Trinity River to be pumped in summer months and leading to the issuance of numerous boil water notices.

The Project, which was completed in 2017, installed appropriately 3,585 feet of intertie 10-inch-diameter ductile iron pipeline, a flow metering and valve station, and two fire hydrants along Trinity Dam Boulevard⁸. Additionally, the Project made upgrades to the District's treatment plant SCADA system. The Project, funded by an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Proposition 84 Grant of \$558,000, resulted in the conservation of approximately 1.33 acre-feet (AF) of water per year by eliminating overflows from the LPMWC storage tank, increased water supply reliability for the community and fire service providers, and allowed the LPMWC to avoid withdrawing water from the Trinity River in summer months.

The economic benefits from the Project were estimated to be between \$500-\$5,000 avoided in annual water treatment costs, a \$1,600,000 one-time increase in property values for homes devalued from the frequent boil water notices, and \$106 annually from instream beneficial uses⁷.

On July 1, 2018, Lewiston CSD fully acquired the LPMWC⁶. The LPMWC provided water to the Lewiston Park Subdivision, a subdivision approximately 0.25 miles south of the Trinity River and adjacent to the Lewiston Community Park. The water distribution system in this area was built around 1957 by the US Bureau of Reclamation and its piping had reached the end of its useful life; at the time of the LPMWC acquisition, Lewiston CSD lost up to 32 percent of its water daily due to leaks in the aged system. The Water Distribution System Replacement Project began its planning and design phase in 2019, with Project implementation beginning in 2021 and construction anticipated to be completed in 2024 (confirm). This \$1,073,273⁹ Project was funded by the IRWM Proposition 1 Round 1 Grant. The Project will result in the full replacement of the distribution system and the reconnection and installation of fire hydrants to address system deficiencies and fire flow compliance.

Current Lewiston CSD Water System and Operations

The current water system consists of three groundwater wells (combined capacity of 94 gallons per minute (GPM)), a raw water intake structure (infiltration gallery) located on the Trinity River, two storage tanks, a surface water direct filtration treatment plant (capacity of 170 GPM), and a distribution system¹⁰ (Figure 5-2).

The District holds two water diversion licenses from the State Water Resources Control Board, granting them the authority to appropriate water from the Trinity River. License 6566 (Permit 11106) allows the year-round diversion of up to 0.12 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from Trinity River, with a maximum diversion of 87 acre-feet annually, for domestic and fire protection

⁷ North Coast Resource Partnership, Lewiston Valley Drinking Water Intertie Pipeline, 2017. https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2017/09/NCRP_2015_Project-LewistonCSD_intertie.pdf

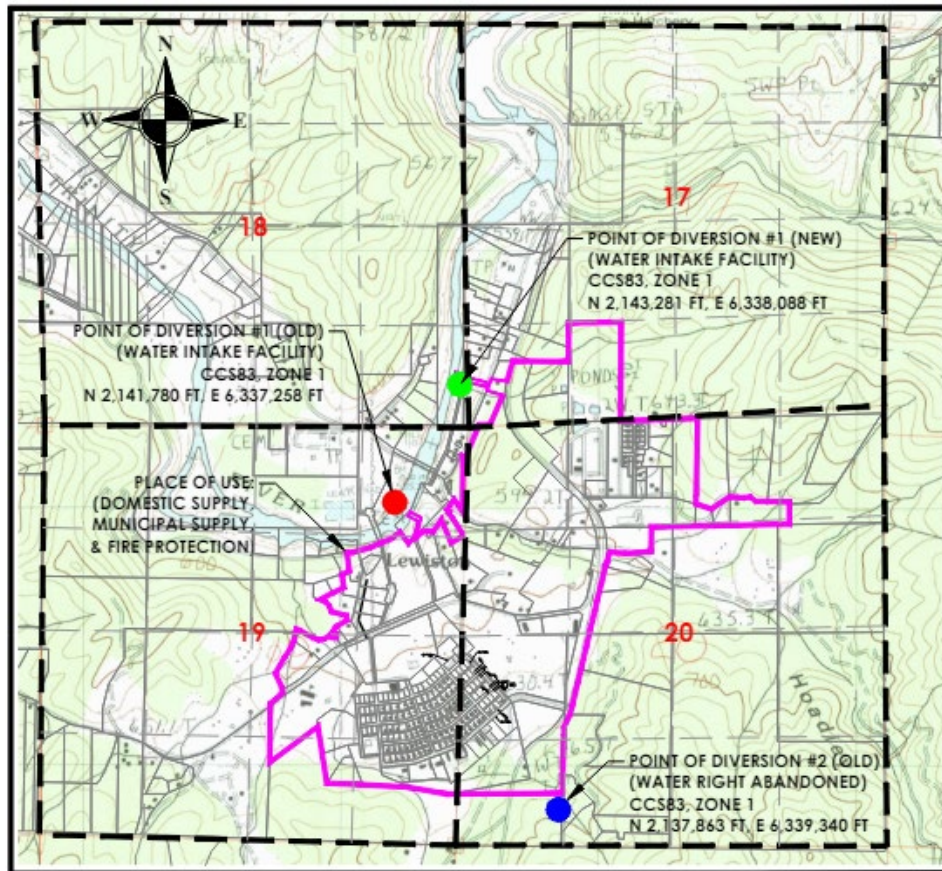
⁸ North Coast Resource Partnership, Lewiston Valley Drinking Water Intertie Pipeline Project Tracker, 2023. <https://www.northcoastresourcepartnershipprojects.org/Project/Detail/14036>

⁹ North Coast Regional Partnership, Water Distribution System Replacement Project Project Tracker, 2023. <https://www.northcoastresourcepartnershipprojects.org/Project/Detail/14085>

¹⁰ Lewiston Community Services District and PACE Engineering, *Your Water*, <https://lewistoncsd.specialdistrict.org/your-water>

purposes¹¹. License 6612 (Permit 11654) allows the year-round diversion of up to 0.42 cfs of water from Trinity River, with a maximum diversion of 304.1 acre-feet annually, for municipal, domestic, and fire protection purposes¹². The District's infiltration gallery point of diversion (POD) and water treatment plant were updated in 2014 and are utilized for both of its licensed water rights. The District now has a consolidated place of use boundary (Figure 5-3).

Figure 5-3 Place of Use Boundary



Water received from the Trinity River is treated at the direct filtration treatment plant located on Riley Mine Road off of Trinity Dam Boulevard before being stored in the North Storage Tank, allowing the water to reach its mandated contact time for full treatment. This storage tank is located off of Dennison Drive and Hilltop Drive, with a total capacity of 0.318 million gallons (MG). This treated water then enters the distribution system and is continuously monitored to ensure its chlorine residual is at least 0.02 milligrams (mg) per liter (L) of water, an amount mandated by the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, § 64654. District water operators monitor the chlorine residual each day at five different locations throughout the distribution system. Typically, the water at the end of the distribution system is found to have a chlorine residual of 0.3 mg/L.

Groundwater is pumped from three groundwater wells: Well 2 and Well 6 are located along Donner Street and Well 4 is located along Bear Creek Trail off of Trinity Dam Boulevard. Well 4 is

¹¹ Water Right License 6566 was originally issued to the Lewiston Trading Company on October 3, 1962, assigned to Lewiston Valley Water Company Inc. in 1991, and later assigned to Lewiston CSD on May 2, 2012.

¹² Water Right License 6612 was originally issued to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on December 6, 1962, assigned to Lewiston Park MWC in 1984, and later assigned to Lewiston CSD on June 18, 2020.

located adjacent to the South Storage Tank which has a capacity of 0.165 MG. When there is no demand in the distribution system, the groundwater wells get pumped into this storage tank which is also monitored daily to ensure its chlorine residual value is in compliance with CCR, Title 22, § 64654. This tank averages a chlorine residual of 0.3 mg/L.

The District has three other wells that are not a part of its distribution system. Well 7, located along Lewiston Road and Latchler Lane, was disconnected from the distribution system in ____ due to _____. There is a Community Park Well off of Trinity Vista that is an irrigation-only well and not a part of the distribution system. Well 5, located adjacent to Well 4 and the South Storage Tank, has been disconnected from the system since 2016 due to poor water quality and electronic control malfunctions**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

As part of the Water Distribution System Replacement Project, construction of a new Well 8 was completed in spring of 2024 and is located adjacent to the Community Park Well. The Well 8 Project serves to replace Well 5 and be responsible for irrigating Lewiston Community Park via the new water distribution system, thus decommissioning the Community Park Well. Construction of the new distribution system, including installation of new hydrants and new meters, is expected to be completed in fall of 2024 (confirm).

Lewiston CSD's water system is seeking to increase resiliency to extreme weather events and pursuing a Water System Resiliency Project¹³. This Project aims to upgrade the wood siding and shingle roofing of the District's well buildings (for Wells 2, 4, and 6) to a fire-resistant fiber-cement material to increase protection from wildfires due to the classification of Lewiston as a high-threat fire area. The raw water pump station (RWPS) and water treatment plant (WTP) both have a generator in case of power outages. However, the power must be manually switched on at both the RWPS and WTP, which would be an issue during extreme weather conditions such as wildfires or snowstorms. The Project seeks to install automatic transfer switches at these locations to ensure that water provision would not be impacted during these conditions. The Project also would install approximately 70 advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) water meters, providing District operators and customers with the opportunity to receive alarms for leaks, no flow, or backwards flow and view water consumption rates at any time. (funding received?)

Water Contingency Plan

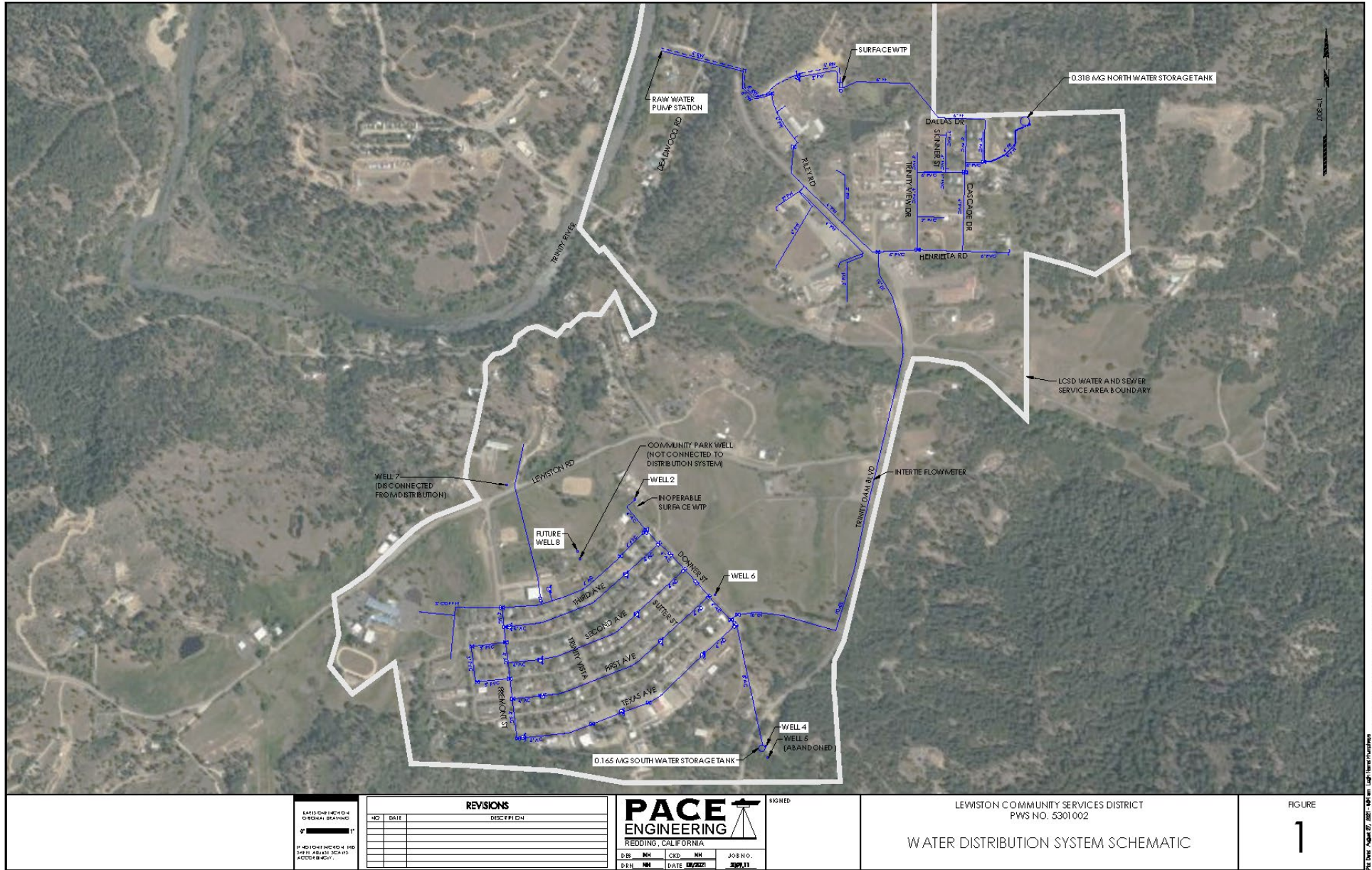
The District has a Water Conservation Drought Contingency Plan outlining the tiers of water conservation efforts and the requirements in place for each tier. Customers may be subject to corrective action by the District, though exceptions and variances to the Contingency Plan may be possible on a case-by-case basis. [How many times in past 5-10 years have they been in a tier beyond Stage I?]

Consumer Confidence Report

The most recent Consumer Confidence Report is for 2022 and showed no violations, indicating adequate water quality in the District. A 2023 report is not yet available on the CA Drinking Water Watch website (<https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/>).

¹³ North Coast Regional Partnership, Water System Resiliency Project, 2023.
<https://www.northcoastresourcepartnershipprojects.org/Project/Detail/17152>

Figure 5-4: Lewiston CSD Water Schematic Map



DATE: 04/24/24
 DRAWN BY: JACOB
 CHECKED BY: JACOB
 PROJECT NO.: 5301002

REVISIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION

PACE ENGINEERING
 REDDING, CALIFORNIA

DESIGNER: JACOB	CHECKED: JACOB	JOB NO.:
DRAWN BY: JACOB	DATE: 04/24/24	5301002

SIGNED: _____

LEWISTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
 PWS NO. 5301002
 WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

FIGURE
1

File Path: \\s:\proj\5301002\5301002.dwg
 Project Name: Lewiston Community Services District Water Distribution System Schematic Update
 Project No.: 5301002
 Date: 04/24/24
 Drawn By: JACOB
 Checked By: JACOB

Wastewater Services

The District provides wastewater services to 253 connections¹⁴. The District averages 0.04 MGD for average dry weather flow (ADWF) and 0.160 MGD for peak wet weather flow (PWWF)¹⁴. The wastewater system has capacity to accommodate flows of 0.072 MGD for ADWF and 0.36**Error! Bookmark not defined.** MGD for PWWF, indicating the District has sufficient capacity to serve additional connections¹⁵.

The original wastewater collection and treatment systems of Lewiston Valley Mutual Water Company (LVMWC) and Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company (LPMWC) were constructed in 1957 and have since met their useful service lives. The Trinity Dam Mobile Home Park (TDMHP) lacked a community wastewater service and discharged wastewater to a septic tank and pond adjacent to the mobile home park. In 1998, a field review was conducted of these systems and PACE Engineering authored a report recommending that these sewer systems located throughout Lewiston be consolidated and aging infrastructure be replaced or upgraded. At the time, the community voted to not move forward with the project.

In 2015, another field review was conducted of the three systems and revealed similar issues identified in 1998. Mainly, the systems had severe inflow and infiltration issues causing offsite discharge of untreated sewage or failure to meet discharge requirements. Additionally, the systems had out of date treatment technology due to updated, stricter effluent discharge limits. The systems all had outstanding violations: LVWMC was under a State Regional Water Resources Control Board (SRWRCB) Cleanup and Abatement Order (NO. R1-2003-0061) for system failures; LMPWC had a SWRCB Notice of Violation from November 2014 due to noncompliance with its waste discharge requirements; and TDMHP was issued SWRCB Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R1-2014-0005 in January 2014 for its inadequate waste disposal system and potential threats to human health and safety.

Due to the aging infrastructure and numerous health, safety and environmental violations, the District proposed to consolidate and replace or upgrade the existing sewer collection, treatment, and disposal facilities of the three systems in 2017 by submitting a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). Additional information and documents were submitted by the District with the ROWD being officially complete on June 17, 2019. In response to this ROWD, the NCRWQCB issued Order No. R1-2020-0024 outlining the new waste discharge requirements for the consolidated and updated wastewater system.

The new wastewater collection, treatment and disposal project was funded by a Proposition 1 Small Community Grant awarded by the SWRCB in the amount of \$15,560,300. USDA Rural Development also provided \$1,233,000 in grant funding for the project. The project was completed in December 2020. The District reports high operational costs to operate the wastewater system, which requires a Grade 3 Operator License. including contract operator

¹⁴ North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Order No. R1-2020-0024 Waste Discharge Requirements for Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility, October 2020. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/10_2020/pdf/3/20_0024_LewistonCSD_WDR_Proposed.pdf

¹⁵ New wastewater treatment plant lift station has a capacity of 50 GPM in ADWF which is equivalent to 0.072 MGD and 250 GPM in PWWF which is equivalent to 0.36 MGD. Sourced from Stantec, Environmental Assessment for Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Project, March 2018.

costs to run the system. As of 2024, sewer rates are around \$78/month (\$125/month for water and sewer), with higher rates in the summer months. An updated rate study will be needed.

Parks and Recreation

The Lewiston Historic District covers 15 acres within the community of Lewiston and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The Historic District provides a vision into the early Gold Rush-era of California architectural styles.

Lewiston Community Park, a local public park, is managed by Lewiston CSD and contains a playground, disc golf course, equestrian arena, a pavilion, and opportunities to play baseball, basketball, and pickleball. Areas of the Community Park are available for rent including the Community Center main room (\$15/hr), additional Kitchen use (\$10/hr), pavilion (\$15/hr), sports field/equestrian arena (\$50/day), and the gym (\$15/hr - \$50/day). Additionally, the District maintains a community garden that is located adjacent to the Community Park. There are 15 raised garden beds available for community members. The District received a per capita grant of \$230,000 for a Multi Court Sport Project to upgrade the outdoor courts which was completed in 2023.

Streetlighting

Lewiston CSD provides streetlighting services within District boundaries. [Number of lights maintained; 10-15 confirm].

Fire Protection Services Overview

Lewiston Volunteer Fire Department of the Lewiston CSD has one fire station located at 200 Texas Avenue in Lewiston. According to the Trinity County 2050 General Plan Background Report, the Department has a responsibility area of approximately 79 square miles bordered by Browns Mountain in the east, State Route 299 in the south, Trinity Dam to the north, and the Shasta County border to the west.

Demand

The Department breaks up its call volume into the following categories:

- Fire including structure fires, vehicle fires, and vegetation fires;
- Rescue and emergency medical service (EMS) incidents including motor vehicle accidents, vehicle extrications, rescues, EMS-Basic Life Support (BLS) calls;
- Hazardous conditions without active fires; service calls; good intent; and false alarm.

A summary of the Department's call volume from 2020 through 2023 is shown below in Table 5-4. The Department groups its incidents using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) classification.

Table 5-4: Lewiston VFD Call Volume

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Fire</i>	16	20	12	21
<i>Structure Fire</i>	5	17	6	7
<i>Vehicle Fire</i>	1	1	1	2
<i>Vegetation Fire</i>	16	10	5	2
TOTAL FIRE	38	48	24	32
<i>Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident</i>	86	105	130	146

Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	18	9	23
Extrications from Vehicles	1	1	2	1
Rescues	1	2	3	2
EMS-BLS Response Calls	120	80	119	146
TOTAL RESCUE AND EMS	220	206	263	318
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	5	6	4	0
Service Call	13	10	8	47
Good Intent Call	5	3	0	0
False Alarm and False Call	16	12	12	13
TOTAL OTHER CALLS	39	31	24	60
TOTAL CALLS PER YEAR	297	285	311	410

Personnel

The Department typically has between 12-18 volunteers on its roster although volunteer numbers fluctuate. [Expand training certifications/requirements of volunteers. How many hold which certs? What requirements are there to be a volunteer? Training schedule and specialized courses.]

Infrastructure and Facilities

The Department has one fire station located at 200 Texas Avenue in Lewiston. This station is one of the newest in the County and was completed in 2018 after over 14 years of fundraising to cover the construction costs, totaling approximately \$1 million. The Department has seven apparatus including: three type I fire engines, two of which have the ability to function as type III engines; two type VI fire engines; a rescue truck; and a water tender¹⁶ (Table 5-5).

Fire Engine 2310 was gifted to Lewiston VFD in 2020 from the Woodside Fire Protection District based in San Mateo County. During the Carr Fire that destroyed over a thousand homes throughout Shasta and Trinity Counties in 2018, Woodside FPD firefighters traveled to Lewiston to help aid with the containment of the fire and protection of the community. The new fire station was up-and-running at this point and the Lewiston Sparkies actively cooked and served any firefighters in the area, an action appreciated and admired by the Woodside FPD firefighters. At the same time, Woodside FPD had declared the fire engine as surplus and as a token of gratitude, gifted the engine to the Lewiston VFD. This engine replaced the Department's 1992 fire truck.

Table 5-5: Lewiston VFD Apparatus Information

Station	Station Address	Apparatus	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
Fire Station	200 Texas Avenue,	WT2341 Freightliner	Water Tender	1995		500	3,000
		P2361	Fire Engine	1997		250	250

¹⁶ Mintier Harnish, Trinity County 2050 General Plan Update, Public Review Draft Background Report, March 2023.
https://trinity2050.com/images/docs/PRD%20Background%20Report/TCGPU_PRD_Background%20Report%20Combined_REDUCED_2023%2003%2006%20MG.pdf

Lewiston, 96052	Fire Engine E2310	Piece Dash Pumper	2004	I/III	1,500	750
	Fire Engine E2311	Rosenbauer Pumper	2010	I/III	1,000	750
	Fire Engine 2312	BME Pumper	2000	I	1,000	600
	Rescue 2353	Rescue Truck	1999		N/A	N/A
	Mini Pumper E2331		1975	VI	250	260

ISO Rating

The Department's latest Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating was determined in 2017 to be a 04/4Y. A review of the emergency communications, the fire department itself, and the water supply system are conducted and account for 10 percent, 50 percent, and 40 percent of the total classification, respectively. [Next ISO audit?]

There have been notable accomplishments in recent years to the Lewiston CSD water supply system (some completed and some in-progress), and improvements to fire flows, well capacity, hydrants, and overall resiliency. The District also completed a major upgrade to the fire station in 2018.

Lewiston has been designated as a Firewise community since 2008. The program recognizes communities who organize around wildfire safety and connects those communities with resources, like grants and information about fire safety. Being within a Firewise community can benefit homeowners and provide discounts on homeowners' insurance.

Challenges and Needs

The Department's water tender is aging and has a high mileage of approximately 420,000 miles. In the near future, this apparatus will need replacement. Like other all-volunteer departments, recruitment and retention of volunteers is a major challenge for the Department. Lewiston Fire holds an annual recognition dinner and Lewiston Sparkies holds fundraising events to support various Department projects and funding needs. The Lewiston Sparkies most recently funded \$30,000 for Asbestos removal as part of the fire station renovation project and helped fund new furniture and other purchases.

Shared Services

Lewiston VFD is available for mutual aid upon request. The Department has automatic aid agreements with Weaverville FPD and Douglas City CSD to respond on 1st alarm to all structure fire calls. Table 5-6 below shows the mutual and automatic aid data for the Department from 2020-2023.

Table 5-6: Mutual/Automatic Aid Data, 2020-2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Received mutual aid	0	1	1	1
Received automatic aid	3	1	2	2
Provided mutual aid	1	3	5	8
Provided automatic aid	2	4	6	6

# of mutual/automatic aid responses that were for structure fires	3	2	3	6
TOTAL AID	9	11	17	23

The Department 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 Department receives seasonal reimbursements for in-unit wildland fire assignments (via assistance by hire and equipment rental). Lewiston VFD typically provides staff resources and supplies a water tender or engine when pulled at the Trinity River Con Camp.

The Watershed Center supports the development of Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) which are groups of community members looking to manage the lands with prescribed burns. A Lewiston PBA Workshop was held on April 20, 2024, at the Lewiston Community Center adjacent to the Department's fire station to educate the community on how fire can reduce fuels and restore ecosystems on private lands¹⁷. The Fire Management team at the Watershed Center and local representatives from the Lewiston VFD were presenters at this workshop. Lewiston VFD is also partnering with the Watershed Research and Training Center to provide staffing for fuels reduction projects that are planned for the area. The Watershed Center provides reimbursement for staffing and equipment rental (engine).

Other Service Providers

Solid Waste Disposal

There is not a transfer station in Lewiston. There are two transfer stations available for solid waste disposal in the county: Weaverville Transfer Station at 173 Tom Bell Road approximately 15 miles northwest, and Hayfork Transfer Station at 372 Hayfork Dump Road approximately 36 miles away.

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 Project¹⁸. 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.

¹⁷ <https://www.thewatershedcenter.com/events/lewiston-prescribed-burn-association-pba-workshop?rq=lewiston%20>

¹⁸ Trinity River Division Act of 1955

Telecommunications

Verizon, AT&T, and other major service providers provide wireless telephone and broadband internet services. 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, Starlink, and Viasat.

Emergency Medical Services

Trinity Life Support Community Services District (TLSCSD) has 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.

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.

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).

5.4 FINANCING

Financial Overview

Lewiston CSD is responsible for regular financial planning and reporting in accordance with Government Code §61000 et seq. along with other state and federal requirements associated with grant funding the District has received.

Regarding the annual budget process, Government Code §61110 states that a preliminary and final budget must be adopted for the District on or before July 1 of each year. Government Code §53901 states that within 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year each local agency must submit its budget to the County Auditor. These budgets are to be filed and made available on request by the public at the County Auditor-Controller's Office.

State law also requires each district to file an annual audit report with the County Auditor-Controller. According to Government Code §61118, the Board of Directors shall provide for regular audits of the District's accounts and records and shall provide for annual financial reports

to the State Controller. All special districts are required to submit annual audits to the County within 12 months of the completion of the fiscal year unless the Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved a biennial or five-year schedule¹⁹. Additionally, Government Code §26909(a)(1) states that the County Auditor shall either prepare the audit or contract with a certified public accountant to complete the annual audit for districts not in compliance with their audit requirement at the expense of the special district.

The District has submitted overall revenues and expenditures to the State Controller's Office (SCO) consistently since 2003. The latest audit covers FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022. Over these fiscal years, the District saw a net loss of (\$33,362) which can be attributed to the depreciation of equipment and a decrease in current assets. The District's 2022-2023 audit is in progress.

Revenues and Expenditures

Lewiston CSD is primarily funded through a combination of property taxes and fees for services. Additional income comes from timber tax yields, rental facilities, interest, and other miscellaneous resources. According to the FY2021-22 audit, property taxes accounted for 18.8% of total revenues, fire department fees for services accounted for 22.7%, while fees for water and wastewater services accounted for 54.4%.

Expenditures for the District primarily include operating plant fees, and materials, supplies, and services. Additional expenditures include debt payments which in FY2021-22 accounted for \$33,053 or 4% of total expenditures.

According to the State Controller's Office, the District had an overall revenue of \$1,064,194 and expenditures of \$818,899 in FY 2021-2022. This is a net gain of \$245,305, which is less than the gains shown in FY2018-19, FY 2019-20, and FY 2020-21 which had net gains of \$2,313,513, \$7,146,965, and \$14,941,326, respectively. This decrease is likely attributed to the completion of the District's water and wastewater improvement projects and the subsequent decrease in grant funding. A summary of FY 2018-2019 through FY 2021-2022 is below (Table 5-7).

Table 5-7: State Controller's Office Summary

	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
Water/Wastewater Enterprise Fund				
Revenues	\$1,989,121	\$7,019,468	\$14,758,775	\$761,198
Expenditures	\$343,678	\$386,613	\$472,488	\$556,562
Water Net Gain/(Loss)	\$1,645,443	\$6,632,855	\$14,286,287	\$204,636
Governmental Funds				
Revenues	\$324,392	\$127,497	\$182,551	\$302,996
Expenditures	\$299,570	\$107,437	\$255,280	\$262,337
Governmental Net Gain/(Loss)	\$24,822	\$20,060	(\$72,729)	\$40,659

Non-Profit Support

The Lewiston Sparkies is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Sparkies, have been raising funds to benefit the Lewiston Fire Department since its formation in 2004. The Sparkies sponsor community events and fundraisers such as the Peddlers' Faire, the Bridge Lighting and Fireworks

¹⁹ California Government Code Section 26909 (5)(b)(1-3).

event, a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, a Chicken BBQ, the County-Wide Yard Sale, Lewiston Safety Day, and a Valentine's Day Bake Sale with all proceeds benefiting the Department.