

1.0 TRINITY COUNTY WATERWORKS #1

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1.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Agency Overview

Trinity County Waterworks District #1 (“TCWWD #1” or “District”) provides potable water services to the community of Hayfork, located in central Trinity County on Highway 3. The community of Hayfork is located along Hayfork Creek in the middle of Hayfork Valley and is surrounded by mountainous terrain including several notable peaks such as Wells Mountain, Thompson Peak, and Plummer Peak.

Table 1: TCWWD #1 Contact Information

Primary Contact	Shane McDonald, General Manager
E-mail Address	shane@trinitycountywaterworks.com
Physical/Mailing Address	320 Reservoir Road, Hayfork, CA 96041
Phone Number	(530) 628-5449
Website	trinitycountywaterworks.com

District Principal Act

The District's principal act is the County Waterworks Districts Law established by California Water Code §55000 *et seq.*. Under this law the District may provide inhabitants of the district with water for irrigation, domestic, industrial, or fire protection purposes.

Formation and Development

A petition was submitted to the Trinity County Board of Supervisors in late 1950 for the formation of an agency to provide water services to the Hayfork area. On December 27, 1950, the petition was accepted and a special election called for on January 16, 1951. with 79% voting in favor of district formation. The election approved formation of the Trinity County Waterworks District No. 1 and bonded indebtedness of \$230,000 for the purposes of acquisition, construction, installation, completion, extension, repair and maintenance of waterworks, structures and appliances for the district and the acquisition, by purchase, condemnation, lease or otherwise, of lands, rights of way, water, water rights and water service necessary or convenient for such purpose. On January 23, 1951, the Board of Supervisors officially adopted the results of the election and declared the District formed.

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

The District's original boundary established in 1951 was approximately 2,897 acres (or 4.5 square miles). Since then, the jurisdictional boundary has grown to 3,671 acres. In 1985, the District's SOI was set as coterminous to the boundary of 4.6 square miles. At that time, it was also noted that the active powers for the District were water and park and recreation services while all others were considered latent¹.

In 2013, Resolution No. LAFCO-13-03 approved annexation of approximately 160 acres along North Vista Lane on the northern boundary of the District and later, in 2018 Resolution No. LAFCO-18-02 approved annexation of approximately 38.58 acres along Tule Creek Road just west of Highway 3.

¹ Trinity County Planning Department, Trinity County Waterworks District No. 1 Sphere of Influence. July 2, 1985.

Figure 1: Boundary and Proposed SOI

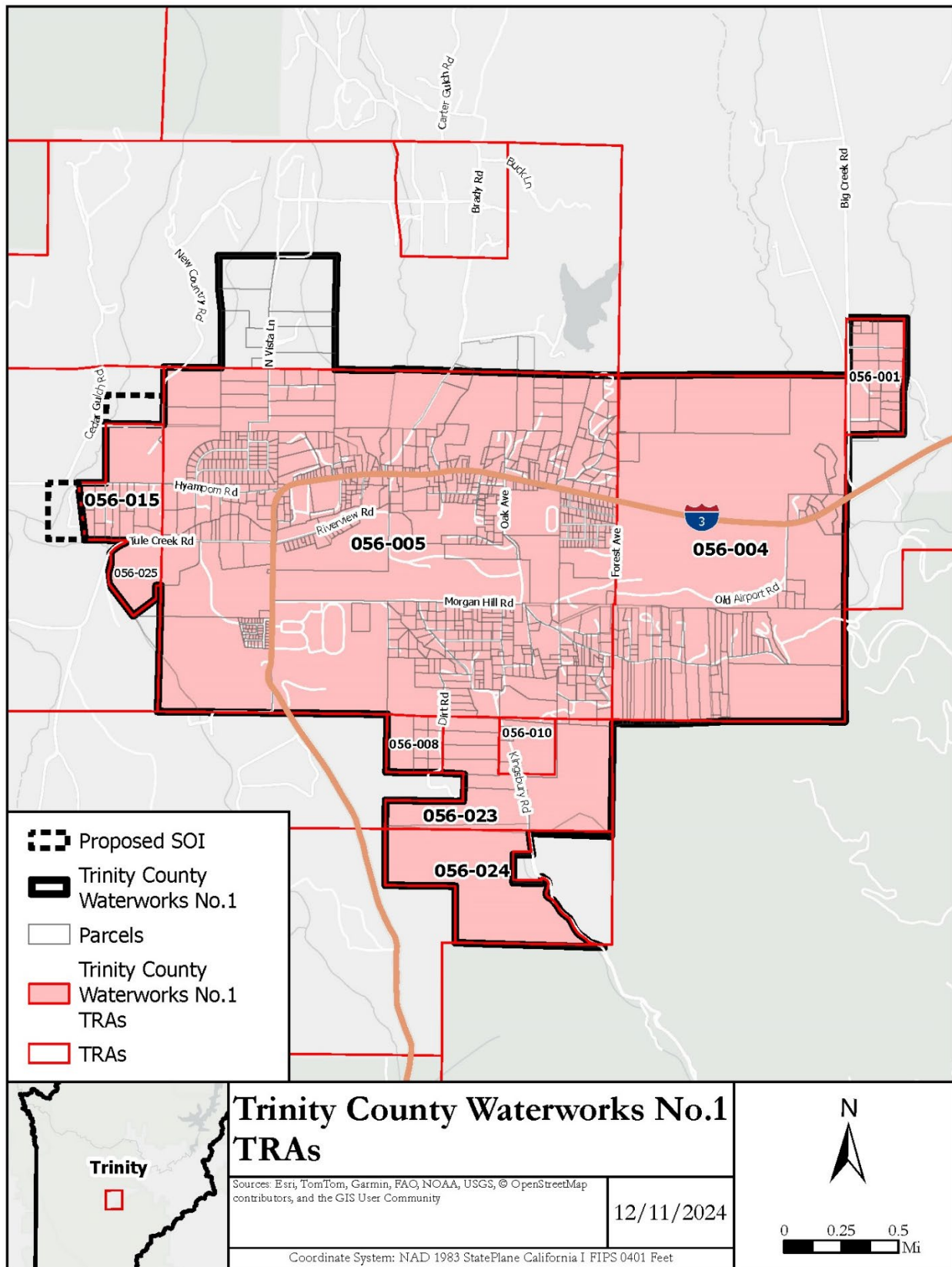
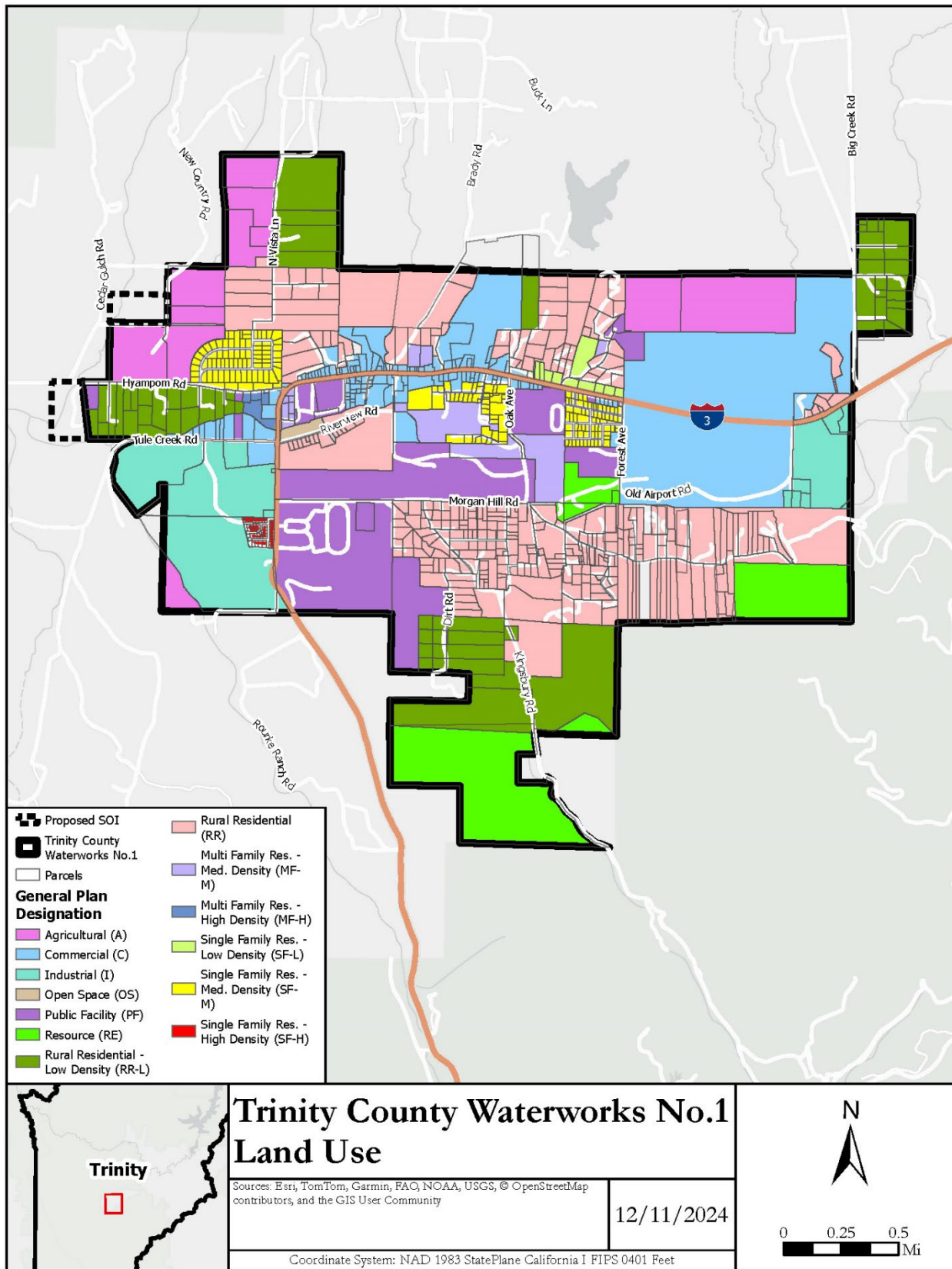


Figure 2: Land Use



Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in the District are determined by the Trinity County General Plan through the 1996 Hayfork Community Plan. Land uses are predominantly low density residential including Rural Residential, Residential Estate, and Single Family Residential. Additional land uses include industrial, public facility, commercial, and Multifamily. Land uses surrounding the District are generally agricultural and residential estates². Zoning within the District is set by the Hayfork Community Plan. Zoning is predominantly low density residential, commercial, public facility, and agricultural.

Table 2: Land Use Summary

Land Use Type	Acres	Percentage %
Agricultural	309	8.4
Commercial	628	17.1
Industrial	303	8.3
Multi-Family Residential	95	2.6
Open Space	7	0.2
Public Facility	430	11.7
Resource	301	8.2
Rural Residential	1,443	39.3
Single Family Residential	145	3.9
Other	10	0.3
Total	3,671	100%

Growth and Population

According to the US Census Bureau Decennial Census data, the total population in Trinity County was 13,786 in 2010 and 16,112 in 2020. This suggests an annual growth rate of approximately 1.57%. In the Hayfork area, the 2010 population was 2,368 and the 2020 population was 2,324 which is an annual growth rate of approximately -0.19%³.

Conversely, the Trinity County 2050 General Plan Update Background Report describes “substantial population growth” for the Hayfork area between 2010 and 2020 and cites a 13.1% growth. The overall population increase in the county is attributed to Hmong immigrants entering the County late in the decade. Additionally, it is noted that Hayfork is the second largest community in the county with 14.4% of the county's total population⁴.

The California Department of Finance periodically releases population estimates for counties and cities throughout the state. According to projections released in September 2024, Trinity County is estimated to have a 2030 population of 15,891⁵. This indicates an anticipated decline in population over the next five years.

² Trinity County, Hayfork Community Plan General Plan Land Use Designations, Adopted by Trinity County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 71-96. November 19, 1996.

³ US Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2010 and 2020 for Trinity County and Hayfork Census Designated Place. DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171), Table P1 – Race.

⁴ Trinity County 2050 General Plan Update, Public Review Draft Background Report. Section 3.2 Population and Household Trends, and Table 3-2: Total Population by Community, 2010 and 2020. March 2023. Prepared by Mintier Harnish.

⁵ California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. Report P-2A: Total Estimated and Projected Population for California and Counties, July 1, 2020 to 2070. Released September 2024.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate water service, sewer service, and structural fire protection within disadvantaged unincorporated communities as part of service reviews, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community (DUC) is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the annual median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI (pursuant to Government Code Section 56033.5 and Water Code Section 79505.5). Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection.

According to the American Community Survey, the Hayfork Census Designated Place (CDP) had a 2021 MHI of \$40,653 which is 43 percent of the 2021 California MHI of \$95,521. This qualifies the area as a DUC. In regard to services, water and wastewater services are provided by TCWW #1 and fire services are provided by the Hayfork Fire Protection District⁶.

1.2 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

The District is a dependent special district whose Board of Directors is appointed by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors. This is in accordance with Water Code §55301 which states that, "The board of supervisors of the county is the governing board of the district unless a board of directors has been appointed under the provisions of this chapter as they existed prior to their repeal at the 1967 Regular Session of the Legislature. Each member of an appointed board of directors in existence on the effective date of the amendment of this section at the 1967 Regular Session of the Legislature shall continue to serve at the pleasure of the board of supervisors of the county, rather than for the term for which he was appointed."

Board agendas and notices are posted 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: Board of Directors

Board Member	Title	Term
Angenett Taft	Chair	Sep 2023 to Dec 2026
John C Semer	Vice Chair	Jul 2024 to Dec 2024
Melody McLearn	Board Member	Jul 2022 to Dec 2024
Arnold Bridges	Board Member	Oct 2023 to Dec 2024
Diane Yates	Board Member	July 2007 to Dec 2026

Staffing

The District currently employs four staff including a General Manager/ Chief Operator, Office Manager/ Clerk of the Board, a Lead Plant Operator, and an hourly laborer. The General Manager maintains a T3 treatment certification, a D3 distribution certification, and a wastewater (WWII) certification. The Officer Manager maintains T2, D2, and WW I certifications, and the Lead Plant Operator maintains T2, D2, and WW I certifications. Having multiple trained staff members ensures that the District's system is monitored and maintained.

⁶ American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimate, Table S1903: Median Household Income

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. Waterworks #1 maintains a website that can be easily accessed by the public and includes online payment options. The following table provides an overview of the District's compliance with SB929.

Table 4: 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) 	Partial. No link to current agenda on homepage.
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.	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 	No.

It is recommended that the District work with their web designer to bring the website into compliance with SB929. This will require the following:

- Place a link to the most current agenda on the homepage.
- Add a link to the State Controller's website.
- Post the Enterprise System Catalog

1.3 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Service Overview

In the Hayfork area, the District provides potable water service to residences and businesses and provides wastewater services under the Hayfork Community Sewerage Project Assessment District. Around Ewing reservoir, the District allows for passive recreation but does not actively maintain recreation areas.

Water

Demand

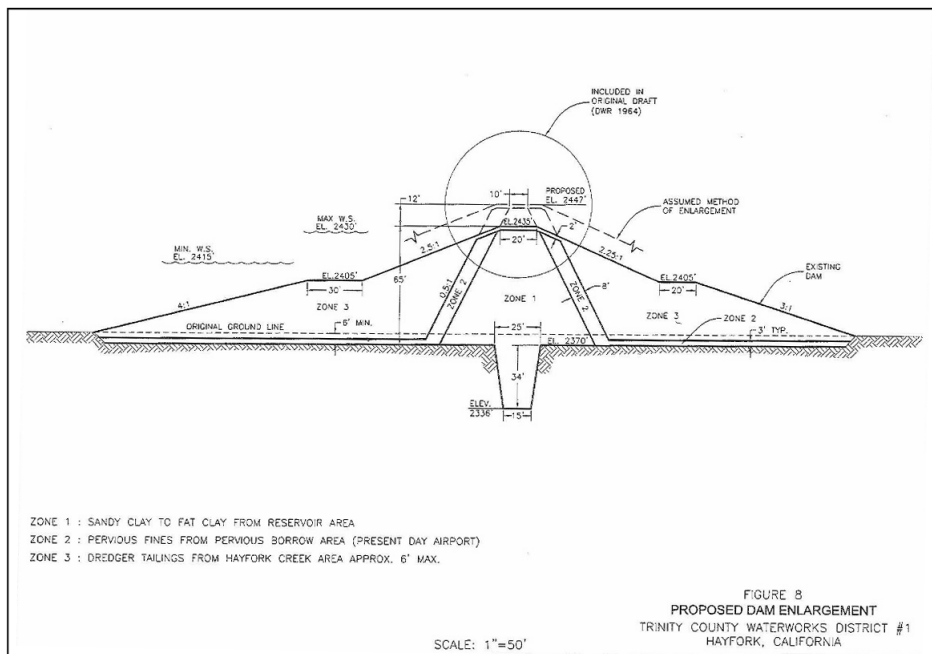
TCWW #1 has 599 residential connections and 99 commercial connections. The District typically sees peak water flows in summer to early fall. In 2023, peak flows occurred in July with a total demand of 15,378,400 gallons. Peak hourly demand of 628 gpm occurred on June 30, 2023 while the average daily demand for May to September 2023 was 409,500 gallons⁷.

Infrastructure and Facilities

TCWWD #1 obtains water through a diversion structure on Big Creek that runs into Ewing Reservoir. The District's water rights, established in 1952, and confirmed by License 7756 in 1965, allowed for diversion of up to 0.52 cubic feet per second (cfs) year round. Water right Permit #15437, granted in 1967, allows for diversion of up to 820 acre feet. The District is currently allowed to divert water from Big Creek beginning on November 1 through June 30 of each year. Maximum diversion from Big Creek is 14 cfs as long as there is still 15 cfs set aside for fish and downstream irrigation demands along Big Creek⁸. The District also has water rights for flushing the reservoir and expansion of the reservoir.

The original infrastructure of the water system consisted of 1 million gallon reservoir and treatment/pumping plant on Big Creek. However, the design capacity was exceeded in 1964 which prompted a state funded study on the system. After the study was completed in September 1965, it was determined that a reservoir should be constructed in order to provide water to the Hayfork area.

Figure 3: Ewing Dam Construction Profile



⁷ TCWW #1, Sys No. 5310002, Daily System Measurements for May 2023 through September 2023.

⁸ North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Big Creek Watershed Assessment Report, July 2008.

The Ewing Project was constructed with a Davis-Grunsky Act loan and completed in 1972. The system included the dam and reservoir, diversion facilities, pumping plant, treatment plant and storage tank. The dam was designed to accommodate a 12-foot height increase to later expand the storage capacity of the reservoir.

Storage for the system includes a 500,000 gallon steel tank located near the treatment plant with a usable storage of 275,000 gallons due to high static head conditions. This results from inadequacy of the backwash pump to supply backwash water when the water elevation drops below 2,542 feet mean sea level. The treatment plant can produce up to 1.2 million gallons per day of potable water⁹.

In 2010, TCWWD #1 completed a project funded by the North Coast Resource Partnership that allows the District to recover and utilize its filter backwash water for irrigation uses including the fairgrounds, Hayfork High School, Hayfork Elementary School, and the cemetery. An additional pipeline was constructed to provide raw water to these same major irrigators.

Wastewater

Wastewater treatment facility consists of an oxidation/ marsh system that provides primary and secondary treatment to wastewater. Reported to be operating at approximately 25% capacity.

Updates, maintenance, and new connections to the wastewater system are subject to TCWWD #1's Sanitary Code (Ordinance 97-1.)

[Section to be expanded]

Other Service Providers

Solid Waste Disposal

Trinity County Solid Waste Disposal Services provides residential and commercial disposal services to select areas within Trinity County. Residential service starts at \$27 per month for one can per week and increases based on number of cans. Commercial service starts at one cubic yard picked up once a month for \$36 and increases based on bin size and pickup schedule¹⁰.

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 Project¹¹. 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.

⁹ Watershed Research and Training Center, Water Conservation Measures for the South Fork Trinity River Watershed. Authored by Josh Smith, Cindy Buxton, and Marie Buell, May 2016.

¹⁰ Trinity County Solid Waste, Residential and Commercial Rate Sheet, Effective 3/1/24.

¹¹ Trinity River Division Act of 1955

Telecommunications

Verizon, AT&T, and other major service providers provide wireless telephone and broadband internet services to Junction 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, Douglas City, and Junction 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) and Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department operate the Advanced Trinity Life Support Ambulance when staffing is available; if there is inadequate paramedic staffing, the ambulance offers only Basic Life Support (BLS) services. The 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 pass through the District.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreation services are primarily provided by the Greater Hayfork Valley Park and Recreation District. They are responsible for the maintenance and management of the Hayfork Park and Pool located next to the Hayfork Elementary School located on Community Drive.

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).

1.4 FINANCING

Financial Overview

TCWWD #1 conducts financial budgeting and reporting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and waterworks district law. Budgets are adopted annually for the upcoming fiscal year and account planned revenues and expenses. The most recent budget, for FY2024-25 shows a projected income of \$757,000 and expenses of \$756,933. While the last several years of budgets show a net gain from year to year, the annual budgets do not account for depreciation of assets. When looking at the District's overall net position, there is a noted decrease from \$8,117,840 in FY2021-22 to \$7,351,808 in FY2022-23.

State Controller's Office

The District files an annual summary report of financial transactions with the State Controller's Office. These reported figures are public and can be accessed online at <https://bythenumbers.sco.ca.gov/>. A summary of the last six fiscal years available is provided in the table below. According to the information available, TCWWD #1 continues to operate at a loss. This can be likely due to depreciation of assets which totaled \$355,601 in FY2022-23.

Table 5: State Controller's Office Summary

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Revenues	\$722,073	\$1,133,147	N/A	\$1,070,749	\$1,110,372	\$1,257,707
Water	506,251	907,582		826,638	870,261	1,014,993
Wastewater	215,456	225,565		244,111	240,111	242,714
Governmental	366					
Expenditures	\$947,336	\$996,066	N/A	\$1,229,173	\$1,216,338	\$1,444,267
Water	644,485	699,316		933,363	912,438	1,140,367
Wastewater	293,385	296,750		295,810	303,900	303,900
Governmental	9,466	-		-	-	-
Net Gain/(Loss)	(-225,263)	(-137,081)	N/A	(-158,424)	(-105,966)	(-186,560)

Audited Financials

The District completes an annual audit with the last available audit being for FY2022-23. Based on the audited financial reports, TCWWD #1 has seen a loss over the last three fiscal years. This can be largely attributed to a decline in water sales that started in FY2020-21. The District may want to consider conducting a rate study in order to assess the appropriate rate levels to cover operating costs and plan for future maintenance and repairs.

The most recent financial audit for the District did not separate expenses by enterprise fund so it is unknown if water, wastewater, and irrigation expenses are increasing or decreasing from previous years. However, from the FY2022-23 audit, it can be seen that the largest expense was for plant operation contract services at \$307,345, asset depreciation at \$361,777, grant expenses at \$403,678.

Property taxes are received under the "Teeter Bill Program" which allows the District to receive 100% of levied taxes in periodic payments from the County. The County assumes responsibility for any delinquencies.

Table 6: Audited Financial Statement Summary

	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
Revenues	\$1,133,147	\$1,133,157	\$1,118,561	\$1,110,372	\$1,372,241
Water	802,505	802,505	709,758	581,964	505,004
Wastewater	225,565	225,565	244,111	240,111	249,399
Irrigation	20,196	20,206	27,622	31,025	-
Other Operating	-	-	-	-	3,790
Taxes	32,783	32,783	27,587	-	32,728
Grants	-	-	47,575	206,646	471,455
Other General	52,098	52,098	61,908	50,626	109,865
Expenditures	\$996,266	\$996,266	\$1,220,014	\$1,190,705	\$1,458,210
Water	673,666	673,666	893,854	856,455	-
Wastewater	292,250	292,250	295,810	303,900	-
Irrigation	30,350	30,350	30,350	30,350	-
Other General	-	-	-	-	1,458,210
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$136,881	136,891	(-101,453)	(-80,333)	(-85,969)

Long Term Debt

TCWW #1 Resolution of Intention No. 6-24-97C adopted on June 24, 1997. USDA Rural Development. Amount \$1,103,750. Bond repayments. Set to fully mature in 2038. Interest is payable in March and September.

The District has two sources of long term debt including a Davis-Grunsky loan from DWR and a special assessment bond from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Davis-Grunsky loan was obtained in 1972 to build the Ewing Dam and is set to be fully paid off in 2033. In 2024, payments on the loan are expected to total \$16,714.

In June of 1997, the District adopted Resolution of Intention No. 6-24-97C for application to receive a USDA Rural Development bond to develop a wastewater system. The original amount of \$1,200,000 was reduced in August 2000 by a \$500,000 Community Block Service Grant. Bond repayments are set to fully mature in 2083 with interest payable in March and September¹². In FY2023-24, payments are expected to total \$78,807.

¹² TCWW #1, Improvement Bond – Hayfork Community Sewerage Project Assessment District Series 1999. Bond No. R-1. Authenticated March 9, 1999.