

5. CITY OF IONE

The City of Ione provides wastewater, fire, law enforcement, road maintenance, drainage, and parks and recreation services. AWA provides retail water services to all residents and businesses within city limits.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

The City of Ione incorporated on March 23, 1953.³⁰ The City is a general law city.

The City's boundary is entirely within Amador County. From the intersection of SRs 104 and 124 in the western portion of the County, the boundary extends west along SR 104 to Five Mile Drive, extends south along SR 124 to Brickyard Road, and extends east along SR 104 to Foothill Boulevard. The City's northern boundary is located north of Mule Creek State Prison. The City has a boundary area of approximately 4.6 square miles (2,950 acres).

Figure 5-1: City of Ione Annexation Records

Project Name	Acres	LAFCO Resolution Number ¹	Official Date ²	
Waterman Addition		NA	3/9/1962	(B)
Preston Annexation		67-5	9/20/1967	(B)
Warner Annexation	0.2	78-129	12/21/1978	(L)
Banks Annexations	112.6	81-161	3/30/1982	(C)
Ione Industrial Park Annexation	146.3	84-175	12/15/1984	(C)
Sutter Mill Annexation	95.0	84-174	12/11/1985	(C)
Triangle Mobile Home Park Annexation		NA	7/23/1987	(B)
Howard Park Annexation	98.0	NA	8/31/1987	(B)
Ione Prison Annexation	822.0	86-197	10/23/1987	(B)
Marlette Manor Subdivision Annexation	5.0	89-211	3/20/1989	(B)
Villa Arroyo Seco Annexation	1.5	NA	3/29/1989	(B)
City of Ione Reorganization	70.7	2011-03	5/16/2012	(C)
Notes:				
(1) "NA" indicates LAFCO records are not available.				
(2) "L" indicates that the official date is according to the LAFCO resolution, "C" indicates that the official date is according to the Certificate of Completion, and "B" indicates that the official date is according to the Board of Equalization filing.				

Amador LAFCO records date back to 1966, and the State Board of Equalization (BOE) maintains records of officially recorded boundary changes since 1948. Over this time frame, LAFCO and BOE records indicate there have been 12 annexations to Ione bounds, as

³⁰ The formation date is from California Board of Equalization Index.

shown in Figure 5-1. Of these, the acreage of nine annexations totals 1,351.3 acres, amounting to 46 percent of the current City boundary area. The acreage of the other annexations was not found in the records. Since 2008, the City has undertaken one annexation include lands covered by the City's wastewater treatment plant, the Castle Oak Water Reclamation Plant (COWRP), and two single family homes located along Five Mile Drive (north of Sutter Creek) and adjacent to the Castle Oaks golf course. The City initiated annexation of these lands as part of upcoming improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities. The annexation consisted of 70.7 acres and was approved by LAFCO in 2011.

The City's SOI was first adopted in 1976 and later affirmed by LAFCO in 2007.³¹ Most recently, it was updated in 2011 to include three additional areas, one of which was the proposed industrial park area south of the City.³² The SOI update also removed one area from the City's previous SOI. The SOI extends beyond city bounds in the northwest, the southwest, and the east. The SOI extends in the northwest to Irish Hill Road, and follows the western city limits along Five Mile Drive. Farther south, the SOI extends to Old Stockton Road, including four large parcels beyond the city limits in this area. Finally, the SOI extends from the eastern city limits to the intersection of Waterman Road and SR 124.³³

Local Accountability and Governance

The City is governed by a five-member City Council. The members are elected at large to staggered, four-year terms. Board meetings are held every other Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The most recent contested election for a council seat occurred in 2012, when two seats were filled from three candidates.³⁴ For more information on council members and meeting information, see Figure 5-2.

³¹ LAFCO Resolution 2007-09.

³² LAFCO Resolution 2011-01.

³³ LAFCO Resolution 2011-01 Exhibit A.

³⁴ Amador County, *General Election Results*, 2012.

Figure 5-2: City of Ione Governing Body

Ione City Council			
Governing Body			
	Name	Position	Term Ends
<i>Members</i>	Dan Epperson	Mayor	Nov-14
	Ron Smylie	Vice Mayor	Nov-14
	Dale Haney	Member	Nov-16
	Lloyd Oneto	Member	Nov-14
	Patrick Weart	Member	Nov-16
<i>Manner of Selection</i>	Elections at large		
<i>Length of Term</i>	Four years, staggered		
<i>Meetings</i>	Date: first and third Tuesdays	Location: Ione City Hall	
<i>Agenda Distribution</i>	Online, posted, email subscription		
<i>Minutes Distribution</i>	Online		
Contact			
<i>Contact</i>	City Manager		
<i>Mailing Address</i>	P.O. Box 398, Ione, CA 95640		
<i>Phone</i>	(209) 274-2412		
<i>Email/Website</i>	JTraverso@ione-ca.com, http://www.ione-ca.com/		

The City apprises residents of meetings and events through the City’s website, which includes links to City Council information, a listing of special events in the City, the City’s newsletter, and contact information. The City also posts agendas with staff reports on its website along with the approved minutes. Also, the City sends out print copies of its monthly newsletter with sewer billings. The newsletter provides an update on issues facing the City and advertises the regular meetings. The City reported that it has had no Brown Act violations in recent history.

Regarding customer service, the City does not have a formal complaint system. The city manager generally functions as the primary ombudsman. Complaints may be submitted in person, in writing or by phone. Police or fire complaints may be directly submitted to those departments; billing complaints may be submitted directly to the finance manager. The City was unable to provide the number of complaints received in 2012, as complaints to the various departments are not filed and tracked in a central source. The City is in the process of streamlining its website and plans to add a page where complaints may be submitted and the information will automatically be logged in a digital database.

The City demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCO. The agency responded to LAFCO’s written questionnaire, interview and document requests.

Management

In addition to the City Council, Ione's government is organized into seven departments: building, engineering, fire, planning, police, public works, and wastewater.

The daily operations of the City are managed by the City Manager. Other key positions in the City include a city clerk, a finance manager, a city planner, a city engineer, a city attorney, and a building inspector. The City has reduced its staff since 2008 from 18 full-time and three part-time employees to 15 full-time employees, four part-time employees. In addition, the City also employs several seasonal life guards and call firefighters, and retains four contract firms that provide legal, engineering, planning, and wastewater operation services.³⁵

The City evaluates employee performance on an annual basis. In addition, new employees also receive three- and six-month reviews. Since 2008, the City has begun tracking employee workloads through timesheets, adopted budgets, and weekly meetings. The City reported that it also closely tracks applications for permits.

The City's central planning document is its general plan. The plan includes the seven legally required elements. Since the 2008 MSR, the City has completed a comprehensive update of its general plan. All general plan elements were updated and adopted in August 2009. Other planning documents include a development impact fee nexus study (2005), a facility plan for wastewater facilities (December 2009), sewer system management plan (February 2013), a strategic plan (2008), technical memorandum on the western Ione roadway improvement strategy (August 2008), a study on economic development strategies (2003), and a master plan for the City's historic downtown (November 2012). The city manager and city engineer have developed a capital improvement plan that has been presented to the City Council on multiple occasions and will be adopted as part of the FY 14-15 budget. In addition, the city manager and city staff have worked together to develop a strategic plan that has been presented to an ad hoc committee of the City Council. The strategic plan will also be adopted as part of the FY 14-15 budget.

The City's financial planning documents include annual budgets, annual audits, and a capital improvement plan. Ione began auditing its financial statements in 2007, and plans to conduct annual audits in the future.³⁶ The City provided a copy of its audited financial statement for FY 12 to LAFCO. In FY 07, the auditor disclosed that the City has not recorded all of its assets and related depreciation expenses, but otherwise did not identify any reportable conditions. The City had not maintained historical records of all asset purchases. In the FY 12 audit, this deficiency was not identified. However, other deficiencies were acknowledged, including the lack of an adopted budget for the special revenue funds for FY 12 as required.

Honors received by the City include two consecutive wins of the California Law Enforcement Challenge in 2007 and 2008. The award recognizes the best in overall traffic safety between departments of similar size and type.³⁷ In 2013, the City received an award

³⁵ City of Ione, *FY 13-14 Budget*, p. 30 to 32.

³⁶ Interview with Kim Kerr, City Manager, City of Ione, January 16, 2008.

³⁷ Amador Ledger Dispatch, *Ione Police Department Gets New Officer Award*, June 5, 2008.

from the Sacramento Valley Section of the American Planning Association (APA), as well as the California APA, for the City's 2012 Downtown Master Plan.

City management practices include risk management. The City participates in a public entity risk pool for insurance purposes. The City is self-insured for basic claims and carries excess liability insurance.

Service Demand and Growth

Land use in the City is mostly single-family residential. Residential lands covered almost 41 percent of the City in 2013. Single-family residential lands were concentrated east and south of the intersection of SR 124 and SR 104. The area north of the SR 124 and SR 104 intersection was divided between medium- and low-density residential.

The area directly surrounding the SR 124 and SR 104 intersection is the City's commercial business district, constituting less than one percent of the City boundary area as of 2012. Other commercial uses covered an additional three percent of the City. Industrial lands, located in the south of the City, covered seven percent of bounds. Undeveloped land designated for open space-recreation, public service-open space and public service-agricultural transition-mineral resources constituted 44 percent of the City.³⁸

There is one State correctional facility within the City's boundaries—Mule Creek State Prison. A second facility, Preston Youth Correctional Facility, was closed in 2012. The facility makes up almost 52.5 percent of the City's population and is one of the most significant employers in the City.

The City reported that demand for services is increasing as the population grows.

Population

The City's population is 7,918, of which 52.5 percent are institutionalized in the State prison. The City's population density is 1,721 per square mile, the densest area in Amador County. Excluding Ione's institutionalized prisoners, however, the City's population density was 817 per square mile. The countywide population density is 64 per square mile.³⁹

The City's total population, including prisoners, grew by 11 percent between 2000 and 2010. The residential population grew from 2,898 in 2000 to 3,758 in 2010, an increase of almost 30 percent.

The number of residential building permits issued by the City over the last 12 years (2000 to 2012) demonstrates the reason for the significant population growth discussed above. The number of permits issued has ebbed and flowed based upon market forces. Permits between 2000 and 2004 were relatively low. The number issued increased between 2005 and 2008, decreased between 2008 and 2012, and increased again at the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013.

As of the 2008 MSR, the City had projected 3,500 equivalent dwelling units within the City at build-out, in the most recent general plan land use element in 1989 (no timeline was

³⁸ City response to request for information, June 2013.

³⁹ California Department of Finance, 2008.

provided).⁴⁰ Since then, the City has completed its General Plan Update and updated its forecast of future dwelling units with a base of 1,495 housing units that existed in the City as of 2008.⁴¹ The City has planned for an increase of 3,930 dwelling units at build out in the 2009 General Plan Update. Most of this new development was identified for areas within existing development areas (Castle Oaks) or areas outside of the existing corporate limits but within the existing SOI. As of April 2014, the City has committed to provide wastewater service to 702 un-built equivalent dwelling units—Castle Oaks (420 units), Wildflower (276 units), and Washington Place (six units).

Development

While growth has waned in recent years due to the housing bubble burst and recession, development in the area appears to be resuming. Growth is concentrated to the north of the City, and to a lesser degree to the south of the City.

In the 2008 MSR, the City anticipated that all development proposals—approved and tentative—would bring 3,468 new residential units to the area. This was just prior to the housing bubble burst, which resulted in many of these projects being put on hold or cancelled. Some of these projects are being reinitiated and the City anticipates that building will commence in the next two years on two developments—Castle Oaks (475 dwelling units) and Wildflower (276 dwelling units)—both of which are within the City's bounds. In addition to residential units, the Castle Oaks subdivision is planned to have 10 acres of retail space and 80 hotel rooms. The Wildflower Subdivision, received City Council approval in December 2007. This planned development is to be located between SR 104 and SR 124, east of Howard Park. As of April 2014, the City had four active planned or proposed residential developments that could add a total of 704 dwelling units to the City if entirely constructed. There are also five potential developments that have shown interest to the City, but for which no applications have been received to date. All planned and potential developments are shown in Figure 5-4.

In addition to these residential developments, the Mule Creek State Prison is in the process of initiating an infill project which will consist of a significant expansion of its facility. The project consist of a Level II dormitory consisting of 1,584 beds, which will add almost 800 additional beds to existing facilities and will also include upgrades and replacement of the prison's infrastructure, including electrical and sewer systems. The State is mitigating impacts on the City with payment of mitigation fees, reimbursement of the salaries of one city police officer and one city firefighter for the next two and half years, and other capital improvements and purchases. Other provisions call for local businesses to receive priority in the construction contracting process, as well as the purchase of supplies for the project to be made from local companies.

⁴⁰ City of Ione, *General Plan & Environmental Impact Report: Land Use Element*, 1989, p. 38.

⁴¹ California Department of Finance, 2008.

Figure 5-3: Planned and Proposed Developments within the City of Ione SOI

Development	Developer	General Location	Units	Non-Residential Acreage
Developments with submitted applications/Approved projects				
Broussard Parcel Map	Broussard	In Bounds	2	0
Castle Oaks ¹	JTS/HBT	In Bounds	728	10
Washington Place		In Bounds	6	0
Wildflower	Lupton	In Bounds	276	0
Other Potential Developments				
Gold Village	Galleli	In Bounds		
Howard Family Properties/Industrial Park	Howard	In Bounds		
Q-Ranch	Toma	In Bounds		
Ringer Ranch	Amador Ranch Associates	In Bounds		
Waterman Parcel	Amador Ranch Associates	In Bounds		
Notes				
1) Total project is 728 units; 420 remain to be constructed.				

Growth Strategies

Ione’s 2009 General Plan planning area extends beyond the existing SOI. The City designates General Plan land uses within this larger planning area consistent with State law. Roughly speaking, the General Plan planning area is defined as the City plus the area south of the City just beyond Highway 88, west to the Amador County/San Joaquin County/Sacramento County boundaries, and roughly two miles north and east of the City.

The primary guiding goals for land use and development in the City of Ione include maintaining the small town character, managing growth, preservation of open space and agricultural land, enhancement of recreation facilities, revitalization of the downtown, and improvement of roadways and traffic.⁴² Ideally, the City envisions retaining its small town feel while generating new jobs and expanding housing and shopping options for residents, visitors, and employees. A range of housing types will be available to residents to meet diverse housing needs, including a mix of prices and density levels. The Downtown will thrive with the densification of land uses, including mixed-use with second floor residential over first floor commercial. Development patterns will protect prime farmland and

⁴² City of Ione, *General Plan Update*, 2009, pp.2-10 – 2-12.

maximize public access to open space areas. A jobs housing balance will be achieved. The mining industry will remain an important part of Ione's economy, while other industrial and commercial uses will also expand.⁴³

The City's Downtown Plan (2012) provides regulations, guidelines, and recommendations that support the vision, and an implementation action plan that will facilitate the transition of the Downtown from a historic district to a vibrant small town mixed-use center. The Downtown Plan builds upon the policy framework and direction set forth for the project area by the City's General Plan. This translates into a plan for the Downtown that addresses land use, the characteristics of public and private realm development, circulation, parking, infrastructure, and economic development.⁴⁴

At this time, the City is not proposing changes to its SOI.

Wastewater capacity and water availability are the most significant constraints to growth.⁴⁵ The City has developed various capital strategies to providing adequate wastewater capacity to serve anticipated growth. Due to long term demand expectations and desire for high quality service, the City is embarking on construction of a long-term solution to wastewater disposal by recycling treated effluent on adjacent agricultural lands in compliance with state regulations. The water recycling project will generate local jobs and free up fresh water for other beneficial use.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCO is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) 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.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷ DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County—three of which are cities and are therefore not considered unincorporated.⁴⁸ There are no areas that are considered disadvantaged within or adjacent to City of Ione or its SOI.

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.

⁴³ City of Ione, *General Plan Update*, 2009, pp. 3-1.

⁴⁴ City of Ione, *Downtown Plan*, 2012, p. 1-25.

⁴⁵ Water service is provided by AWA, and is not directly under the City's control.

⁴⁶ Government Code §56033.5.

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ 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.

Financing

The City finances its general government, police, fire, and community development operations primarily with vehicle license fees and property taxes. Capital needs are funded by assessments and development impact fees. The City finances its street needs with gas tax and general revenue. The City finances its sewer operations with sewer rates, and its sewer capital improvements primarily with sewer connection fees and secondarily with sewer rates.

The City reports that financing is adequate to deliver services, but is not ample enough to provide the fire protection, law enforcement, and wastewater service levels the City desires. Key fiscal challenges are relatively low sales tax revenues and a recent decrease in development activity and related fees. Additionally, the City has faced a decrease of almost 30 percent in its property tax revenue between FY 07 and FY 12. Significantly reduced revenues forced the City to downsize. The General Fund budget was not initially trimmed as revenues declined, which led to drastic cuts in recent years. The City has continued to provide all services, but is short staffed as four personnel retired and have not been replaced to date. Due to the lower payroll costs, the City has been able to make ends meet; however, the City is reportedly significantly understaffed. The City has deferred maintenance at its parks and other city-owned facilities, as well as deferred fleet replacement. The City is optimistic about signs that the local economy is rebounding. The City has experienced some growth in the last fiscal year in sales tax and property tax revenues. Also, the City has negotiated mitigation fees in the amount of \$1.4 million with the California Department of Corrections related to the forthcoming Mule Creek State Prison project. These fees have been used for vehicle purchases and additional public safety staffing. Additionally, as part of the contract requirements, the supplies must be bought from local businesses, which will further enhance the City's sales tax revenues.

In terms of wastewater, the wastewater master plan will have to be updated as the construction project nears completion expected by the end of the year. Once the master plan is updated, the rate impact study must be updated to determine whether rate revenues can continue to support expenses.

The City has faced particular challenges with regard to fiscal transparency and management. There were mistakes made in the tracking of funds related to new development, due to the complexity of the process in place at the time. The City is making efforts to prevent such mistakes from occurring in the future. The City is instituting a new financial software program and developing a tracking mechanism for new development funds. The City has had clean audits with no findings of significant material weaknesses for the last two fiscal years—FY 11-12 and FY 12-13.

The City tracks its financial activities separately through various funds. The general fund is the City's main operating fund. Other major governmental funds include Measure M, CDBG/HOME Program Loans, Local Traffic Mitigation, and development impact fees for various public improvements to support new development. Wastewater system finances are tracked through an enterprise fund. The City had not yet completed its FY 12-13 audit

as of the drafting of this report; consequently, FY 11-12 finances are reported here from the City's most recent completed audit.⁴⁹

The City's total revenues were \$4.9 million in FY 11-12, which is an increase from \$4.5 million in FY 06-07. Revenue sources include charges for non-enterprise services (22 percent), sewer rates (21 percent), capital grants and contributions (18 percent), vehicle license fees (15 percent), property taxes (10 percent), operating grants (10 percent), sales and use tax (three percent), and interest (one percent).

The City's sales tax revenues are substantially lower than in the remainder of Amador County. The City's low per capita sales tax revenue is skewed by the large institutionalized population at the prison that is not able to make purchases in the City. Taxable sales transactions in the City were \$1,977 per capita in 2012, versus \$3,743 per capita in 2006. If the institutionalized population is excluded then the City averaged \$4,949 in taxable sales per resident in 2012. By comparison, the countywide average was \$13,297 per capita in 2012, which was up from \$12,698 in 2006.

New development pays a tax of \$500 per dwelling unit to fund police and fire operations through a community facilities district (i.e., Mello-Roos) tax. The City also imposed a similar tax in FY 08-09 to finance street lighting and landscaping operations. There are no other assessments imposed at this time.

The City finances new infrastructure expenses associated with growth through development impact fees. Development impact fees have remained the same since the 2008 MSR, and continue to be \$13,038 per new dwelling unit, excluding water and sewer connection fees and school fees.

The City reduced expenditures from \$5.4 million in FY 06-7 to \$4.6 million in FY 11-12. Of its total expenditures, 21 percent was spent on sewer operations, 37 percent on public safety, 15 percent on general government, nine percent on parks and recreation, six percent on streets and roads, six percent on community development, five percent on public works, and one percent on interest related to debt.

The City's long-term liabilities, not including compensated absences, consists of a long-term capital lease for the new fire station, and a loan from Amador County for overpayment of sales taxes in FY 08-09. The original principal amount for the fire station capital lease loan was \$560,000; the City had a remaining balance of \$496,872 as of June 30, 2012. The City refinanced the lease in June 2013 to reduce the rate from 5.9 to 3.9, with a current balance of \$457,853 as of April 2014, which represents approximately \$100,000 in interest savings to the City over the life of the lease. The original principal amount for the sales tax loan was \$149,293, of which \$127,834 remained as of June 30, 2012. In addition, there was \$12.9 million in outstanding debt at the end of FY 11-12 from community facilities district (CFD) debt; this debt is repaid by property owners in affected developments and is not an obligation of the City. The Castle Oaks Country Club Estates development defaulted on CFD bonds in 1989; those bonds were refinanced in 2006 through a private issuance.

⁴⁹ The clean audit was completed and submitted to the City Council on February 18, 2014. The audit reportedly began a little behind schedule due to implementation of new financial software and continuing short staff to accomplish multiple tasks at one time.

The City does not have a formal policy on maintaining financial reserves. The City had \$1.7 million in unreserved, undesignated reserves in its general fund at the close of FY 06-07; by the end of FY 11-12 the City maintained \$2.8 million in unrestricted net assets. This amount is equivalent to 79 percent of general expenditures in FY 11-12. In other words, the City maintained nine months of working reserves. The City's sewer fund had \$0.7 million in unrestricted net assets at the close of FY 06-07, which increased to \$1.5 million by the end of FY 11-12. The City's sewer reserves were equal to approximately 1.5 years of annual operating expenditures for the sewer enterprise.

The City participates in joint financing mechanisms. For risk management, the City joined together with other cities in the State to form Northern California Cities Self Insurance Fund (NCCSIF), a public entity risk pool currently operating as a California Joint Powers Authority. City investments are pooled in the Local Agency Investment Fund managed by the State Treasurer. Employees are eligible to participate in pension plans offered by California Public Employees Retirement System—a multiple-employer defined pension plan.

WASTEWATER SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The City provides wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services to 1,715 connections, and recycled water to a local golf course.

The City of Ione owns and operates the wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that provides service to property within its corporate city limits. The City WWTP treats the incoming wastewater to secondary standards with treatment ponds and through its water recycling project on adjacent agricultural lands. Presently, it disposes of the treated wastewater through percolation/evaporation ponds. The City also owns and operates the Castle Oaks Water Reclamation Plant (COWRP), which treats secondary effluent from the Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA) and the Mule Creek State Prison (Mule Creek) to tertiary standards in order to irrigate the golf course at the Castle Oaks residential development within the City limits.

In addition to Castle Oaks Golf Course water recycling, the City has begun and is near completing a water recycling project on adjacent agricultural lands that will continue to grow as wastewater volume grows. The new direction in water recycling is anticipated to provide a long-term, cost effective solution in wastewater management for the City and its ratepayers.

Wastewater services are provided through a combination of City staff and private contractors.

Location

The City provides wastewater collection services within its bounds, and does not provide collection services outside its bounds. The City does not provide wastewater collection services to its entire boundary area. The City's wastewater collection service area excludes Mule Creek State Prison, the Preston Youth Correctional Facility, and the Cal

Fire Academy, which are served by a separate system. There are some septic systems within City bounds.⁵⁰

The City's secondary wastewater treatment plant is located within city limits at the corner of Marlette Street and Dave Brubeck Road, just south of Sutter Creek. The tertiary plant is located on Five Mile Road south of the Castle Oaks subdivision along the north bank of Sutter Creek.

The City's treatment and disposal facilities handle wastewater flows not only from the City's collection system but also from the Mule Creek Prison WWTP, the Sutter Creek WWTP, and AWA backwash water. The Mule Creek Prison WWTP treats flows originating at the prison, the former Preston Youth Correctional Facility and the Cal Fire Academy. The Sutter Creek WWTP handles flows originating in the City of Sutter Creek, Amador City and Martell. The Sutter Creek and Mule Creek Prison WWTPs provide secondary treatment, and the City of Ione provides disposal services and, during the dry season, polishes the wastewater to tertiary standards prior to disposal or use as recycled water.⁵¹

Infrastructure

Key infrastructure includes the tertiary COWRP, the Ione secondary WWTP, 19 miles of sewer pipes, and four City-owned lift stations.⁵²

COWRP was constructed in 1994 by the original Castle Oaks subdivision developer to treat ARSA effluent previously disposed on the former Preston Youth Correctional Facility farmlands.⁵³ The plant treats effluent from the ARSA system, which includes flows from the Mule Creek Prison system, but does not currently treat flows originating in the City of Ione wastewater system. The plant, which is owned and operated seasonally by the City of Ione, has a design flow capacity of 1.2 mgd (ADWF). By comparison, the WWTP processes an average flow of 0.7 mgd during the irrigation months when it is used, specifically April through November. The treatment system includes screening, flocculation, mixing basin, and sand filters; effluent is disinfected with chlorine. Sludge is pumped to drying beds and hauled off-site to a landfill for disposal. Tertiary effluent is pumped to the Castle Oaks Golf Course for irrigation during the dry season, which is typically April through November. The effluent flows through an underground pipe to a series of interconnected ponds used to store reclaimed water. Irrigation is conducted by the golf course operator, Portlock International, through a pump station and sprinkler system.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ There were 22 homes on septic systems, according to the 1990 Census, which was the most recent census to inquire about residential sewage disposal.

⁵¹ The majority of flows received from Mule Creek State Prison and ARSA is treated at the City's tertiary plant and used for irrigation water at the golf course; flows received during non-irrigation (winter) months are disposed at the City's percolation ponds where they receive secondary treatment.

⁵² Private lift stations are located at the Preston Youth Correctional Facility and in the Castle Park subdivision.

⁵³ Preston's permit was rescinded in 2002 due to regulatory non-compliance issues, including failure to meet tertiary treatment standards, failure to meet requirements for a dual-plumbed water system, discharging outside the designated area, and lack of signage alerting the public.

⁵⁴ This contractual obligation was set for renewal or expiration on Dec. 31, 2013 at the time this report was drafted.

The lone secondary WWTP has a design flow capacity of 0.41-0.55 mgd (ADWF).⁵⁵ The regulatory permit does not cite peak flow capacity of the plant, but the City reports peak capacity at 1.3 mgd. Per the City's Waste Discharge Requirements from 2013 the system is subject to flow limits. Influent flows to the wastewater treatment plant shall not exceed 0.50 mgd as a monthly ADWF. Total effluent flows to the percolation/evaporation ponds shall not exceed 0.75 mgd as a monthly average flow for any calendar month. By comparison, existing flow to the secondary WWTP was 0.42 mgd in 2013. The WWTP was built in 1958, and has been modified since.⁵⁶ The treatment system consists of seven ponds connected in series. Four of the ponds function as treatment ponds. The other three ponds serve as percolation and evaporation ponds.⁵⁷ Solids are disposed in the ponds where they are partially digested over a period of months or years; the ponds are drained and dewatered with the sludge removed for disposal in a landfill or recycled on local agricultural lands and agricultural lands in south Sacramento County. The City described the plant as in good condition, given the substantial improvements that were made to the system in 2013. The City completed Phase I Part A of a construction project in 2013 with Part B construction project going out to bid soon. Construction is anticipated to be complete by Fall 2014. The work this year will include improvements to provide greater flexibility for effluent storage, percolation and recycling. When these improvements are completed the plant is anticipated to be in excellent condition.

The City is working towards compliance with a 2011 and 2013 Cease and Desist Orders issued by the Regional Water Board with regard to the secondary WWTP. The Cease and Desist Order relates to groundwater degradation near the percolation ponds, potential seepage of degraded groundwater seeping into Sutter Creek, and lack of a permit for one of the disposal ponds. The City's compliance strategy includes reducing the hydraulic loading to the percolation ponds by developing recycled water uses through the agronomic irrigation of four parcels in a two-phase compliance project.⁵⁸ The improvements are also intended to provide facilities that will accommodate the City's existing planned growth through 2020.⁵⁹

The first phase of the project has been completed and is operational.

The Wastewater Compliance Project Phase I included:

- ❖ Increased aeration capacity in the existing wastewater treatment ponds 1-4 to provide well oxidized secondary effluent.
- ❖ Installation of mixing capacity in one of the three percolation ponds in order to address temperature stratification and water quality concerns.

⁵⁵ Average dry weather capacity of the secondary WWTP is permitted at 1.2 mgd, but the City's 2004 master plan cited a maximum capacity of 0.41 mgd at that time. To achieve a capacity of 0.55 mgd, the City needed to make various improvements, according to a 2007 wastewater technical memorandum; in efforts to increase capacity, the City removed approximately 462 dry tons of sludge from Pond 1 and improved the headworks in FY 07-08.

⁵⁶ The plant was expanded in 1977. Ponds were added in 1996 and 2001, a pond was rebuilt in 2006, and most recently significant improvements were made to the treatment system to come into compliance with regulations.

⁵⁷ Lee & Ro, *Technical Memorandum: Wastewater Disposal and Treatment Capacity: City of Ione WWTP*, May 4, 2007.

⁵⁸ City of Ione, *Wastewater Compliance Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*, December 2012, p. ES-1.

⁵⁹ *Ibid*, p. ES-16.

- ❖ Construction of irrigation system improvements on approximately 65 acres owned by Greenrock Ranch Lands, LLC and 11 acres at the City WWTP.
- ❖ Draining of Ponds 5 and 6, removing biosolids from Pond 5, placing fill at the bottom of Pond 5 to reduce potential for thermal stratification and increase separation to groundwater; and removal of biosolids from Pond 6 and ripping the bottom of the pond to improve percolation.
- ❖ Installation of outfall drains in Ponds 5 and 6.
- ❖ Spreading and mixing of biosolids from pond 5 onto the City's 10-acre field.
- ❖ Installation of tailwater recovery systems for both the 65-acre and 10-acre fields.

The Wastewater Compliance Project Phase 1B includes:

- ❖ Installation of piping within the WWTP to provide better movement of treated wastewater from Ponds 1-4 to Ponds 5-7.
- ❖ Installation of two pump stations for irrigation of both the 65 acre field and the 10 acre field.
- ❖ Piping to allow mixing of fresh water from an adjacent pond with the effluent from Ponds 5-7 for irrigation of the City's 10-acre field per regulations from RWQCB

The Wastewater Compliance Project Phase II includes:

- ❖ Reclaim effluent through an expanded irrigation system and continued disposal in percolation ponds and continue monitoring program until October 2015.
- ❖ As necessitated by planned growth, construct a new storage facility at the City WWTP and extend reclamation use.

Secondary treated ARSA effluent flows by pipeline along Sutter Creek and Jackass Creek initially through Henderson Reservoir to Preston Reservoir. Between April and September, Preston Reservoir also accepts flows from the Mule Creek Prison WWTP, which in turn treats flows from the prison, the former Preston facility and the Cal Fire Academy. From Preston Reservoir, ARSA effluent flows to City of Ione wastewater treatment facilities, specifically to COWRP during the dry season and to the Ione secondary WWTP (crossing Sutter Creek) during the wet season. The City of Ione is required to accept up to 650 af (0.6 mgd) in ARSA flows during a wet year. ARSA must store flows or divert them elsewhere between October and March; however, during dry years, Ione may ask for flows during that time for reclamation purposes.

The City WWTP and the COWRP are hydraulically connected. Backwash and drain water from the COWRP enters the City collection system immediately upstream of the headworks to the City WWTP. The City WWTP treats and disposes of this backwash water along with other influent. In addition, secondary effluent from ARSA and Mule Creek can be diverted to the City percolation ponds, upstream of the COWRP, when this flow exceeds the irrigation demand of the golf course.

The City needs to expand the storage and disposal capacity of its wastewater operations to accommodate future development beyond its existing commitments made through development agreements. The City also needs additional capacity to handle peak ARSA flows (up to 650 af presently). The COWRP site has capacity expansion potential, and the

City owns property west of the tertiary plant that could potentially be used for land disposal if additional reclaimed water demand is identified. In the 2008 MSR it was reported that the City's preferred solution is to replace the secondary treatment facility with a new, larger facility to meet growth needs and treatment requirements, and to discontinue use of the treatment ponds, such that all effluent would receive tertiary filtration.⁶⁰ The City has since reassessed its options and is no longer planning for tertiary treatment for current and future City wastewater flow. The City has developed two recycled water use areas (approximately 70-acres of irrigated alfalfa) near the wastewater treatment plant that can accept non disinfected secondary water. The City plans on developing other larger areas that will allow the City to conservatively plan to dispose of undischarged secondary for the long term. The planned future recycled water use areas are away from any populated areas. These recycled water use areas are large enough that Mule Creek State Prison and ARSA could also participate in the City's recycling project.

MCSP, the City of Ione and ARSA have received State grant funds to conduct a regional wastewater study to examine optimal wastewater solutions that should result in a mutually beneficial plan for Ione Valley. The regional study is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

The wastewater collection system consists of approximately 18 miles of gravity sewer lines and one mile of pressure sewer.⁶¹ The collection system consists of two primary areas. The older portion of the City, primarily south of Sutter Creek, is served by a gravity sewer that carries flows down West Marlette Street to the secondary WWTP. The Castle Oaks subdivision located north of Sutter Creek; the area began developing in the 1990s and continues to grow; flows are conveyed to the tertiary plant during dry periods and to the secondary WWTP during wet periods. Two small areas north of Sutter Creek off Edgebrook Drive are collected and pumped across Sutter Creek via utility bridges. The sewer collection system dates back to 1955.⁶² Approximately 35-40 percent of the sewers were constructed in 1955, and 20 percent was constructed between 1960 and 1990; these sewers were described by the City as in fair condition. The remaining 20 percent of the sewers were constructed since 1990, and were described by the City as in good to excellent condition. An ongoing capital replacement program is needed to address older portions of the collection system needing replacement. The sewer collection system is inadequate, subject to infiltration and inflow, and prone to overflows during heavy rain events.⁶³

⁶⁰ Correspondence from City of Ione wastewater engineer, Lee & Ro, July 1, 2008.

⁶¹ California Integrated Water Quality System Project.

⁶² City of Ione, *General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for the City of Ione*, 1989, p. 59.

⁶³ City of Ione, *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Ione Redevelopment Plan*, 1998, p. 4-3; City of Ione, *General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for the City of Ione*, 1989, p. 59.

Figure 5 -4: Ione Wastewater Profile

Wastewater Service Configuration and Demand				
Service Configuration				
Service Type	Service Provider(s)²			
Wastewater Collection	Ione City			
Wastewater Treatment	Ione City, Mule Creek State Prison			
Wastewater Disposal	Ione City, Mule Creek State Prison			
Recycled Water	Ione City, Mule Creek State Prison			
City of Ione Wastewater Service Area				
Collection:	Ione City			
Treatment:	Ione City and ARSA (Sutter Creek, Amador City and Martell)			
Disposal:	Ione City and ARSA (Sutter Creek, Amador City and Martell)			
Recycled Water	Castle Oaks Golf Course (within Ione City)			
Sewer Connection Regulatory/Policies				
Properties with structures within city limits are required to connect to the sewer system.				
Onsite Septic Systems in Service Area				
There were 22 homes on septic systems, according to the 1990 Census, which was the most recent census to inquire about residential sewage disposal.				
Service Demand 2013				
	Connections			Treated Flow³
Type	Total	Inside Bounds	Outside Bounds	Average (mgd)
Total	1,715	1,715	0	0.87
Residential	1,637	1,637	0	0.68
Commercial	77	77	0	0.09
Industrial	0	0	0	0.00
AWA WTP Backwash	1	1	0	0.10
Projected Demand (in millions of gallons per day)				
	2007	2013	2025	Build-Out
ADWF - City & AWA	0.35	1.13	1.35	3.6
PWWF - City & AWA ⁴	0.85	0.60	3.24	NP
Notes:				
(1) NA: Not Applicable; NP: Not Provided; ADWF: average dry weather flow; PWWF: peak wet weather flow.				
(2) Service providers within city limits, include both the City of Ione and Mule Creek State Prison.				
(3) Annual average daily flow through treatment excludes ARSA flows.				
(4) There are no wet weather flows to the tertiary treatment plant.				

continued

Wastewater Infrastructure			
Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Infrastructure			
System Overview			
Treatment level: Secondary treatment is provided at the facility south of Sutter Creek. Tertiary treatment is provided to flows originating north of Dry Creek and ARSA during dry season. ¹			
Disposal method: Secondary-treated effluent is discharged to land. Tertiary-treated effluent is discharged to irrigate the Castle Oaks Golf Course.			
Facility Name	Capacity	Condition	Yr Built
Ione Secondary WWTP	0.50 mgd	Good	1955
Castle Oaks Water Reclamation Plant	1.2 mgd	Fair	1994
Treatment Plant Daily Flow (mgd)	Average Dry	Peak Wet	
Ione Secondary WWTP	0.42	0.603	
Castle Oaks Water Reclamation Plant ²	0.706 April - Nov.	NA	
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies			
With implementation of the two new recycled water use areas the City has sufficient storage and disposal capacity to meet the City's and ARSA storage and disposal needs in a wet year. The City can also accommodate anticipated growth with the current system. If the City is required to line all percolation ponds in the future, the City will need to build additional storage to accommodate growth.			
Wastewater Collection & Distribution Infrastructure			
Collection & Distribution Infrastructure			
Sewer Pipe Miles	19	Sewage Lift Stations	4
Other:	2 utility bridge crossings of Sutter Creek		
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies			
The sewer collection system is inadequate, subject to inflow and infiltration, and prone to overflows during heavy rain events. The City has implemented an operation and maintenance program.			
Infiltration and Inflow			
I/I is not a significant problem. The City plans to implement improvements to reduce I/I and prevent sanitary sewer overflows.			
Wastewater Regional Collaboration and Facility Sharing			
Regional Collaboration			
The City participated in and helped fund a regional wastewater study in 2005 and is participating in another regional study to be completed in 2014. The City provides wastewater treatment and disposal services to ARSA and MCSP.			
Facility Sharing Opportunities			
There may be opportunities for the City to share CCTV equipment with neighboring wastewater collection service providers, all of which are subject to new requirements related to their collection systems.			
Note:			
(1) Disposal of ARSA flows during the wet season is at the secondary ponds.			
(2) COWRP flow represents the average flow during the dry season (April to November).			

continued

Wastewater Service Adequacy, Efficiency & Planning		
Regulatory Compliance Record, 2008-13		
Formal Enforcement Actions	1	Informal Enforcement Actions
		3
Enforcement Action Type	Date	Description of Violations
Notice of Violation	1/28/2009	15 incidents of late or deficient reporting
Notice of Violation	1/28/2009	11 incidents of late or deficient reporting
Notice of Violation	5/1/2010	Violation of order conditions in the collection system
Administrative Civil Liability Order	1/10/2013	Late report
Service Adequacy Indicators		
Sewer Overflows 2013 ¹	0	Sewer Overflows 2012 ²
		1
Treatment Effectiveness Rate ³	100%	Sewer Overflow Rate ⁴
		0
Total Employees (FTEs)	2.0	Response Time Policy ⁵
		as quick as possible
Employees Certified?	Yes	Response Time Actual
		45 min - 2 hours
Source Control and Pollution Prevention Practices		
The City seeks to eliminate AWA water treatment plant backwash water, or to implement pretreatment measures to reduce the backwash volume.		
Collection System Inspection Practices		
The City conducts visual inspection, and flushes identified trouble spots on a quarterly basis.		
Service Challenges		
The City has in the past faced a particular challenge complying with regulatory requirements; however, in the past year, the City has made great improvements at the secondary WWTP, which are anticipated to aid the City in remaining in compliance.		
Wastewater Planning		
Plan	Description	Planning Horizon
Wastewater Master Plan	Adopted in 2009	2009-2030
Capital Improvement Plan	None	NA
General Plan	Update completed in 2009	Through 2030
Sanitary Sewer Management Plan	Compiled in 2013	NA
Emergency Plan	Emergency contacts	NA
Other:	Operations and Maintenance Manual	
Notes:		
(1) Total number of overflows experienced (excluding those caused by customers) in 2013 as reported by the agency.		
(2) Total number of overflows experienced (excluding those caused by customers) in 2012 as reported by the agency.		
(3) Total number of non-compliance days in 2013 per 365 days.		
(4) Sewer overflows (excluding those caused by customers) per 100 miles of collection piping.		
(5) 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 13-14¹			
	Rate Description	Avg. Monthly Charges	Demand²
Residential	Flat rate per unit	\$40.70	250 gpd
Rate Zones			
Wastewater rates are the same throughout the City.			
Rate-Setting Procedures			
Policy Description: The City conducts a rate study and holds public hearings prior to increasing rates. Rates for "other institutions" (e.g., schools, restaurants, hotels, and outside agencies) are increased annually based on the cost per gallon for sewer treatment.			
Last Rate Change	Apr-04	Frequency of Rate Changes	Not in the last 10 years
Wastewater Development Fees and Requirements			
Connection Fee Approach	The connection fee is a flat rate based on land use type.		
Connection Fee Timing	Upon building permit issuance.		
Connection Fee Amount ¹	Residential: \$7,640		
Land Dedication Req.	None		
Development Impact Fee	None		
Wastewater Enterprise Revenues, FY 12-13		Expenditures, FY 11-12	
Source	Amount	%	Amount
Total	\$1,581,236		Total \$2,127,770
Rates & Charges	\$1,106,228		Administration \$132,128
Property Tax	\$0		O & M \$1,619,291
Grants	\$0		Capital Depreciation NP
Interest	\$18,636		Debt \$0
Connection Fees	\$456,372		Capital Expense \$88,933
Other	\$0		Other \$33,265
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.			
(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) Connection fee amount is calculated for a single-family home.			

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The Ione Fire Department (IFD) provides fire prevention, fire protection, fire suppression, basic life support (BLS), low-angle rescue, and water rescue services. Other services include storm operations (e.g., flood watch and sandbags), building inspections, and public education. For calls involving emergency medical services, IFD provides BLS response until American Legion Ambulance Service arrives to perform advanced life support and ambulance transport.

Personnel

The City Fire Department has three full-time fire engineers, 35 call firefighters, 12 support staff, and eight youth fire cadets. Personnel work an average of 20 hours per month, depending on position. The chief, captain and assistant chief receive monthly stipends of \$1,000, \$350, and \$150, respectively. All officers serve as the Department's duty officer 48 hours per month. Other call firefighters work as extra help along with the paid staff for a determined amount per shift. The Department's full-time fire engineers have been made possible by the passing of the countywide Measure M tax. The personnel work a 48/96 shift schedule at Station 2 and staff the first-out unit with additional support provided by the paid call personnel.

IFD requires 40 hours of training of each firefighter prior to any fire activities. The Department holds weekly drills and sub-drills. All fire suppression personnel are certified Firefighter 1 by the end of 18 months with the Department. The Department would like its staff to attend Cal Fire Academy classes offered in Ione, but that is not presently allowed by Cal Fire regulations.

By way of medical training, three firefighters are paramedics, although they only perform basic EMS services through the Department, and all personnel are either certified as EMT's or Fire Responders.

The Department reports that the City has no problems recruiting call firefighters; there is a five-person waiting list for positions. In 2011/2012, the turnover rate was approximately nine percent. Over these two years, there was no net change in sworn staffing, with the exception of the new paid positions.

Regional Collaboration

The Ione Fire Department collaborates with other fire providers and is involved with the County Training Officers and the County master mutual aid system. IFD reported that it hosts approximately 90 percent of regional fire training and collaboration events.

Dispatch and Communications

All 911 calls made from land lines in Amador County are automatically routed to the Amador County Sheriff's communication center in Jackson (the Public Safety Answering Point, PSAP). Cell phone 911 calls are answered by the California Highway Patrol in Stockton, and then are routed to the Sheriff. Fire and EMS calls are routed from the PSAP to Cal Fire's Camino Interagency Command Center, which in turn dispatches a Cal Fire unit, as

well as the appropriate local jurisdiction responder. IFD is dispatched to all calls within its primary response area.

All fire providers in Amador County, including IFD, communicate through the same radio systems. Due to shared radio frequencies, IFD is able to communicate with other providers. When multiple service providers respond to an incident, the first unit to arrive on scene is responsible for incident command. The first responder notifies other providers whether and when sufficient personnel have arrived on scene. For incidents such as vehicle accidents, law enforcement becomes responsible for incident coordination once it arrives on scene through universal command protocols; prior to law enforcement arriving on scene, the first responder fire provider remains responsible for incident command.

Fire Protection Water System

The City relies on water storage tanks with a capacity of five million gallons as water reserves for fire purposes. Other resources include an independent water pond at Preston. Fire hydrants are located throughout the service area within city limits. The City has a water tender at one of its stations.

Location

The Department serves within the 4.75 square miles in City bounds plus a primary response area defined through an automatic aid agreement with AFPD. The primary response area covers approximately 38 square miles and extends in all directions from city limits. It extends south to the intersection of SR 124 and SR 88, east to the Amador-Sacramento county line, west to Sunnybrook, and north level to Carbondale.

The Mule Creek State Prison Fire Department is responsible for protecting property belonging to the California Department of Corrections, including the former Preston School (California Youth Authority).⁶⁴ The Mule Creek State Prison Fire Department and Cal Fire also provide response within the City's primary response area. Cal Fire responds throughout the service area. Mule Creek State Prison does not respond to incidents within City limits unless specifically requested.

Infrastructure

IFD operates out of two fire stations. Station 161 is located at 22 West Jackson St staffed by the paid call personnel. Station 162 is located at 600 Preston Avenue and is cross staffed by the full-time engineer and the paid call personnel. In 2008, Station 162 was replaced to allow for staffing of the facility. Operations and management of the Fire Department are based out of Station 162.

All developed areas in the City have fire hydrants spaced 300 feet apart. Wildland areas have hydrants no more than 0.5 miles apart. The Department's water reserves are five million gallons in tanks and domestic water within the City; in addition, Preston has an independent water system from a pond and the City Park has its own "dirty water" source. The pressure is acceptable 95 percent of the time; there are occasional problems in areas east of Main Street. This should be resolved through several planned infrastructure

⁶⁴ City of Ione, *Development Impact Fees 2005 Update*, 2005, p. 4-1.

projects targeting water reserves. Specifically, the City plans to install an additional one to two-million gallon above-ground storage tank, to replace all four-inch water mains, to replace wharf hydrants with steamer hydrants, and to finish cross connections of water mains.

Service Adequacy

The Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization, classifies fire service in communities from 1 to 10, indicating the general adequacy of coverage. Communities with the best systems for water distribution, fire department facilities, equipment and personnel and fire alarms and communications receive a rating of 1. The Lone Fire Department has an ISO rating of five. The rating was last updated in 2007 and IFD is working with ISO to complete an update in 2013, due to major changes in the Department's operations.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area: the more urban an area, the faster a response is required. The response time guideline established by the California EMS Agency is five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wilderness areas. The City of Ione is urban, whereas unincorporated areas within the IFD primary response zone are classified as wilderness. IFD's 90th percentile response time was 6.6 minutes within the City's bounds. The median response time was 3.47 minutes.

The primary service challenges reported by the City relate to financing constraints. The dispatch system needs improvement to reduce the time involved in transfer of calls from the PSAP (Sheriff) to the Cal Fire dispatch system.

Figure 5 -5: City of Ione Fire Profile

Fire Service					
Service Configuration			Service Demand		
Fire Suppression	Direct	Statistical Base Year	2013		
EMS	Direct	Total Service Calls	NP		
Ambulance Transport	American Legion	% EMS	NP		
Hazardous Materials	Counties ¹	% Fire	NP		
Air Rescue & Ambulance Helicopter	CHP, Private	% Vehicle Accidents	NP		
Fire Suppression Helicopter	Cal Fire	% Other	NP		
Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	NP		
Fire/EMS Dispatch	Cal Fire	Calls per 1,000 people	NP		
Service Adequacy			Resources		
ISO Rating (2007)	5	Fire Stations in City	2		
Median Response Time (min)	6.6	Fire Stations Serving City	2		
90th Percentile Response Time (min)	3.5	Sq. Miles Served per Station ²	21.3		
Response Time Base Year	2013	Total Staff ³	50		
Training			Total Full-time Firefighters		
The Department requires 40 hours of training prior to any fire activities.			Total Call Firefighters		
Service Challenges			Total Sworn Staff per Station		
The primary service challenges reported by the City relate to financing constraints. The dispatch system needs improvement to reduce the time involved in transfer of calls from the PSAP (Sheriff) to the Cal Fire dispatch system.			Total Sworn Staff per 1,000		
			Staffing Base Year		
			2013		
			Fire Flow Water Reserves		
5,000,000 gal.					
Facilities					
Station	Location	Condition	Staff per Shift	Apparatus	
Station 161	22 Jackson St. Ione, CA 95640	Good	Unstaffed	3 Type 1 Engines, Type 2 Water Tender, Type 3 Engine/Water Tender, & Telesquirt, Type 3 rescue, support service unit	
Station 162	600 Preston Avenue Ione, CA 95640	Excellent	Staffed with paid engineers 24/7	106-Ft ladder truck, Type 2 Engine, Type 3 Engine, Water Rescue Unit with 2 Boats, Type 4 Grass Unit	
Infrastructure Needs/Deficiencies					
General infrastructure needs include a back-up generator and exhaust system for Station 161, and a replacement fire engine. Water-related infrastructure needs include an additional 1 to 2-million gallon above-ground storage tanks, water mains to replace all four-inch water mains, and steamer hydrants. The radio dispatch system also needs improvement.					
Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration				Mutual/Automatic Aid Providers	
Current Practices:				There is a mutual aid agreement between AFD, Cal Fire, the City of Ione, the City of Jackson, JVFPD, LFPD, and SCFPD. IFD has an automatic aid agreement with AFD.	
The Department hosts training and collaboration events with Cal Fire, Mule Creek, JVFPD, AFD, American Legion and CHP. The Department also trains the Ione PD on medical and department drills. In addition, the State fire academy uses the Ione facility for training.					
Opportunities:					
Opportunities for greater collaboration include countywide consolidation through AFPA and local provider access to Cal Fire training in Ione.					
Notes:					
(1) Cal Fire has an MOU with Calaveras County and a secondary MOU with San Joaquin County for hazmat services.					
(2) Primary service area (square miles) per station.					
(3) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel.					
(4) Based on ratio of sworn full-time and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.					

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Nature and Extent

Ione City Police Department (ICPD) provides law enforcement services, including traffic enforcement, patrol and investigation. ICPD relies on Amador County Sheriff for specialized team services. ICPD formerly shared a school resource officer with Jackson and Sutter Creek Police Departments, but Ione pulled out of the agreement due to financial constraints.

The Department has six sworn officers plus four reserve officers and a records clerk. At this staffing level, the Department reports that it is able to provide 24-hour service.

The Department reported in 2007 that it responded to a large number of incidents without entering them into the computer system that tracks service response. Since that time, corrective measures have been taken to rectify this problem, and the number of reported calls after that year is accurate.

On a multi-agency response, the agency with primary jurisdiction is the coordinating lead agency.

Dispatch

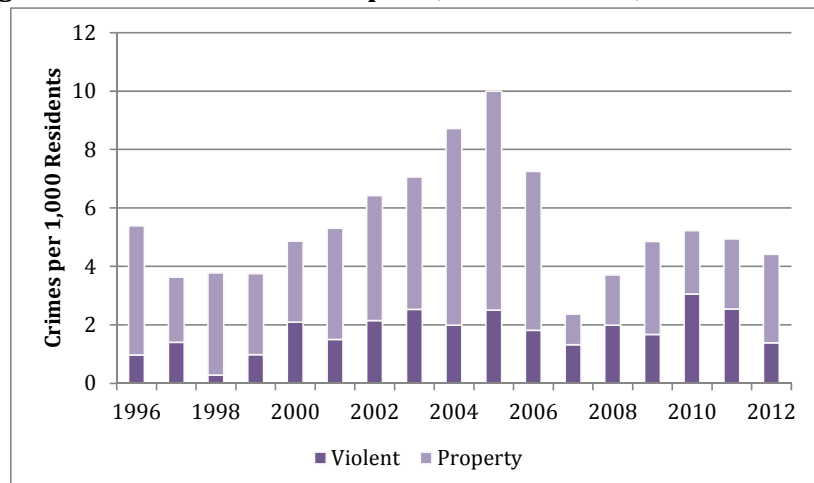
Amador County Sheriff's Office is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for all of Amador County, and provides most dispatch services for all police departments and ambulance services. Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) answer all 911 calls.

Demand

The Department has experienced a slight decline in crime over the last couple of years.

Figure 5-6: Ione Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents, 1996-2006

Serious crime rates (excluding larcenies under \$400) in the City of Ione increased every year from 2000 through 2005, peaking at nearly ten crimes per 1,000 residents in 2005, as shown in Figure 5-7. The crime significantly decreased in 2006 and 2007 and began increasing again between 2008 and 2010. Violent crimes peaked in 2010, with 3.1 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.



Location

The Ione City Police Department serves within the City's bounds and provides mutual aid to the Sheriff's office for the unincorporated area within the City's SOI.

Infrastructure

ICPD conducts operations from offices located within City Hall. The space was remodeled in 1994, but only limited space was added. A second remodel occurred in 2011, improving the operational capacity of the space. The Department reports that it needs a separate station to support operations as the City grows; the City has established a capital projects fund to construct a new police building. This would provide additional office space, a briefing room, holding facilities, and a locker room. Construction will be dependent on funding; no timeframe for construction has been identified.

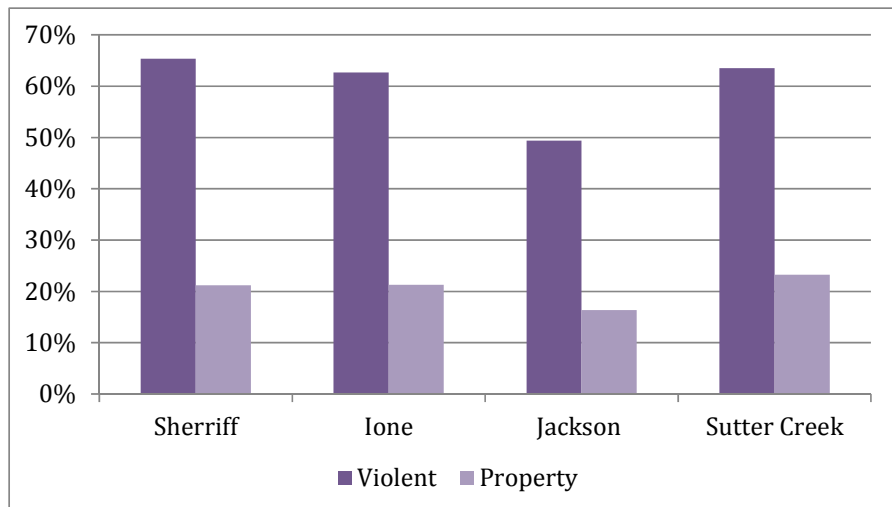
The Department reported it lacks adequate equipment, but did not specify what is needed.

Service Adequacy

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency can be gauged by many factors, including crime clearance rates (the portion of crimes that are solved),⁶⁵ response times and staffing ratios.

Figure 5-7: Law Enforcement Crime Clearance Rates, 2002-12 Average

Ione PD's crime clearance rates are comparable to those of the Sheriff and the City of Sutter Creek. IPD's average violent crime clearance rate from 2002 to 2012 for violent crime was 63 percent, which was improved from 57 percent for the period 2000 to 2006. Other law enforcement providers in the county have violent

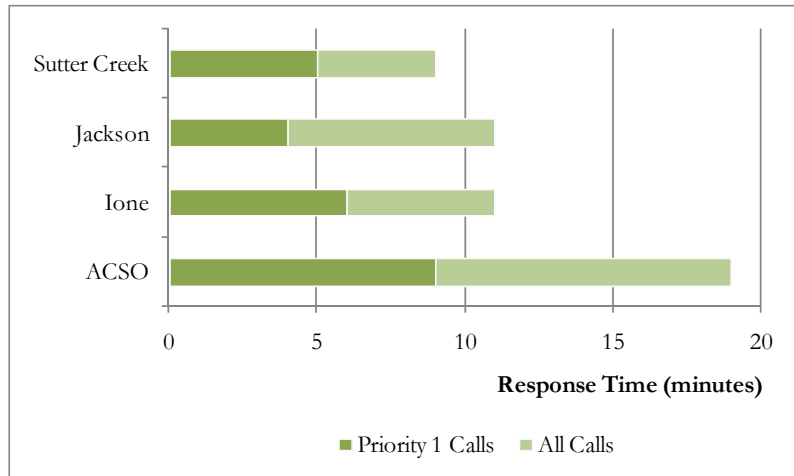


crime clearance rates ranging from 49 to 65 percent. IPD's average property crime clearance rate from 2002 to 2012 was 21 percent. Other providers' average property crime clearance rates ranged from 16 to 23 percent.

⁶⁵ Cleared crimes refer to offenses for which at least one person was arrested, charged with the offense, and turned over to the appropriate court for prosecution. A crime is also considered cleared by exceptional means if the offender dies, the victim refuses to cooperate or extradition is denied.

Figure 5 -8: Law Enforcement Providers Average Response Times, 2007

Ione PD's average response time for all calls in 2007 was 11 minutes. For priority one calls, the response time average six minutes. These response times are comparable to the Jackson and Sutter Creek Police Departments and faster than ACSO. The other providers' response times ranged between nine and 19 minutes for all calls and between four and nine minutes for priority one calls. None of the law enforcement providers reviewed here were able to provide updated response information for the MSR update.



None of the law enforcement providers reviewed here were able to provide updated response information for the MSR update.

The number of sworn officers per capita is also a service level indicator. Ione had 1.4 paid sworn officers per 1,000 residents, just below the state average in 2007. The City did not provide an update on the number of officer presently employed by the City. Other providers in the County have between 1.4 sworn staff to 2.0 sworn staff per 1,000 residents at that time.

Figure5 -9: City of Ione Police Department Profile

Police Service			
Service Configuration		Service Demand	
Patrol	Direct	Statistical Base Year	2013
Dispatch	Sheriff	Total Service Calls	NP
Search and Rescue	Sheriff	911 Calls	NP
Crime Lab	Department of Justice	Non-Emergency Calls	NP
SWAT	Sheriff	Calls per 1,000 people ¹	NP
Temporary Holding	Sheriff	Arrests 2013	NP
Bomb Squad	Calaveras County	Violent Crime Rate per 1,000 (2012)	1.4
Canine Services	Sheriff	Property Crime Rate per 1,000 (2012)	3.0
Service Adequacy		Resources	
Average Response Time	11:00	Total Staff	7
Avg. Priority One Response Time	6:00	Total Sworn Staff	6
Response Time Base Year	2007	Sworn Staff per 1,000 ³	1.7
Clearance Rate of Violent Crimes ²	63%	Staffing Base Year	2014
Clearance Rate of Property Crimes	21%	Marked Police Vehicles ⁴	7
Service Challenges			
The primary challenge is ensuring adequate financing for necessary staffing levels.			
Facilities			
Station	Location	Condition	Built
Ione Police Department	1 East Main Street Ione, CA	Good	Remodeled 2011
Infrastructure Needs/Deficiencies			
The Department reports that it needs a separate station to support operations as the City grows. The station would provide additional office space, a briefing room, holding facilities, and a locker room. Construction will be dependent on funding. The Department reported it lacks adequate equipment, but did not specify what is needed.			
Current Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration			
All law enforcement agencies in Amador County may request outside agency assists. ICPD also offers mutual aid for special events staffing and participates in the countywide Narcotics Taskforce, emergency response plan, and joint communications/crime reporting networks. Radio frequencies are shared.			
Opportunities for Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration			
No opportunities were identified.			
Notes:			
(1) Service calls per non-institutionalized populations. Service calls do not include officer-initiated activity (e.g., traffic stops).			
(2) Clearance rates are aggregated for the period between 2002 and 2012.			
(3) Sworn staff per non-institutionalized populations.			
(4) The Police Department presently has 13 vehicles; however, only seven are in use and the others are on the verge of retirement.			

ROADWAY SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The City directly provides minor street maintenance services. Major roadway reconstruction projects and street light maintenance are performed by private contractors.

The City provides street sweeping services for City streets monthly. Caltrans sweeps the highways (SRs 124 and 104) weekly. Ione contracts with Caltrans for cleaning Main Street, which is also a portion of SRs 124 and 104.

Location

Street services are provided within the City's boundaries. The City does not provide street services outside its bounds.

Infrastructure

The City's key infrastructure includes 15.5 centerline miles of roads. Of the overall 15.5 centerline miles of roads, 4.3 miles are classified as urban collector roads and 11.1 miles are classified as urban residential roads.

Circulation within the City is primarily provided by SR 104, which flows northwest-southeast, and SR 124, which flows northeast-southwest. Fairway Drive and Sutter Land also run north-south. East-west circulation within the City is provided by Shakeley Lane, West Marlette Street, and Waterman Road.

There are no signalized intersections in the City. The City owns approximately 40 street lights in Ione, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) maintains them. The balance of the street lights are directly owned and maintained by PG&E. New street lights are installed by developers within new developments and ultimately owned and maintained by the City.

Collector road improvements and extensions are planned to serve the State Route 124 and Triangle Policy Areas, with planned improvements to Waterman Road. Roadway improvements and an extension is planned for Collings Road.

Service Adequacy

The City reports that all streets operate at a level that meet or exceed the adopted standard of LOS "E," with certain exceptions.⁶⁶ Main Street, Church Street, Preston Avenue, and Ione Street may operate at LOS F, and all parkways must operate at LOS D.

The City updated its Pavement Management Program (PMP) in 2010. All of the City's streets were examined in late 2010 and the PMP data base and unit costs were updated. The current City-wide average pavement condition index (PCI) is 77, which is in the "good" to "very good" category. Seventy-two percent of the City's streets have a PCI of 70 or above, which is considered to be in the "very good" to "excellent" range. Twenty percent are in the

⁶⁶ City of Ione, *General Plan Circulation Element*, 2009.

“good” category with PCIs of 50-69, and eight percent fall within the “poor” to “very poor” range with PCIs of less than 25. The majority of the City’s streets are currently in a condition where cost effective preventative maintenance treatments such as slurry seals can be used keep them in good shape.

Figure 5 -10: City of Ione Roadway Services

Street Service Configuration and Demand			
Service Configuration			
Street Maintenance	Direct, by Contract	Signal Maintenance	None
System Overview			
Total Maintained Miles	15.5	Urban Maintained Miles	15.5
Rural Maintained Miles	0	Signalized Intersections	0
Service Demand			
Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel, 2012 ¹	10,010	DVMT per Street Mile, 2012 ²	645
Street Sweeping Frequency	Monthly		
Street Service Adequacy and Operations			
Service Adequacy			
Miles Rehabilitated FY 12-13	NP	Maintenance Cost per Street Mile ³	\$18,130
Pavement Condition			
Pavement Management System	Yes	PMS last updated ⁴	2011
Miles Needing Rehabilitation	1.1	Pavement Condition Index 2010	77
Infrastructure Needs/Deficiencies			
A new arterial to connect SR 104 and SR 88 is being studied.			
Level of Service (LOS)			
Current:	Not provided, reportedly operated at or above LOS "C" as of 2007		
Policy:	LOS "E" with certain exceptions		
Build-Out:	The City does not anticipate any roadway segments to operate at less than LOS "E."		
Service Challenges			
State highway traffic at Main Street during peak hours is a concern. Left turn lanes are being considered.			
Facility Sharing			
Current Practices:	Ione shares equipment with several jurisdictions.		
Opportunities:	No opportunities were identified.		
Development Fees and Requirements			
Local Fee			
Per Single Family Unit:	\$3,074	Per 1,000 Sq. Ft. (Non-Residential):	\$612
Regional Fee			
Per Single Family Unit:	\$3,059	Per 1,000 Sq. Ft. (Non-Residential):	\$419
Street Light Service Profile			
Service Configuration			
Street Lighting	PG&E	Number of Street Lights	~40
Maintained by Contract	~40	Maintained by City	0
Street Service Financing			
General Financing Approach			
Street services are financed primarily by gas tax revenues and other receipts from the State. The City also collects traffic mitigation fees from developers.			
Notes:			
(1) Daily vehicle miles of travel (DVMT) in 2006, according to the California Department of Transportation.			
(2) 2006 DVMT divided by total mileage of County-maintained public road system in 2006.			
(3) City road maintenance expenditures in FY 11-12 divided by centerline miles of street.			

DRAINAGE SERVICES

Streams in the Ione area generally run southwest from the foothills to the Central Valley. There are two major stream flows in the vicinity: Sutter Creek, which runs through the southern part of town, and Mule Creek, located at the western City limits. Both flow into Dry Creek west of the City, which eventually drains into the Cosumnes River.⁶⁷

Portions of the City are within the 100-year flood plain. The floodplain encompasses most the developed areas in the south of the City, as well as areas stretching north-south to a lesser degree. Flooding occurs in Ione during heavy storms from December through March.⁶⁸ Flooding has reached depths of four feet in the downtown area. Only 50 percent of parcel owners in the floodplain maintain flood insurance. Critical structures in the floodplain include the Ione Police Department, Ione Fire Department, and three bridges.

There was serious damage in Ione in 1997 due to warm rain and snowmelt in a 100-year storm event. There was less than one-foot flooding in a small area of town for 45 minutes when the creek overflowed at West Marlette Road. Some evacuations were necessary. More recently, there was a wet spring in 2006. During this event, damages outside the City cut off the water supply to the City and there were road damages throughout the County.⁶⁹

Nature and Extent

The City of Ione provides stormwater maintenance services, including blockage removal and the cleaning of stormwater inlets. Preventive maintenance services include street sweeping and inspection of stormwater inlets. Stormwater treatment services are not provided.

The City's strategy to prevent drainage problems is to provide maintenance of pipes and cleaning of ditches and gradual installation of a storm drain system as finances permit.⁷⁰

Location

Municipal drainage services are provided throughout the City and are not provided outside of City bounds.

Infrastructure

The City's drainage system consists of open ditches, storm drain conduits, diversion ditches, and retention basins. The system includes three miles of covered storm drain and 1.5 miles of open storm drain. Approximately 20 inlets are inspected prior to major storm forecasts and on a regular schedule.

⁶⁷ City of Ione, *General Plan & Environmental Impact Report for the City of Ione*, 1989, p. 13.

⁶⁸ Interview with Roark Weber, City Engineer, City of Ione, January 16, 2008.

⁶⁹ Amador County, *Amador County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2006.

⁷⁰ City of Ione, *General Plan & Environmental Impact Report for the City of Ione*, 1989, p. 25.

In addition, the City is protected by a series of levees constructed by the USACE along Sutter Creek, although these are not certified as providing protection from a 100-year flood. There are also flood and erosion-control retaining walls near the intersection of Preston and Main Streets. Maintenance of these levees is provided by the City of Ione and the California Conservation Corp, as needed.⁷¹ Other floodwalls and levees are located in the following areas:

- ❖ Howard Park Retention Basin;
- ❖ West Marlette Storm Drain System;
- ❖ Ione Oaks Drainage Ditch;
- ❖ A concrete floodwall on the south bank of Sutter Creek, starting at Preston Avenue Bridge and extending upstream approximately 300 feet;
- ❖ A levee on the south bank, starting at the end of the floodwall and extending upstream approximately 400 feet;
- ❖ A levee on the south side of Sutter Creek, from downstream of Preston Avenue and extending downstream approximately 500 feet; and
- ❖ A levee on the north bank of Sutter Creek, from downstream of Preston Avenue and extending downstream approximately 900 feet.⁷²

In addition, Ione has a large baseball field that is a retention basin for the east side of town. The western side of the City is on high ground and not prone to flooding.⁷³

Most flooding is due to inadequate channel capacity, as a result of drainage problems that restrict flow.⁷⁴ Drainage is a particular problem in the area bounded by Main Street, SR 104, Washington, SR 88, and El Dorado Street. Water collects in city streets after heavy rains and in some cases basements become flooded, pedestrian routes are flooded and mosquitoes breed in standing water.⁷⁵

The City received FEMA funds for repairs following the 1997 storm. Over \$1 million was used for five projects in the City; local storm drains were improved, which improved drainage capacity. However, the City could not widen the creek, build berms wider or build levees with these funds.⁷⁶

⁷¹ City of Ione, *General Plan & Environmental Impact Report for the City of Ione*, 1989, p. 23.

⁷² Amador County, *Amador County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2006.

⁷³ Interview with Roark Weber, City Engineer, City of Ione, January 16, 2008.

⁷⁴ Amador County, *Amador County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2006.

⁷⁵ City of Ione, *General Plan & Environmental Impact Report for the City of Ione*, 1989, p. 25. Building in the flood plain is regulated by Chapter 18.04 of the municipal code.

⁷⁶ Interview with Roark Weber, City Engineer, City of Ione, January 16, 2008.

PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The City of Ione owns and maintains seven parks and provides recreation services to City residents. It also owns and maintains a skate park, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an arena, and a community center. The City entered into a development agreement with JTS Communities, Inc. in 2005 to establish an 18-hole golf course—Castle Oaks Golf and Country Club.

The City has one maintenance supervisor and two maintenance workers who service parks, streets and buildings. The total parks and recreation expenditures account for 13 percent of the total general fund budgeted expenditures for FY 07-08.

The City is a member of the Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA), which provides countywide recreation programming and facilitates collaborative planning efforts. Facilities are shared with the Amador County School District, as the City funds and operates the pool facility at Ione Junior High School, and ACRA provides the lifeguards. Additionally, the City shares facilities at Howard Park, as it contains the regional soccer facilities for the County. The City plans future facility sharing at Howard Park with the Amador County School District for a three-acre expansion of Ione Elementary School, and plans additional collaboration with ACRA for the provision of programs at Howard Park and at other city-owned facilities.

Location

Park facilities are located within city bounds. Howard Park is located in the southeastern portion of the city.

Infrastructure

The total park area in Ione is over 100 acres. It consists of one regional park, four neighborhood parks and two landscaped areas. The City identified general park conditions as good; however, improvements are needed at Howard Park due to the variety of facilities within the park.

Howard Park is the largest park in the County. It contains an arena, horse stables, four baseball and softball fields, four soccer fields, a skate park, various picnic areas, and Evelyn Bishop Hall. It was purchased in 1994 and is in need of improvement. The City's 2009 Howard Park Master Plan identifies an extensive list of needed improvements at Howard Park, including the remodeling of Evelyn Bishop Hall (which is in fair condition), parking improvements, bleachers at the sports areas, bathrooms, exterior lighting, fence repairs, improved drainage, building a storage area for maintenance equipment, and various improvements to the arena and sports fields, among many others.

The other six parks in Ione have fewer amenities. Grover Park has a parking lot and pathways. Heath Knoll has a basketball court, a parking lot and pathways. Perry Earl Park has a community building, parking and pathways. Train Park has parking and pathways. Oakridge Park has parking and pathways. ACRA's Regional Recreation Plan recommends that improvements be made at Grover Park, Train Park and Oak Ridge Park. The City

identified needs at various park facilities including play equipment, picnic tables and new landscaping at Grover Park, play equipment, a half basketball court and new landscaping at Oak Ridge Park, play equipment, a half basketball court and picnic tables at Earl Perry Park, landscaping improvements at Schmidt Park, and repairs to picnic tables and fencing at Train Park.

ACRA's Regional Recreation Plan recommends that the City acquire and develop a new five-acre neighborhood park in the northern part of the community. No timeline was given.

Service Adequacy

The City has a ratio of almost 26.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, excluding inmates at Mule Creek State Prison. This is higher than the current countywide parkland ratio of 7.3 acres per 1,000 residents. The countywide goal for parkland is 13.7 acres per 1,000 residents.

The City reports that it is able to maintain its current parks adequately; however, as park facilities are added and expanded the City must improve its capabilities to maintain and manage the park facilities. The 2008 City of Ione Strategic Plan identifies the finalizing of a parks maintenance plan as a goal for the City, in addition to purchasing a tractor with disc, a trash pump and a utility trailer. Since that time, the City has not been able to address these needs, and there is a continued need for these improvements and purchases.

Figure 5-11: Ione Park & Recreation Profile

Park and Recreation Service Configuration			
Service Configuration			
Park Maintenance	City of Ione	Number of Parks Maintained	7
Recreation	City of Ione	Number of Recreation Centers	1
Service Adequacy FY 13-14			
Park Acres per 1,000 pop ¹	26.2		
Adopted Policy:	5 acres/1,000 population		
Park Acreage			
Local Open Space	0.0	Neighborhood Parks	3.6
Special Use Areas	0.0	Regional Parks	96.0
		Undeveloped	0.0
		Landscaped	0.7
Park Name	Location	Condition	Acres
Grover Park	At Oak and Walnut Streets	NP	2.0
Earl Perry Park	Intersection of Shakeley Drive and Fairway Drive	NP	1.0
Train Park	Behind City Hall	NP	0.3
Oak Ridge Park	On Oak Ridge Circle	NP	0.3
Howard Park	Southeast corner of City	NP	96.0
Heath Knoll	NP	NP	0.2
Schmidt Park	Intersection of SR 104/124 and Main Street	NP	0.5
Ione Pool	450 S. Mill Street	NP	NA
Service Challenges			
Lack of financial resources to make all required or requested improvements.			
Facility Needs/Deficiencies			
ACRA recommended that the City acquire a new five-acre neighborhood park.			
Facility Sharing			
The City funds and operates the pool facility at Ione Junior High School, with ACRA providing the lifeguards. Howard Park is the regional soccer facility for the County.			
Developer Fees and Requirements			
Development Impact Fees	\$3,284 (residential), \$32,183 per acre (commercial)		
Land Dedication Requirement	5 acres per 1,000 population		
In-Lieu Fees	Dwelling units x population/dwelling unit x 5 ac/1,000 people x fair market value of the land being subdivided/buildable acres of a typical area of the subdivision, with a slope less than 5% and located in an area other than an area on which building is excluded		
Notes:			
(1) Developed park acreage per 1,000 residents excluding inmates at Mule Creek Prison.			
(2) The Amador County Recreation Agency's adopted countywide policy is 13.7 acres per 1,000 residents.			

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS

Growth and population projections

- ❖ The City's population is 7,918, of which 52.5 percent are institutionalized in the State prison. The residential population grew from 2,898 in 2000 to 3,758 in 2010, an increase of almost 30 percent.
- ❖ The City has planned for an increase of 3,930 dwelling units at build out in the 2009 General Plan Update, or a total residential population of approximately 7,860.
- ❖ Similar to areas throughout the State, the City has experienced a dearth in development over the last few years. However, the City anticipates that construction of two developments will begin over the next two years—indicating a return of the construction market.
- ❖ Wastewater capacity and water availability are the most significant constraints to growth. The City has developed various capital strategies to providing adequate wastewater capacity to serve anticipated growth.

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

- ❖ There are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the City's bounds and SOI based upon mapping information provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources.

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

- ❖ With implementation of the two new recycled water use areas the City has sufficient storage and disposal capacity to meet the City's and ARSA storage and disposal needs in a wet year and accommodate anticipated growth with the current system. However, if the City is required to line all percolation ponds, the City will need to additional storage to accommodate growth.
- ❖ Wastewater services appear to be adequate based on overflow rates, peak flows, response times and planning efforts. The City has faced challenges in meeting regulatory requirements in the past, but has made significant improvements to meet requirements in 2013.
- ❖ Infrastructure needs for the Fire Department include several water distribution system repairs and replacements to improve fire flow and emergency reserves, as well as improvements at Station 161 and a replacement engine.
- ❖ The Ione FD maximizes operational efficiencies and minimizes cost by capitalizing on call firefighters and volunteer staff.

- ❖ Ione FD's training program has been particularly successful. The City has the highest percentage of firefighters meeting State certification requirements.
- ❖ Ione PD provides a similar level of service as other law enforcement agencies in the County, as indicated by crime clearance rates, which are comparable to other providers.
- ❖ The Ione PD reports that a separate station is needed, to provide increased office space, a briefing room, holding facilities, and a locker room.
- ❖ All city-owned roads are maintained at or above adopted level of services standards, as determined in the City's General Plan. One mile of roadway is in need of rehabilitation.
- ❖ Drainage is a particular problem in the area bounded by Main Street, SR 104, Washington, SR 88, and El Dorado Street. In addition, storm drain improvements continue to be needed at City street intersections with SR 104 and SR 124.
- ❖ The City has a ratio of almost 26.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (excluding the institutional population). This is higher than the current countywide parkland ratio and exceeds the countywide goal of 13.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- ❖ The City has identified numerous park infrastructure needs at the various city-maintained parks, including parking improvements, exterior lighting, fence repairs, bathrooms, picnic tables, play equipment, improvement to sports fields and facilities, new landscaping, and improved drainage. Timing of improvements will depend on funding.

Financial ability of agencies to provide services

- ❖ The City reports that financing is adequate to deliver services, but is not ample enough to provide the fire protection and wastewater service levels the City administration desires.
- ❖ The City faced a significant decline in revenues over a five-year period, which forced the City to make significant cutbacks in its general fund expenditures, resulting in understaffing and deferred maintenance. The City is optimistic that recent signs show a rebound in the economy and a positive forecast for revenues in the next few years due to the revival of new development in the area.
- ❖ The City's wastewater rates have not been increased to keep pace with inflation and capital improvement needs for 10 years. To maintain adequate service levels in the future, the City should evaluate and increase rates on a regular basis.

Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

- ❖ The City practices extensive wastewater facility sharing by treating and disposing a portion of wastewater flows originating in Sutter Creek, Amador City, and Martell and at Mule Creek State Prison. In order to expand wastewater disposal capacity, it is recommended that the City continue to pursue and expand recycled water uses to the extent feasible.

- ❖ The City is participating in a regional wastewater study with Mule Creek State Prison and ARSA to examine optimal wastewater solutions that should result in a mutually beneficial plan for Ione Valley.
- ❖ The Ione Fire Department currently collaborates to a large degree with other fire service providers in the County through aid agreements and the AFPA.
- ❖ The City is a member of the Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA). The City practices facility sharing with the Amador County School District. Additionally, the City shares facilities at Howard Park, as it contains the regional soccer facilities for the County. The City identified opportunities for continued facility sharing and additional collaboration with ACRA for the provision of programs at Howard Park and at other city-owned facilities.
- ❖ The City shares road maintenance equipment with several other jurisdictions.

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

- ❖ Accountability is best ensured when contested elections are held for governing body seats, constituent outreach is conducted to promote accountability and ensure that constituents are informed and not disenfranchised, and public agency operations and management are transparent to the public. The City of Ione demonstrated accountability with respect to all of these factors.
- ❖ The City has faced particular challenges with regard to fiscal transparency and management. There were mistakes made in the tracking of funds related to new development, due to the complexity of the process in place at the time. The City is making efforts to prevent such mistakes from occurring in the future.
- ❖ The City currently has limited administration and staffing. This limitation is a challenge for service provision and public access.
- ❖ There is a close working relationship among the fire providers in Amador County. The similarity of challenges faced by each agency and potential cost savings offered by consolidation or reorganization suggest that fire agencies will need to review opportunities for reorganization in some form, including functional consolidation.