

14. FIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fiddletown Community Services District (FCSD) provides retail water delivery, wastewater collection, and wastewater treatment and disposal.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

Fiddletown Community Services District was formed on September 10, 1969 as an independent special district.²⁹⁸ FCSD was formed to supply water for any beneficial uses, in the same manner as a municipal water district, including the powers to acquire, control, distribute, store, treat, purify, recycle, recapture, and salvage any water, including sewage and storm waters. Other powers include undertaking a water conservation program and selling and delivering water.²⁹⁹

The principal act that governs the District is the Community Services District Law.³⁰⁰ CSDs may potentially provide a wide array of services, including water supply, wastewater, solid waste, police and fire protection, street lighting and landscaping, airport, recreation and parks, mosquito abatement, library services; street maintenance and drainage services, ambulance service, utility undergrounding, transportation, abate graffiti, flood protection, weed abatement, hydroelectric power, among various other services. CSDs are required to gain LAFCO approval to provide those services permitted by the principal act but not performed by the end of 2005 (i.e., latent powers).³⁰¹

LAFCO authorized FCSD to add sewer service to its active powers in September 2004,³⁰² pending a district-wide vote of registered voters as required by CSD law at the time when adding additional services. The law changed on January 1, 2006, allowing LAFCO to add additional services to CSDs without a district vote.³⁰³ LAFCO reauthorized sewer service for FCSD in March 2006 pursuant to the updated law.³⁰⁴

Boundary

FCSD is located in northwestern Amador County and is entirely within the County. The District is in the general vicinity of the unincorporated community of Fiddletown, approximately six miles east of Plymouth. The District has a boundary area of approximately 50 acres. The District extends approximately 0.82 miles along Fiddletown

²⁹⁸ LAFCO resolution 69-15. Formation date is from Board of Equalization records.

²⁹⁹ Water Code §71610-11.

³⁰⁰ Government Code §61000-61226.5.

³⁰¹ Government Code §61106.

³⁰² LAFCO Resolution 04-03.

³⁰³ LAFCO Resolution 06-03.

³⁰⁴ LAFCO Resolution 06-03.

Road, encompassing parcels on either side from just west of Quartz Mountain Road to 0.25 miles east of American Float Road. The bounds also include parcels along Jibbom Street between its intersection with Fiddletown Road and American Flat Road's intersection with Fiddletown Road. In addition, the bounds include approximately seven parcels on either side of American Flat Road south of Fiddletown Road.

LAFCO records indicate that 6.9 acres were annexed to FCSD's SOI and bounds in 1971 (Resolution 71-37). A property was also detached from the District in the same year (Resolution 71-38). An annexation of unknown size was approved by LAFCO in 1998 (Resolution 98-258). An annexation of 11 parcels receiving services was approved in 2004, but the District failed to prepare a map for recording, and thus, the process was never completed (Resolution 04-03) and the parcels remained outside the boundaries. The same 11 parcels were approved for annexation and an SOI amendment in 2006, pending receipt of a map and legal description of the parcels from the District (Resolution 06-03), and once again, the annexation was not completed. In 2009, working closely with the District, LAFCO approved and completed a sphere amendment and subsequent annexation (Project #257) to allow all properties receiving sewer service to be added to the boundaries. In addition, the county completed the final transfers of the wastewater system to the District.

Sphere of Influence

The District's SOI was originally adopted in 1976 as coterminous with district bounds. In 2008, LAFCO updated FCSD's SOI to include the entirety of the wastewater service area.³⁰⁵ As a result of LAFCO Project #257, the boundaries, the district's service area and the sphere of influence are coterminous.

Accountability and Governance

FCSD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Board members are to be elected at large. In practice, however, board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, as the positions are generally uncontested. There were no contested seats in the most recent election.

The District informs the community of board meetings by posting agendas at the post office and the community center. The District also distributes a newsletter twice per year and puts informational inserts in bills. The District does not maintain a website where public documents can be accessed. The District has had no Brown Act violations in recent history.

With regard to customer service, the District reported that complaints may be submitted by a call to the FCSD office or directly to a board member. In 2012, the District reported that it received two complaints. Complaints most often relate to water quality (color or taste) or needed repairs.

The District was partially cooperative with the MSR process and was ultimately unable to provide all the requested information. Reliance on volunteers with limited time availability greatly constrains the transparency of the District.

³⁰⁵ LAFCO Resolution 2008-10.

Figure 14-1: FCSD Governing Body

Fiddletown Community Services District			
Governing Body			
	Name	Position	Term Ends
<i>Members</i>	Bill Easton	Director	12/31/13
	Jason Simpkins	Director	12/31/13
	Herb Boxhorn	Director	12/31/13
	Margie Strauss	Director	12/31/16
	Melvin Bradley	Director	12/31/16
<i>Manner of Selection</i>	Elected at large or appointed by Board of Supervisors		
<i>Length of Term</i>	Two or for year terms		
<i>Meetings</i>	District office, as needed		
<i>Agenda Distribution</i>	Posted in town		
<i>Minutes Distribution</i>	Available at District office		
Contact			
<i>Contact</i>	Bill Easton		
<i>Mailing Address</i>	P.O. Box 35 Fiddletown, CA 95629		
<i>Phone</i>	(209) 245-3117		
<i>Email/Website</i>	N/A		

Management

The principal act calls for community service districts to appoint a general manager to implement board policies.³⁰⁶ FCSD did not have a general manager position as of July 2013. District staff includes a secretary (20 hours per month) and a water operator (four to five hours per month). A contractor is hired for any major repair work. The District reported that there is no policy on employee evaluations.

The District reports that performance of the agency is not tracked aside from employee hours logged and water sampling.

The District's planning efforts are minimal. The District does not have a master plan for its water or wastewater systems.

In the previous MSR, the District's financial planning efforts did not include preparation of annual budgets or financial audits; although, the District reported that it planned to conduct audits beginning in FY 07. In 2013, the District reported that they do conduct financial audits however; no audit was provided to LAFCO for FY 12 or FY 13. The District did not provide financial statements to LAFCO, but rather a balance sheet and profit and loss statement for FY 10, 11 and 12. The District did not provide information on long-term liabilities, and reserves (i.e., unreserved net assets) were not identifiable. The District does not prepare a capital improvement plan, but reports that it informally plans two years into the future.

³⁰⁶ Government Codes §61050. Per §61040(e), the general manager may not be a member of the board.

It was reported on the website of the California State Controller's Office that FCSD failed to file salary and compensation reports as of March 2012.³⁰⁷

Management practices include risk management. The District spent \$301.45 on insurance in FY 12, and reported carrying liability insurance and disability insurance.

Service Demand and Growth

Existing land uses in the District's boundary are residential and vacant. The District is zoned for suburban residential (i.e., an average five-acre lot size).³⁰⁸

Economic activity in the District's boundary area includes limited retail and governmental services. Employers include a post office, a general store, a rock store, and a winery.

There are 63 water connections within the District's bounds; all connections are residential. The estimated population within district bounds is 100 full-time residents.³⁰⁹ The District's population density is 1,280 per square mile, compared to the countywide density of 64.

The District reported that service demand has been constant in recent years, because the sewer system cannot be expanded. There has been one new water connection in the last thirteen years. The District does report the need to plan for adequate fire flow.

The District reports no known plans for development in the future. Only parcels in the District have future rights for hook up to services.³¹⁰

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

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCO is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities as part of this service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters, or as determined by commission policy, where the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median.³¹¹

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a mapping tool to assist in determining which communities meet the disadvantaged communities median household income definition.³¹² DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County—three of which are cities and are therefore not considered

³⁰⁷ http://www.sco.ca.gov/noncompliant_reports.html

³⁰⁸ Amador County, *General Plan, Existing General Plan Land Use Classifications Map*, 2007.

³⁰⁹ Data provided by the Environmental Protection Agency SDWIS.

³¹⁰ Email from Jane O'Riordan, Secretary to the Fiddletown CSD Board, January 2014.

³¹¹ Government Code §56033.5.

³¹² Based on census data, the median household income in the State of California in 2010 was \$57,708, 80 percent of which is \$46,166.

unincorporated.³¹³ None of the identified disadvantaged communities are within or adjacent to FCSD.

However, DWR is not bound by the same law as LAFCO to define communities with a minimum threshold of 12 or more registered voters. Because income information is not available for this level of analysis, disadvantaged unincorporated communities that meet LAFCO's definition cannot be identified at this time.

Financing

The District reported that existing financing sources are sufficient to deliver adequate services, but indicated that additional financing would be needed to finance capital improvements needs.

The District tracks its finances through a single enterprise fund.

Total revenue in FY 12 was \$35,934.67.³¹⁴ Primary revenue sources were water rates (65 percent) and wastewater rates (35 percent).

Total expenditures for the year were \$18,844.12. Costs were primarily composed of water-related administrative costs (26 percent), repairs and maintenance (22 percent), loan repayment (18 percent), utilities (14 percent), sewer-related administrative costs (11 percent), supplies (6 percent), insurance (2 percent) and bank charges (1 percent).

FCSD financed a new water well in FY 07 relying on a loan from Amador County. The District's general approach to capital financing is unknown.

The District's long-term liabilities could not be identified from the financial information provided. However, loan repayments were made in FY 10, 11 and 12, presumably to the County for the \$50,000 loan to build the new well.

The District does not have an adopted policy on its target level for financial reserves. FCSD did not report or provide any information about its existing level of financial reserves.

³¹³ DWR maps and GIS files are derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and are compiled for the five-year period 2006-2010.

³¹⁴ Fiddletown Community Services District, *Profit and Loss*, FY 12.

WATER SERVICES

This section describes the nature, extent and location of the water services provided as well as key infrastructure and water sources. The tables provide further information and indicators of the agency's water service supplies, demand, financing, service adequacy, and facilities.

Nature and Extent

FCSD supplies treated groundwater for domestic water service to residential connections. The District owns, operates, and maintains the domestic water well and distribution system directly with district staff.

The District does not produce or use recycled water, and does not practice conjunctive use.

Location

FCSD provides water service within its bounds, with a majority of connections concentrated in the western portion of the District. The District's water services are available to all of its boundary area, and there are no unserved areas within the boundary.

Infrastructure

Key water service infrastructure includes a well, a storage tank and 1.25 miles of distribution pipeline.

The District relies entirely on groundwater for water service. All water is pumped from a single well, treated with chlorine, and stored in the storage tank.

The District faced challenges regarding the quality of water at its old well. In 2006, the Environmental Health Department (EHD) informed the District of the need to replace or reconstruct the existing well due to consistent coliform contamination during wet weather.³¹⁵ The new well was installed at the end of 2006 with a loan from the County for \$50,000, and was identified as being in excellent condition. The well has a pumping capacity of 120 gpm. In the previous MSR, the District identified a need for a new back-up generator at the well site, however the FCSD reported this generator was never acquired. The current generator can provide approximately 24 hours of power during a power outage, according to the District.

The District's storage tank was built in 1969, and was identified by the District as being generally in good condition but in need of refurbishment. In addition, the District identified a need for an additional 25,000 gallons of storage capacity. The District plans to build a new storage tank as the primary water storage facility, and then refurbish the old tank for use as back up storage. The District reported that a new storage tank has not been built and the refurbishment of the current storage tank has not taken place since the previous MSR.

³¹⁵ Correspondence to FCSD from Lance Salisbury, Environmental Scientist, Environmental Health Department, 6/28/06.

In the event of emergencies, FCSD would rely on the short-term water reserves mentioned previously, which would last approximately two days, based on the District's average daily use. There are no interties with other water systems outside of the District to serve as back-up during emergencies. The District does not have an emergency response plan.

The distribution system was originally installed in the 1970s. The composition of the system is unknown. The District reported that the infrastructure needs of the system have not been identified, and the District would like to perform an assessment of the system to identify specific needs. The District has not completed an overall assessment of this kind since the previous MSR, and there were no reported plans to do so at the time this report was drafted.

Since 2000, the District has had several problems complying with monitoring requirements for total coliform bacteria, lead and copper, natural radioactivity, nitrates and nitrites, as well as others, as reported by EHD. As of the 2008 MSR, the District had received several notices of violation of monitoring requirements, and had not provided proof of compliance with the notices. Subsequently, a citation for non-compliance was issued by EHD, regarding sampling of radioactivity, lead and copper, manganese and iron, and disinfection byproducts.³¹⁶ Failure to comply with the citation resulted in another notice of violation August 2007, and another citation for non-compliance in January 2008 for failure to sample manganese, iron and radioactivity. The District was given until March 2008 to comply with sampling and reporting requirements, but had not submitted the required iron and manganese reports as of May 2008.³¹⁷ Since that time it appears that the District has made efforts to come into compliance with sampling requirements. During EHD's most recent inspection, no monitoring violations were identified.

Since the 2008 MSR, the District reported they have been working with engineers and the USDA to create a new well and special filtration system that will correct the problems associated with iron and manganese in the water. The District was awarded a combination of a loan and grant money in the amount of \$500,000 in order to construct and complete this project. However, the District reported that when it put the project to bid it received bids back that far exceeded the \$500,000 budgeted for the project. As a result, the District worked with the engineering firm to fine tune and scale back the well and filtration system to keep the scope within the confines of the District's budget. The District has since received an estimate from a local company and anticipates the project should be underway within the first half of 2014.

Refer to the following tables for specifics on the District's water system. Areas noted as "NP" indicate information for which the District failed to provide an update during this MSR update process.

³¹⁶ Environmental Health Department, *Citation No. 2007-03*, 2007.

³¹⁷ Interview with Scott Meyer, Environmental Health Department, May 14, 2008.

Figure 14-2: FCSD Water Service Profile

Water Service Configuration & Infrastructure*				
Water Service	Provider(s)	Water Service	Provider(s)	
Retail Water	Direct	Groundwater Recharge	None	
Wholesale Water	None	Groundwater Extraction	Direct	
Water Treatment	Direct	Recycled Water	None	
Service Area Description				
Retail Water	FCSD is located in northwestern Amador County, approximately six miles east of Plymouth. The District's service area extends along Fiddletown Road, encompassing parcels on either side from just west of Quartz Mountain Road to just east of American Float Road. The bounds also include parcels along Jibbom Street and American Flat Road.			
Wholesale Water	NA			
Recycled Water	NA			
Boundary Area	0.08	sq. miles	Population (2012)	100
System Overview				
Average Daily Demand	16,387 gallons		Peak Day Demand ²	28,741 gallons
Supply	18 af is the average annual well production			
Major Facilities				
Facility Name	Type	Capacity	Condition	Yr Built
Storage tank	Storage	30,000 gallons	Good	1969
Well #1	Well with pump	120 gpm	Excellent	2006
Other Infrastructure				
Reservoirs	0	Storage Capacity (mg)	0.03	
Pump Stations	1	Pressure Zones	1	
Production Wells	1	Pipe Miles	1.25	
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies				
Infrastructure needs include an additional back-up generator at the well, additional storage capacity and an overall assessment of the distribution system to identify needs and prioritize repairs.				
Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration				
Current Practices: The District does not practice facility sharing regarding water services with other agencies.				
Opportunities: None identified.				
Notes:				
(*) The data and information contained in this chart is from the 2008 MSR, the District did not provide any updates in 2013.				
(1) NA means Not Applicable, NP means Not Provided, mg means millions of gallons, af means acre-feet.				
(2) Based on the average daily water usage in the peak month in 2006.				

continued

Water Demand and Supply*							
Service Connections	Total		Inside Bounds		Outside Bounds		
Total	63		63		0		
Irrigation/Landscape	0		0		0		
Domestic	63		63		0		
Commercial/Industrial/Institutional	0		0		0		
Recycled	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Average Annual Demand Information (Acre-Feet per Year) ¹							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Residential	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Commercial/Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Irrigation/Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Sources			Supply (Acre-Feet/Year)				
Source	Type		Average		Maximum		Safe/Firm ²
Consumnes Subbasin	Groundwater		18		194		48
Supply Information (Acre-feet per Year) ³							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	16	16	18	18	18	18	18
Imported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	16	16	18	18	18	18	18
Surface	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recycled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drought Supply and Plans							
Drought Supply (af)	Year 1: NP		Year 2: NP		Year 3: NP		
Significant Droughts	1976, 1977, 1988-94, 2007-2009 ⁴						
Storage Practices	Storage is for short-term emergencies only.						
Drought Plan	The District reported that it has had no problems with a shortage of water in dry years and does not have a drought rationing plan.						
Water Conservation Practices							
CUWCC Signatory	No						
Metering	Yes, but meters are monitored only in the summer.						
Conservation Pricing	Yes, between June 1 and October 1.						
Other Practices	The District sends out newsletters during the summer months to remind customers of ways to conserve. In addition, the District reported that it makes efforts to help customers find and resolve leaks.						
Notes:							
(*) The number of service connections is the only information in this chart that the District has updated since the 2008 MSR.							
(1) The District was unable to report the amount demanded annually, as it only monitors the meters between June 1 and October 1.							
(2) Based on the Department of Health Services criteria for foothill groundwater, the firm yield is 25 percent of the tested pumping capacity.							
(3) Water supply projections are based on average annual demand, as the District has only had one additional connection in the last eight years and there are no proposed developments within the District's service area.							
(4) http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/drought/pubs.cfm							

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Water Rates and Financing			
Domestic Water Rates-Ongoing Charges 2013			
	Rate Description	Avg. Monthly Charges	Consumption ²
Residential	Base rate per month: \$40.00 until September 1, 2013 then \$50.00/month (up to 10,000 gallons) \$2.00 for every additional 1,000 gallons <15,000 \$5.00 for every additional 1,000 gallons >15,000	\$60.00	250 gal/day
Special Rates			
Water rates are the same throughout the District.			
Rate-Setting Procedures			
Policy Description	FCSD evaluates costs and increases rates accordingly, as needed. To promote water conservation, the District charges metered rates until September 1.		
Most Recent Rate Change	January 2014	Frequency of Rate Changes	As needed
Water Development Fees and Requirements			
Connection Fee Approach	All new connections are charged a flat fee regardless of connection type to recoup time and capital costs associated with the new connection.		
Connection Fee Timing	After the building permit is approved.		
Connection Fee Amount	\$3,000/Single Family Unit		
Land Dedication Requirements	None		
Development Impact Fee	None		
Water Enterprise Revenues, FY 12³			
Source	Amount	%	Expenditures, FY 12 Amount
Total	NP	NP	Total NP
Rates & charges	NP	NP	Administration NP
Assessment	NP	NP	O & M NP
Refund	NP	NP	Capital Depreciation NP
Interest	NP	NP	Debt NP
Connection Fees	NP	NP	Purchased Water NP
Other - County Loan	NP	NP	Capital Improvements NP
			Other NP
Notes:			
(1) Rates include water-related service charges and usage charges.			
(2) Water use assumptions were used to calculate average monthly bills. Assumed use levels are consistent countywide for comparison purposes.			
(3) The District did not provide detailed financial information for LAFCO to accurately identify water related revenues and expenditures in FY 12.			

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Water Service Adequacy, Efficiency & Planning Indicators		
Water Planning	Description	Planning Horizon
Water Master Plan	None	
UWMP	None, not required	
Capital Improvement Plan	None	
Emergency Response Plan	None	
Service Challenges		
The District did not report any service challenges; however, MSR content notes that the District has struggled with water quality and is planning to build a new well and filtration system in 2014 to address these issues.		
Service Adequacy Indicators		
Connections/FTE ¹	2,520	O&M Cost Ratio ² NP
MGD Delivered/FTE	1	Distribution Loss Rate Unknown
Distribution Breaks & Leaks	1	Distribution Break Rate ³ 80
Response Time Policy	ASAP	Response Time Actual Within 24 hours
Water Pressure	~40+ psi	Total Employees (FTEs) 0.025
Water Operator Certification		
The District is required to have a distribution system operator certified at D1 or above. The District's operator possesses a D1 certification.		
Drinking Water Quality Regulatory Information ⁴		
	#	Description
Health Violations	1	Amount of coliform exceeded safety standard, August 2012
Monitoring Violations	5	Coliform monitoring 2005, 2003, 2001, 1998; Lead and copper sampling 2000
DW Compliance Rate ⁵	NP	
Notes:		
(1) Accurately updated in 2013.		
(2) Operations and maintenance costs (exc. purchased water, debt, depreciation) per volume (mgd) delivered.		
(3) Distribution break rate is the number of leaks and pipeline breaks per 100 miles of distribution piping.		
(4) Violations since 1995, as reported by the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System.		
(5) Drinking water compliance is percent of time in compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.		

WASTEWATER SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The community of Fiddletown relies on individual septic systems for wastewater disposal. Select parcels along Dry Creek and parcels too small for a contained onsite septic system drain through a collection system into a community leach field. FCSD was approved by LAFCO to provide wastewater services in 2006.³¹⁸

The community leach field system located within FCSD bounds, previously owned by the County, was transferred to Fiddletown CSD in late 2010, following completion of the annexation of parcels receiving service.³¹⁹ The leach field system includes wastewater collection and disposal services. FCSD maintains the leach field system and reported that no improvements have been made to it since the transfer.³²⁰

FCSD collects all wastewater rates related to the system. Although district volunteers only occasionally provide necessary maintenance, such as vegetation removal after storms, the District reported approximately \$2,892 in sewer administration and operation, repairs and maintenance costs in FY 12. It cannot be discerned in the financial information provided by the District whether these were the only sewer related expenses for that particular fiscal year.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the onsite septic systems, which provide a majority of the treatment process. The septic systems then connect to the community collection system.

Location

Wastewater services were previously provided within and outside of FCSD's bounds. The completion of LAFCO Project #257 annexed all property with sewer connections. Not every parcel within the District is permitted to connect to the community leach field system. A total of 73 parcels along Dry Creek, as well as neighboring properties too small for an individual septic system are connected, or have the right to connect, to the system. In the 2008 MSR, the District reported that of the 73 parcels, there were 46 connected within the District's bounds and four connected outside of the District's bounds. In addition, there are 17 parcels within the District and six outside of the District with rights to connect to the system upon development of the parcels. Since 2008, the parcels with connections or rights to connect have been annexed. A current update was not provided in 2013 as to whether these numbers are still correct.

Infrastructure

Key wastewater service infrastructure owned by the district includes the community leach field and 1.5 miles of PVC collection pipelines.

³¹⁸ LAFCO Resolution 2006-03.

³¹⁹ As reported by Mike Israel from Amador County via email in August 2013 and confirmed by Jane O'Riordan in January 2014.

³²⁰ As reported by Jane O'Riordan, January 2014.

The collection and disposal system was installed in 1999 by Amador County. The system was designed for a maximum of 78 parcels.³²¹ Effluent is collected in individual onsite septic tanks where a majority of the treatment occurs, then is collected into a shallow pressure dosed drain field for percolation into the soil. In the 2008 MSR, the following infrastructure needs and deficiencies were identified by the County:

- ❖ Replacement of the missing downslope monitoring well;
- ❖ Monitoring of the groundwater to verify no adverse impacts;
- ❖ Repair or replacement of three flow monitoring devices;
- ❖ Placement of posts to facilitate locating inspection pipes;
- ❖ Repair of a broken valve box at Quartz Mountain and Fiddletown Roads;
- ❖ Removal of berry growth and fallen trees; and
- ❖ Re-priming of all dosing siphons in use.

No improvements have been made to rectify these needs as of 2013. In 2013, the District reported that there are no known defects in the sewer system; however, there have been breaks and repairs in the line system that runs through town.³²²

In the 2008 MSR, it was reported that there is a monitoring well network to ensure protection of nearby surface and subsurface waters; although, neither the County nor the District has been monitoring the wells.

Refer to the following tables for specifics on the District's wastewater system. Areas noted as "NP" indicate information for which the District failed to provide an update during this MSR update process.

³²¹ Amador County, *Fiddletown Sewer System Description*, 1996, p. 3.

³²² Reported by Jane O'Riordan, January 2014.

Figure 14-3: FCSD Wastewater Service Profile

Wastewater Service Configuration and Demand				
Service Configuration				
Service Type	Service Provider(s)			
Wastewater Collection	FCSD			
Wastewater Treatment	FCSD, private septic systems			
Wastewater Disposal	FCSD			
Recycled Water	None			
Service Area¹				
Collection:	Within FCSD's bounds and four adjacent parcels.			
Treatment:	Within FCSD's bounds and four adjacent parcels.			
Recycled Water	NA			
Sewer Connection Regulatory/Policies²				
Only those landowners that originally paid for the system in 1999 have a right to connect to the system. As of 2008, there were 23 landowners that had the right but had not yet connected to the system.				
Onsite Septic Systems in Service Area				
All landowners within the District have onsite septic systems.				
Service Demand FY 12³				
	Connections			Flow (gallons)
Type	Total	Inside Bounds	Outside Bounds	Average⁴
Total	50	46	4	3,611
Residential	50	46	4	3,611
Commercial	0	0	0	0
Industrial	0	0	0	0
Projected Demand (in gallons per day)				
	2005⁵	2015	2025	Build-Out
Avg. dry weather flow	3,611	NP	NP	NP
Peak wet weather flow	3,611	NP	NP	NP
Note:				
(1) Accuracy of these numbers cannot be guaranteed as no update was provided by the District in 2013.				
(2) Accuracy of these numbers cannot be guaranteed as no update was provided by the District in 2013.				
(3) Accuracy of these numbers cannot be guaranteed as no update was provided by the District in 2013.				
(4) The District does not regularly monitor the meters to the leach field system. The County provided a 3.5 year daily average flow (2008).				
(5) Based on the 3.5 year average day demand. The District reported that since the collection system is pressurized, there should be no significant difference between dry and wet weather flows.				

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Wastewater Infrastructure			
Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Infrastructure			
System Overview			
Treatment level: A majority of treatment is completed in individual onsite septic systems. The treatment level is unknown.			
Disposal method: All wastewater flow is disposed of in a community leach field to percolate into the soil.			
Facility Name	Capacity	Condition	Yr Built
Fiddletown Leach field	0.02 mgd	Fair	1999
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies			
Disposal infrastructure needs identified by the County include replacement of the missing downslope monitoring well, repair or replacement of three flow monitoring devices, repair of a broken valve box, removal of berry growth and fallen trees, and re-priming of all dosing siphons in use.			
Wastewater Collection & Distribution Infrastructure			
Collection & Distribution Infrastructure			
Sewer Pipe Miles	1.5	Pump stations	7
Other: Individual septic systems on each parcel.			
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies			
The County did not identify any collection infrastructure needs with the exception of posts to clearly mark inspection pipes.			
Infiltration and Inflow			
The extent of infiltration and inflow is unknown, as the District and County do not monitor the flow of the effluent. The County did not report any infrastructure needs regarding the condition of the pipelines that may affect infiltration and inflow. The County indicated that as the system is pressurized, dry weather and wet weather flows are likely not significantly different.			
Wastewater Regional Collaboration and Facility Sharing			
Regional Collaboration			
The County transferred ownership of the leach field system to the District. The District occasionally maintains with volunteers.			
Facility Sharing Opportunities			
The District did not identify opportunities for future facility sharing opportunities.			
Note: The majority of information contained in this chart is from the 2008 MSR, the District did not provide an update in 2013.			

continued

Wastewater Service Adequacy, Efficiency & Planning			
Regulatory Compliance Record, 2008-2012			
Formal Enforcement Actions	NP	Informal Enforcement Actions	NP
Service Adequacy Indicators			
Sewer Overflows 2012 ¹	NP	Sewer Overflows 2011 ²	NP
Treatment Effectiveness Rate ³	NA ⁴	Sewer Overflow Rate ⁵	NP
Total Employees (FTEs)	0	Response Time Policy ⁶	ASAP
Employees Certified?	NA	Response Time Actual	Within 24 hours
Source Control and Pollution Prevention Practices			
The District did not report any source control practices.			
Collection System Inspection Practices			
No inspection practices were reported by the District.			
Service Challenges			
The District reported challenges related to occasional maintenance of the system with an entirely volunteer staff.			
Wastewater Planning			
Plan	Description	Planning Horizon	
Wastewater Master Plan	None		
Wastewater Collection Plan	None		
Capital Improvement Plan	None		
Sanitary Sewer Management Plan	None		
Emergency Plan	None		
Notes:			
(1) Total number of overflows experienced (excluding those caused by customers) in 2012 as reported by the agency.			
(2) Total number of overflows experienced (excluding those caused by customers) in 2011 as reported by the agency.			
(3) Total number of non-compliance days in 2012 per 365 days.			
(4) Septic systems are not required to maintain the same treatment levels as sewer systems.			
(5) Sewer overflows (excluding those caused by customers) per 100 miles of collection piping.			
(6) Agency policy, guidelines or goals for response time between service call and clearing the blockage.			

continued

Wastewater Rates and Financing			
Wastewater Rates-Ongoing Charges FY 12¹			
	Rate Description	Avg. Monthly Charges	Demand ²
Residential	Flat Monthly: \$25.00	\$25.00	250 gpd
Rate Zones			
None			
Rate-Setting Procedures			
Policy Description: Rates were last set by the County when the system was installed. The District planned to update the rates once the system was transferred from the County to the District. As of 2013, the District did not report whether rates were updated.			
Last Rate Change ³	1999	Frequency of Rate Changes	Never changed
Wastewater Development Fees and Requirements			
Connection Fee Approach	All parcels adjacent to Dry Creek or too small to install a private septic system are required connect to the system. Each parcel paid the connection fee at the time the system was installed to cover the cost of the system.		
Connection Fee Timing ⁴	Paid at the time the system was installed in 1999.		
Connection Fee Amount ⁵	Residential: \$15,000		
Land Dedication Req.	None		
Development Impact Fee	None		
Wastewater Enterprise Revenues, FY 12		Expenditures, FY 12	
Source	Amount	%	Amount
Total	\$12,420	100%	Total NP
Rates & Charges	NP	NP	Administration \$2,077
Property Tax	NP	NP	O & M \$815
Grants	NP	NP	Capital Depreciation NP
Interest	NP	NP	Debt NP
Connection Fees	NP	NP	Other NP
Other - Refund	NP	NP	
Notes:			
(1) Rates include wastewater-related service charges and strength and flow charges. Average monthly charges calculated based on average consumption. Rates are rounded for presentation. These numbers are from 2008, no update was provided in 2013.			
(2) Wastewater use assumptions by customer type were used to calculate average monthly charges. Assumed use levels are 250 gallons per home per day, and are consistent countywide for comparison purposes.			
(3) Accuracy cannot be guaranteed.			
(4) Accuracy cannot be guaranteed.			
(5) Connection fee amount is calculated for a single-family home.			

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS

Growth and population projections

- ❖ Demand has been relatively constant for both water and wastewater services in the last 10 years. The reported population did not change from 2008 to 2013.
- ❖ No new connections for wastewater services are anticipated, because the sewer system cannot be expanded. Demand for water services is also expected to remain relatively constant in the near future, as there are no planned or proposed developments within or adjacent to the District's boundary.

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

- ❖ There are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or adjacent to the District's service area based upon mapping information provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources. However, given the large size of the defined community in the census data used, it cannot be discounted that a smaller community that meets the required income definition and has 12 or more registered voters may exist within or adjacent to the District.

Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs and deficiencies

- ❖ The existing water and wastewater facilities have the capacity to provide service to the current connections. The water system can accommodate limited future growth and development within the boundaries. The wastewater system is not expandable and is not intended to serve additional connections. Any significant growth that requires wastewater services would necessitate a new sewer system.
- ❖ The District lacks a general manager, as required by law, to implement board policies. Lack of a designated General Manager limits the transparency and accessibility of the District.
- ❖ Water infrastructure needs and deficiencies include a back-up generator at the well for emergency purposes, additional storage capacity, and an overall assessment of the distribution system to identify needs and prioritize repairs.
- ❖ Since 2008, the District has rectified its monitoring and reporting to comply with regulatory requirements.
- ❖ The District has plans to begin construction of a new well and a special filtration system in 2014 to address high levels of iron and manganese.
- ❖ The wastewater system is not regularly maintained by FCSD staff. The District reported that there have been breaks in the sewer line that runs through town but did not report any plans to address this issue.

- ❖ The Amador County Environmental Health Department identified several wastewater needs and deficiencies in 2006 that have not been rectified to date. Significant needs include replacement of a monitoring well, monitoring of the groundwater to verify no adverse impacts, and repair or replacement of three flow monitoring devices.

Financial ability of agencies to provide services

- ❖ It was previously recommended that the District assess and update its rates to improve service levels for the District and ensure ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of the water system. The District most recently updated its monthly water rate in 2014 to more accurately reflect the necessary level of financing for water services.
- ❖ Financing is adequate to provide for billing and insurance related to wastewater services; however, wastewater rates may warrant an update to reflect additional maintenance responsibilities on the part of the District upon taking over ownership of the system from the County in 2010.

Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

- ❖ No facility sharing opportunities were identified.

Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- ❖ The District demonstrated very limited transparency through its cooperation with LAFCO and the MSR process. Reliance on volunteers with limited time availability greatly constrains the transparency of the District. Requests for public information, documents and updated district activities were unanswered.
- ❖ The District's failure to provide information to LAFCO and the public impairs accountability.
- ❖ Accountability to local voters is constrained by a lack of information and lack of contested elections. Improvements to accountability could be made by promoting interest in participation on the governing body.
- ❖ The District should consider adopting annual budgets and periodically auditing financial statements to improve operational efficiencies.
- ❖ FCSD was transferred ownership of the community leach field previously owned by Amador County in late 2010. However, it does not appear that the system is efficiently maintained since this transfer. Long-term cost-effectiveness of the system may become compromised without active inspection and a reliable maintenance program, resulting in higher costs to the taxpayers.
- ❖ The District should consider transferring water and wastewater infrastructure and services to AWA to ensure adequate system maintenance and oversight, reliable service levels, transparency and accountability to district constituents.