

4. CITY OF AMADOR CITY

Amador City provides wastewater, road maintenance, drainage, parks and recreation, and cemetery services. Amador Water Agency (AWA) provides retail water services throughout the City. Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA) provides secondary wastewater treatment and disposal services to all residents within the City's limits. Law enforcement services are provided by the Amador County Sheriff's Office. Sutter Creek FPD provides fire protection and emergency medical services.⁶

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

Amador City incorporated on June 2, 1915.⁷ The City is a general law city.

Boundary

The City's boundary is entirely within Amador County, and is located approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the City of Sutter Creek. From the intersection of Water Street and Amador Creek Road, the bounds extend approximately 0.22 miles west, 0.37 miles east, 0.25 miles north, and 0.36 miles south. The total boundary area is approximately 0.3 square miles (187 acres).

Amador LAFCO records date back to 1966, and the State Board of Equalization (BOE) maintains records of officially recorded boundary changes since 1948. The BOE record for the City of Amador begins in 1959 and the LAFCO record of annexations for the City begins in 1985. LAFCO and BOE records reflect two annexations to the City. The first occurred in 1959 before LAFCO was established and is of unknown size. The second annexation was in 1986 and involved a small area, including a parcel line adjustment.⁸ In 1989, Sutter Creek Fire Protection District annexed the area of Amador City and some additional parcels outside the City. This proposal was called a "merger" but was processed as an annexation.

Sphere of Influence

The City's SOI was originally adopted in 1976, was reconfirmed by LAFCO in 2007, and was most recently updated in 2013.⁹ LAFCO updated the City's SOI to 1) add a small area of City-owned property outside the city limits and used for public facilities, 2) add or remove portions of those parcels which are currently split by the existing sphere line and are under single ownership, and 3) remove a portion within the city of one parcel (Luxemborg) which is under Williamson Act Contract outside the city boundaries.¹⁰

⁶ According to Board of Equalization tax rate area maps, there is small area within the City limits that has no designated provider.

⁷ City of Amador, Government, URL accessed 3/1/08, <http://www.amador-city.com/government.html>

⁸ LAFCO Resolution 85-187.

⁹ LAFCO Resolution 2007-05.

¹⁰ LAFCO Resolution 2013-01.

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 monthly. The last contested election for a council seat occurred in 2004, when three seats were filled from four candidates. There have been no contested City Council elections since 2004.

Figure 4-1: City of Amador Governing Body

Amador City Council			
Governing Body			
	Name	Position	Term Ends
<i>Members</i>	Timothy Knox	Mayor	November 2016
	John Swift	Vice-Mayor	November 2016
	Michael Brown	Member	November 2016
	Aaron Brusatori	Member	November 2016
	Michael Vasquez	Member	November 2014
<i>Manner of Selection</i>	Elections at large		
<i>Length of Term</i>	Four years, staggered		
<i>Meetings</i>	Date: Third Thursdays, Location: Old Schoolhouse		
<i>Agenda Distribution</i>	Posted, online, emailed by request		
<i>Minutes Distribution</i>	By request, some minutes available online		
Contact			
<i>Contact</i>	City Clerk		
<i>Mailing Address</i>	P.O. Box 200, Amador City, CA 95601		
<i>Phone</i>	(209) 267-0682		
<i>Email/Website</i>	cityclerk@amadorcity.net, amador-city.com		

The City's constituent outreach efforts include posting of agendas and information on special events on the City's website. Special events in the City include an annual cleanup day, antique fairs, collector's shows, wine tasting events, and holiday gatherings. The City has also posted minutes of council meetings online in the past; the most recent posted minutes were from April 2013. The City reported that it has had no Brown Act violations in recent history.

With regard to customer service, the city clerk is the City's primary ombudsman, although complaints are forwarded to the mayor if warranted. Complaints may be submitted through a phone call or a letter. The City reported that 11 complaints were submitted in 2012. Three of the 11 complaints were attributed to Amador City's proposed sewer rate change.

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

Management

The daily operations of the City are managed by the Mayor and the city clerk. Paid city personnel consist of six part-time employees. The positions include two elected officials: the city clerk, and the treasurer. The remaining four positions are a maintenance worker, a sewer technician, a deputy city clerk, and the Amador-Whitney Museum Docent Director. One person currently works as both the city clerk and the deputy city clerk. Council members, including the mayor, are volunteers.

The City does not perform formal evaluations of employee performance. There is no formal policy on employee evaluations; in the event of an issue, the Mayor would provide direction.

The City's current planning document is the General Plan, many elements of which were updated in recent years. The housing element was updated in 2013, the transportation and circulation element in 2010, the seismic/safety element and the pavement management plan was completed in 2008, the land use, noise and recreation elements were updated in 2007, and the open space and conservation element and the recreation element were updated in 2006.¹¹

Amador City reported that its financial planning efforts include annually adopted budgets and audited financial statements every five years. The City provided copies of its FY 08 audited financial statement and FY 13 unaudited financial statements to LAFCO. The City does not have a capital improvement plan.

The City's risk management practices include the provision of general liability and workers compensation insurance.

Service Demand and Growth

Developed land use in the City is primarily single-family residential. There is some light commercial land use primarily fronting Main Street, as well as some institutional land use (a sewage treatment plant and an old school site). Residential lands cover 15.8 percent of city bounds; commercial and institutional lands cover 6.1 percent. Seventy percent of city bounds are vacant land; vacant parcels are located on the City's outskirts, largely on the east side.¹²

The land use map in the City's land use element provides details of which lands are planned for certain purposes. The eastern half of the City is designated as agricultural lands, with the exception of parcels along Water Street, which are for single-family residential uses. Main Street south of O'Neil Alley is designated as commercial land. West of Main Street is single-family residential and special planning areas, as is north of Main Street and west of School Street.

Existing land uses just outside of the City's bounds are predominantly vacant, but also include agricultural and residential uses.¹³

¹¹ Communication with Ghio Weber and Associates, May 1, 2008.

¹² Amador City, *General Plan Land Use Element*, 2007.

¹³ Amador County, *General Plan, Existing (2007) Land Use Classifications Map*, 2007.

Significant business activities in the City include a bakery and a small hotel; each has approximately six employees. Other businesses include locally-owned retail stores.

Population

The City has 185¹⁴ residents, amounting to 0.5 percent of the Amador County population. The City's population density is 590 per square mile, compared to the countywide density of 64. Other cities in the County have higher population densities, ranging from 980 to 1,700 per square mile.

Amador City's population has declined by six percent since 2000; however the population did peak in 2005 with 217 residents, but has continued to decline since then.

New housing unit permit issuance has also been limited in recent years. The City of Amador issued one residential building permit between 2007 and 2013. Commercial development in the City has been similarly limited. There was no construction activity for commercial buildings from 2008 to 2013.

Development

The City expects to provide services to future growth inside the city limits. The City reported that there are currently four to six lots available for residential use. In the 2008 MSR, it was reported that the City expected a proposal for development in the surrounding unincorporated areas outside of the City's SOI. The proposal was to cover 21 acres and involve 18 units. In 2013, the Amador City Mayor reported that the developers (Pheasant Hill Partners) of the residential project never came forward with a proposed development.

Growth Strategies

Amador City's planning area is contiguous with its SOI. The City designates land uses only within its sphere. Land use plans may not yet be updated to the 2013 sphere.

The City's growth strategies emphasize preservation of the historical character of the area, especially the historic "Gold Rush" character of the downtown commercial buildings. All development and all signage in the City are to be consistent with this historic theme.

The General Plan indicates that the City would welcome a modest amount of growth, particularly economic growth.¹⁵

It was reported in the 2008 MSR that the city engineer had suggested expansion so that the Old Highway 49 segments between the Main Street bypass and Sutter Creek are split between the two cities' SOIs, as both Amador City and Sutter Creek value historic character. However, in 2013, the City reported that it was unlikely that the Amador County Board of Supervisors would support either city in taking this property into their respective SOI's or city limits, due to the fact that there are plans to re-open the Sutter Gold Mine in the identified area. The City is concerned about the type of land uses the County might approve adjacent to the City, as the City may be more focused on historical character than the County.¹⁶

¹⁴ United States Census, 2010, Demographic Profile.

¹⁵ Amador City, *General Plan Land Use Element*, 2007, p. 2.

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

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.¹⁷

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.¹⁸ DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County—three of which are cities and are therefore not considered unincorporated.¹⁹ There are no areas that are considered disadvantaged within or adjacent to Amador City 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.

Financing

The City reported that its current financing level is adequate to deliver services, but reported that it has had to increase sewer rates since 2008, in order to keep the Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Fund solvent.

The City tracks its financial activities through a general fund and various special funds, and separately accounts for its sewer activities. The general fund is the City's main operating fund.

The City's total revenues were \$535,079 in FY 13.²⁰ Revenue sources include Highway 49 relinquishment funds (42 percent), sewer rates (16 percent), grants (13 percent), property taxes (six percent), interest (six percent), vehicle license fees (three percent) and sales taxes (one percent). Grant revenue in FY 13 included a \$62,870 COPS grant and a \$5,000 grant related to beverage containers.

The City's sales tax revenues are lower than in the remainder of Amador County. Taxable sales transactions in the City were \$4,938 per capita in 2012, versus \$5,437 per capita in 2006. By comparison, the countywide average was \$13,297 per capita in 2012, which was up from \$12,698 in 2006.²¹

¹⁷ Government Code §56033.5.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ The source for financial information is the FY 13 actuals reported in the City's FY 14 budget.

²¹ This indicator is calculated as the ratio of taxable sales at all outlets in 2006 and 2012 to the average annual household population in the City in 2006 and 2012 (i.e., the average of the January 2006 and January 2007 household population estimates from DOF).

City expenditures were \$433,260 in FY 13. Of this amount, 33 percent was spent on expenditures related to the Highway 49 Relinquishment, 17 percent was spent on law enforcement via the COPS grant, 11 percent on sewer operations, nine percent on legal and accounting costs, eight percent on salary and wages, three percent on utilities, and two percent on street maintenance and paving.

The City did not report the amount of long-term debt outstanding at the end of FY 13; however, no debt payments were designated in the City's FY 14 budget.

Amador City does not have a formal policy on maintaining financial reserves, although the City's practice is to operate frugally. The City's reserve funds at the close of FY 13 were not made available. The City operated with a budget surplus of \$101,818 in FY 13, but operated with a budget deficit of \$188,971 in FY 12. The independent auditor for the City reported a total of \$2.5 million in "cash on hand" as of July 2013.²²

The City participates in joint financing mechanisms related to financing insurance, recreation and wastewater services, economic development strategies. The City obtains insurance through PARSAC, a JPA of 37 cities that offers general liability, employment practices, workers' compensation, property, and special events insurance. Amador City reported it had applied for a Public Agency Risk Sharing Authority of California (PARSAC) grant in 2013 in the amount of \$11,298. Amador City also has a JPA with the City of Sutter Creek where by the City of Sutter Creek provides treatment to the effluent from Amador City known as the Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA). The City is also a part of the Central Sierra Economic Development District (CSEDD)—a federally recognized JPA where by local CSEDD representatives work with regional governments and local businesses to plan and provide strategies for the future.

WASTEWATER SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The City provides wastewater collection services to its boundary area, and provides partial treatment before pumping the wastewater to the City of Sutter Creek for treatment. Sutter Creek conveys the treated wastewater effluent to land disposal systems operated by ARSA—a joint powers authority of which Amador City appoints one of five voting members. The City's contract with Sutter Creek expired in 2013 and the renewal is pending.

The City inspects the treatment plant daily during the business week for a short period of time, but the plant is left unattended for the majority of the day and on weekends. Plant operations are automated in that pumping is controlled by floats (i.e., water level) and timers.²³

²² Independent Accountant's Compilation Report prepared by Mary Louise Nixon, CPA, July 15, 2013.

²³ Correspondence from Amador City wastewater engineer, Gene Weatherby, August 14, 2008.

Location

The City provides wastewater service within its boundary area. While the City ordinance prevents wastewater service outside bounds, there are reportedly six wastewater connections outside of the City's bounds.²⁴ There may be additional undocumented wastewater connections.

Infrastructure

The City's wastewater facility provides aeration of its wastewater flows prior to exporting the wastewater to the City of Sutter Creek for secondary treatment and disposal. Key wastewater infrastructure owned and maintained by the City includes a treatment plant, equalization basin, effluent pump station, effluent export system, and collection system.

Treatment processes include an influent bar screen, followed by aeration and clarification in a 4-6 inch thick concrete-lined equalization basin. The basin's storage capacity is 335,000 gallons with two feet of freeboard. The basin accommodates seven days of wet weather flow, and two weeks of dry weather flows. The equalization basin is located on a small bluff adjacent to Amador Creek, and would drain to the creek if a spill or leak occurred. The plant is not equipped with emergency generators or remote communication systems. Sludge is periodically pumped to a concrete-lined sludge drying bed, and is eventually deposited in a landfill. The City's treatment facility has adequate capacity to accommodate anticipated growth.

Wastewater is exported to the City of Sutter Creek's wastewater treatment plant through an effluent pump station, and is generally transferred during the evening and other low-flow periods to Sutter Creek. The pump station is equipped with two pumps, with a combined capacity of 136,000 gpd, and a four-inch force main with a capacity of 125,000 gpd. The force main holds approximately 7,000 gallons at any one time, and may be drained to the equalization basin for maintenance purposes.

The City owns and maintains 1.9 miles of sewer collection system, most of which is composed of pipe six inches in diameter.²⁵ The collection system was installed in the mid-1970s, and was described as in good condition.²⁶ Sewer lines make three crossings of Amador Creek.

²⁴ Correspondence with Tim Knox, Amador City Mayor, November 28, 2013.

²⁵ ECO:LOGIC Engineering, *Amador County Regional Wastewater Management Plan*, 2005, pp. 4-5 and Figure 4-4.

²⁶ Correspondence with Gene Weatherby, Grant Reynolds, April 23, 2008.

Figure 4-2: City of Amador Wastewater Profile

Wastewater Service Configuration and Demand				
Service Configuration				
Service Type	Service Provider(s)			
Wastewater Collection	Amador City			
Wastewater Treatment	Sutter Creek			
Wastewater Disposal	Amador Regional Sanitation Authority (ARSA)			
Recycled Water	None			
Service Area				
Collection:	Amador City boundary area			
Treatment:	Amador City boundary area			
Recycled Water	None			
Sewer Connection Regulatory/Policies				
Property owners must connect to the public sewer system if the building is within 250 feet of the sewer line (Municipal Code §13.04.130).				
Onsite Septic Systems in Service Area				
There were 5 homes in the City on septic systems, according to the 1990 Census, which was the most recent census to inquire about residential sewage disposal. ¹				
Service Demand 2013				
Type	Connections		Outside	Flow (mgd)
	Total	Inside Bounds	Bounds	Average
Total	124	115	0	0.024
Residential	116	110	6	0.022
Commercial	8	12	0	0.002
Industrial	0	0	0	0.000
Projected Demand (in millions of gallons per day)				
	2005	2012	2025	Build-Out
Avg. dry weather flow	0.021	0.027	0.034	0.04
Peak wet weather flow	0.053	NP	NP	NP
Notes:				
(1) In 2013, the Amador City Mayor he did not have knowledge of the number of septic systems within the City.				
(2) NA: Not Applicable; NP: Not Provided.				

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Wastewater Infrastructure			
Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Infrastructure			
System Overview			
Treatment level: Wastewater is collected in a pond and aerated by Amador City, then conveyed to City of Sutter Creek for secondary treatment.			
Disposal method: Secondary treated effluent is discharged through the ARSA outfall to land			
Facility Name	Capacity	Condition	Yr Built
Amador City Wastewater Treatment pond	335,000 gal	Good	1976
Effluent pump station/force main	125,000 gpd	Good	1976
Treatment Plant Daily Flow (mgd)	Average Dry	Peak Wet	
Amador City WWTP	0.027	NP	
Sutter Creek WWTP (by contract)	0.027	NP	
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies			
The Amador treatment facility is not equipped with emergency generators or remote communication systems.			
Wastewater Collection & Distribution Infrastructure			
Collection & Distribution Infrastructure			
Sewer Pipe Miles	1.9	Sewage Lift Stations	1
Other:	4-inch force main rated at 86.8 gpm		
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies			
The collection system, the pump station and/or the force main may need to be modified or improved in the future to accommodate anticipated increases in flows, according to the RWQCB.			
Infiltration and Inflow			
Peak flow is more than double dry weather flow, indicating I/I problems. The City has identified I/I problems and taken steps to reduce impacts on the collection system.			
Wastewater Regional Collaboration and Facility Sharing			
Regional Collaboration			
Amador City shares treatment and disposal facilities with the City of Sutter Creek and the unincorporated Martell area through ARSA.			
Facility Sharing Opportunities			
ARSA and AWA are evaluating future opportunities for regional wastewater facilities.			

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Wastewater Service Adequacy, Efficiency & Planning			
Regulatory Compliance Record, 2008-13			
Formal Enforcement Actions	0	Informal Enforcement Actions	1
Enforcement Action Type	Date	Description of Violations	
Notice of Violation	December 2010	Sewery system overflow	
Service Adequacy Indicators			
Sewer Overflows 2013 ¹	1	Sewer Overflows 2012 ²	0
Treatment Effectiveness Rate ³	100%	Sewer Overflow Rate ⁴	53
Total Employees (FTEs)	0.2	Response Time Policy ⁵	ASAP
Employees Certified?	Yes	Response Time Actual	1-2 hours
Source Control and Pollution Prevention Practices			
Amador City's contract with Sutter Creek precludes industrial discharges.			
Collection System Inspection Practices			
Conduct smoke tests as needed to identify leaks. Objective is to smoke-test one-third of system annually subject to financing availability.			
Service Challenges			
The City reported that its most significant challenge relates to sewer operations. The City struggles to keep up to date on State mandates and to set adequate but manageable rates.			
Wastewater Planning			
Plan	Description	Planning Horizon	
Wastewater Master Plan	None	NA	
Wastewater Collection Plan	None	NA	
Capital Improvement Plan	None	NA	
General Plan	Updated 2013	NA	
Sanitary Sewer Management Plan	1st Phase, May 2008	NA	
Emergency Plan	Emergency contact list	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 13¹			
	Rate Description	Avg. Monthly Charges	Demand²
Residential	Water Use and Flat Charges	\$52.00	250 gpd
Rate Zones			
Wastewater rates are the same throughout the City.			
Rate-Setting Procedures			
Policy Description: NP			
Last Rate Change January 1, 2013 Frequency of Rate Changes As needed			
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 ³ Residential: \$5,345			
Land Dedication Req. Minimum 5-foot easement on each side of lateral is required to be dedicated to City, with project-specific requirements by approval of the City Engineer.			
Development Impact Fee None			
Wastewater Enterprise Revenues, FY 13		Expenditures, FY 13	
Source	Amount	%	Amount
Total	\$88,971	100%	Total
Rates & Charges	\$77,163	87%	Administration
Property Tax	\$0	0%	O & M (Direct)
Grants	\$0	0%	O & M (SC/ARSA)
Interest	\$3,745	4%	Capital Depreciation
Connection Fees	\$6,133	7%	Debt
Other	\$1,930	3%	Other
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.			

ROADWAY SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The City directly provides minor street services such as filling potholes and patching roads, and contracts out major roadway reconstruction projects. PG&E owns and maintains the street lights within the City, and the City pays for the electricity associated with the lights. The City did not provide any street maintenance services in FY 12.

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 3.3 centerline miles of roads. All roads maintained by the City are of the rural functional classification, including 3.1 miles of rural local roads, and 0.2 miles of rural collector roadway. There are no signalized intersections in the City. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) owns and maintains the 44 street lights in the City.

Circulation within the City is primarily provided by Main Street in a north-south direction. Other roadways providing north-south circulation include East and West School Streets, and Church Street. East-west circulation within the City is provided by Water Street (Amador Creek Road), Ione Valley Road, and Fleehart Street.

The City of Amador City received \$2,050,460 in March 2007 for relinquishment of Highway 49 (renamed Main Street) through the city and for the Main Street Bridge replacement. By 2007, construction costs as estimated by ACTC had skyrocketed to \$3,400,000.00 for bridge replacement. The City of Amador City applied for and received California Highway Bridge Replacement Funds (HBRF) that provides for 88.53 percent reimbursement of the bridge replacement costs.²⁷ The bid for Main Street Bridge replacement was \$3,400,000.00 with total costs to be approximately \$4,300,000.00. Replacement of the Main Street Bridge began July 2013 and was completed in March 2014.

Service Adequacy

The City reports that it has the means to provide services adequately, and that there are no service challenges in the provision of street maintenance in the City. All City streets operate at a Level of Service (LOS) of "C" or better, and the City does not anticipate any roadway segments to operate at less than LOS "C" at build out. The City reports that streets are in good condition, and recognize the historical character of the area.

²⁷ Roark Weber, City Engineer Memorandum on Amador City Bridge Replacement Project Status, October 15, 2011.

Figure 4-3: City of Amador Roadway Services

Street Service Configuration and Demand			
Service Configuration			
Street Maintenance	Direct and by contract	Signal Maintenance	None
System Overview			
Total Maintained Miles	3.3	Urban Maintained Miles	0
Rural Maintained Miles	3.3	Signalized Intersections	0
Service Demand			
Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel, 2013 ¹	1,110	DVMT per Street Mile, 2013 ²	336
Street Sweeping Frequency	No street sweeping		
Street Service Adequacy and Operations			
Service Adequacy			
Miles Rehabilitated FY 12	0.0	Maintenance Cost per Street Mile ³	\$2,212
Pavement Condition			
Pavement Management System	Yes	PMS last updated ⁴	NP
Miles Needing Rehabilitation	0.0	Pavement Condition Index, 2013	NP
Infrastructure Needs/Deficiencies			
Major projects in 2013 include the Main Street Bridge replacement and the Main Street reconstruction.			
Level of Service (LOS)			
Current:	All roadway segments operate at LOS "C" or better.		
Policy:	LOS "C"		
Build-Out:	The City does not anticipate any roadway segments to operate at less than LOS "C."		
Service Challenges			
None identified. City streets are reported to be in good condition.			
Facility Sharing			
Current Practices:	None		
Opportunities:	None identified		
Development Fees and Requirements			
Local Fee			
Per Single Family Unit:	\$3,040	Per Trip End (Non-Residential):	\$304
Regional Fee			
Per Single Family Unit:	\$4,906	Per Trip End (Non-Residential):	\$491
Street Light Service Profile			
Service Configuration			
Street Lighting	PG&E	Number of Street Lights	44
Maintained by Contract	All	Maintained by City	None
Notes:			
(1) Daily vehicle miles of travel (DVMT) in 2013, according to the California Department of Transportation.			
(2) 2013 DVMT divided by total mileage of County-maintained public road system in 2013.			
(3) City road maintenance expenditures in FY 13 divided by centerline miles of street.			
(4) 10-year PMS ended in 2007. The City did not provide an update.			

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Street Service Financing			
General Financing Approach			
Street services are financed primarily by gas tax revenues and VLF in-lieu fees.			
Streets and Roads Financial Information, FY 13 ¹			
Revenues		Expenditures	
Total	\$268,223	Total ⁶	\$175,577
High Way User Tax	\$8,989	Maintenance	\$8,478
VLF In-Lieu ²	\$0	Street	\$7,300
Traffic Congestion Relief	NP	Lights & Signals	\$0
Other State Revenues	\$10,827	Other	\$1,178
Hwy 49 Relinquishment	\$225,955	Capital	\$156,789
Local Revenues ³	\$0	New Construction ⁷	\$0
City Revenues	\$22,452	Reconstruction ⁸	\$144,280
Interest	\$20,574	Signals & Lights	\$0
Bond proceeds	\$0	Other	\$12,509
General Fund	\$0	Undistributed Costs ⁹	\$3,891
Assessments ⁴	\$0	Plant & Equipment	\$6,419
Other ⁵	\$1,878	Other Public Agencies	\$0
<p>Note:</p> <p>(1) Financial information as reported in the budget FY 13 budget and actuals provided by the City.</p> <p>(2) Includes motor vehicle license fees used for street purposes and/or being accounted for in a street-purpose fund.</p> <p>(3) Includes other funds distributed by the local agencies other than the County and the cities.</p> <p>(4) Includes benefit assessments (also called special assessments) collected to finance street improvements and street lighting under the Landscape and Lighting Assessment Act of 1972, the Improvement Act of 1913 and the Street Lighting Act of 1931.</p> <p>(5) Includes traffic safety funds, development impact fees, redevelopment agency funds, and miscellaneous local sources. Excludes payments from other governmental agencies for contract services.</p> <p>(6) Total before adjustments for reporting changes since prior years.</p> <p>(7) Includes new construction and betterment of streets, bridges, lighting facilities, and storm drains, as well as right-of-way acquisitions.</p> <p>(8) Reconstruction refers to the Highway 49 Relinquishment project.</p> <p>(9) Engineering costs that are not allocated to other expenditure categories or projects because the work is not specific or such allocation is impractical. Administration cost is an equitable pro rata share of expenditures for the supervision and management of street-purpose activities.</p>			

DRAINAGE SERVICES

Amador City is located in an east-west trending canyon created by Amador Creek; the entire City is within the Amador Creek watershed. The creek originates east of the City, and its waters eventually join Rancheria Creek and then Dry Creek to the west.

Flooding is of minimal concern for the City; FEMA has not mapped a flood plain through Amador City. Peak flows have remained within established floodway areas, although increased runoff from new development could pose a flood hazard.²⁸

Nature and Extent

The City provides debris removal during and after storm events. The City does not provide flood control services.

The City maintains a policy establishing a 50-foot development setback from Amador Creek. The setback is based on the high water mark and extent of streamside vegetation. The City also aims to minimize increased flow created by new impermeable surfaces.²⁹

Capital and operating costs are funded from city street funds and grant programs.

Location

Municipal storm water services are provided throughout the City and are not provided outside city limits.

Infrastructure

Drainage infrastructure includes cross culverts, roadside ditches, drainage swales and creeks, and approximately 1.25 miles of storm drain, 0.25 miles of which is covered. There are 15 inlets; two inlets are inspected per year on average.

Replacement of the Main Street Bridge began July 2013 and was completed in March 2014.

PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The City of Amador City owns and maintains three public parks. It does not provide recreation programs.

The City has one part-time maintenance worker for all city maintenance. Volunteers provide supplemental park maintenance as well as recreation services.

Amador City is a member of the Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA), which provides countywide recreation programming and facilitates collaborative planning efforts.

²⁸ Amador City, *General Plan Conservation and Open Space Elements*, 2006.

²⁹ Amador City, *General Plan Seismic and Safety Elements*, May 2008.

Location

Park facilities are located within city bounds. School House Park is located in the Northern part of the City, while Pocket Park and Culbert Park are located near downtown.

Infrastructure

There is a total of 2.5 acres of parks within Amador City, which consists of open space and two small neighborhood parks.

Culbert Park is the largest park in the City. It does not require maintenance, because the parkland is undeveloped and is not publicized to City residents. Pocket Park is a large wooden deck in good condition; it does not require regular maintenance. School House Park is also in good condition.

The Amador County Regional Recreation Plan includes a recommendation for the City to acquire and develop a new five-acre neighborhood park. Amenities would include a small multi-purpose sport field, a picnic area and a pathway system. The acquisition cost is estimated at approximately \$1 million. No timeline is mentioned. ACRA doesn't recommend improvements to the other parks.

Service Adequacy

The City has a ratio of 13.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. This is approximately on par with the current countywide parkland ratio of 13.7 acres per 1,000 residents.

The City did not report any capacity constraints that limit its present ability to provide park maintenance, or identify any future constraints.

Figure 4-4: Amador City Park & Recreation Profile

Park and Recreation Service Configuration			
Service Configuration			
Park Maintenance	Direct	Number of Parks Maintained	3
Recreation	None	Number of Recreation Centers	0
Service Adequacy FY 06-07			
Park Acres per 1,000 pop ¹	13.5		
Adopted Policy:	No City policy ²		
Park Acreage			
Local Open Space	2.0	Neighborhood Parks	1
Special Use Areas	0.0	Community Parks	0.0
		Undeveloped	0.0
		Landscaped	0.0
Park Name	Location	Condition	Acres
School House Park	14531 School Street.	Good	0.3
Pocket Park	Main Street	Good	0.2
Culbert Park	Keystone Alley	Undeveloped	2.0
Service Challenges			
None identified.			
Facility Needs/Deficiencies			
None identified.			
Facility Sharing			
The City participates in the programs run by the Amador County Recreation Agency.			
Developer Fees and Requirements			
Development Impact Fees	\$4,300 per dwelling unit ³		
Land Dedication Requirement	No requirement		
In-Lieu Fees	No requirement		
Notes:			
(1) Developed park acreage per 1,000 residents per the Department of Finance January 2008 estimate.			
(2) The Amador County Recreation Agency's adopted countywide policy is 13.7 acres per 1,000 residents.			
(3) Development impact fee is automatically adjusted annually according to the appropriate engineering cost index per the Engineering News Record.			

CEMETERY SERVICE

Nature and Extent

Amador City owns and maintains two cemeteries, Amador City Pioneer Cemetery and Oak Knoll Cemetery. City volunteers perform ground maintenance activities. A city maintenance person may be available for special projects, but cemetery maintenance is not technically part of his duties. The City pays for weed spraying twice a year at Oak Knoll Cemetery.

Burials

The City did not report data on the number of total and annual burials. The earliest graves at Amador City Pioneer Cemetery date back to the 1850s; the earliest graves at Oak Knoll Cemetery were not provided.

Plot Acquisition

Amador City Pioneer Cemetery has no remaining capacity.

The City reported that plots are available at Oak Knoll Cemetery, but does not know how many graves are located there or how many interments occurred in the last few years. For purchasing a plot, the City charges a \$500 site fee and a \$50 interment fee. There are no restrictions on plot acquisition.

Location

Amador City Pioneer Cemetery is located on Church Street and Cross Street, within city bounds. Oak Knoll Cemetery is located outside of city bounds in the Bunker Hill area.

Infrastructure

Amador Pioneer Cemetery is less than one acre in size and is in fair condition. The cemetery is open for visitation at any time of day. All plots have been purchased or occupied, and there is no remaining capacity. Infrastructure needs include repair of the sprinkler system, which is not in working order.

Oak Knoll Cemetery is approximately one acre in size, and is in fair condition. Access to the cemetery is through an easement across private property, and there are no signs marking the site. There is no water service at the cemetery site.

The City reported in 2008 and again in 2013 that it does not have plans to construct or expand cemetery facilities.

Service Adequacy

Amador City reported that it has the capacity to provide cemetery services to its service area. The City did not identify any opportunities to share cemetery facilities with other service providers.

In the 2008 MSR, the City reported it had \$11,050 in an endowment care fund for the Oak Knoll Cemetery; however, in 2013 no update on the fund balance was provided nor was it discernable in the FY 14 budget provided by the City to LAFCO.

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS

Growth and population projections

- ❖ The population of Amador City has experienced overall negative growth since 2000. As of 2010, the City had a population of 185 residents.

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

- ❖ The wastewater collection system, pump station and/or force main may need to be modified or improved in the future to accommodate anticipated growth.
- ❖ The City reported that its most significant challenge relates to sewer operations. The City struggles to keep up to date on State mandates and to set adequate but manageable rates.
- ❖ Roadway capacity and drainage is sufficient, and maintenance is adequate. No unfunded needs or deficiencies were reported for roadway infrastructure, including roadside drainage.
- ❖ The City has a ratio of 13.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, which is on par with the current countywide parkland ratio of 13.7 acres per 1,000 residents. The parkland acreage in Amador City has not changed since 2008; rather the population has decreased resulting in the increased acreage per 1,000 residents.
- ❖ The Amador County Regional Recreation Plan recommends that the City acquire and develop a new five-acre neighborhood park. This finding was identified in the 2008 MSR and no commitments or progress has been made since then.
- ❖ The City reported that cemetery plots are available at Oak Knoll Cemetery, but did not provide an indication of remaining capacity, or the number of recent burials. There is no remaining capacity at Amador Pioneer Cemetery. Demand for these services appears to be minimal, given the lack of cemetery related revenues in FY 13.

Financial ability of agencies to provide services

- ❖ The City reported that its current financing level is adequate to deliver services, but reported that wastewater regulatory mandates and fees present a challenge.

- ❖ The City's sewer rates are lower than those charged by the City of Sutter Creek and AWA (Martell), with which Amador City shares treatment and disposal facilities. The City last updated its sewer rates in 2013.
- ❖ The ability of the City to provide cemetery services is constrained, due to a lack of financing. Neither cemetery owned by the City is professionally maintained on a regular basis. Maintenance of cemetery grounds is performed on a volunteer basis only.
- ❖ The City should consider the use of standard financial statements to further increase transparency and accountability.

Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

- ❖ Amador City shares water and wastewater facilities and resources by contracting with AWA for water services and the City of Sutter Creek for wastewater treatment services.
- ❖ The City does not practice sharing of facilities for roadway and drainage maintenance or cemetery service, and did not identify any possible opportunities.
- ❖ Amador City is a member of Amador County Recreation Agency, which provides countywide recreation programming and facilitates collaborative planning efforts.

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 generally demonstrated accountability for community service needs; however, the office hours of city employees is extremely limited, which limits the time frame for responses to public inquiries or requests for information.
- ❖ Operational efficiencies are achieved in the provision of park maintenance through the use of volunteers for supplemental park maintenance as well as recreation services. The City also relies on volunteers to perform grounds maintenance at the cemeteries.
- ❖ Accountability for community service needs is limited in regard to cemetery service, as the City was unable to provide the number of vacant plots available at Oak Knoll Cemetery, as well as recent number of burials.
- ❖ Although operational efficiencies are achieved in the provision of select city services through the use of volunteers and consultants in addition to the city employees, this practice may not be sustainable in the long term.
- ❖ The city currently has limited administration and staffing. This limitation is a challenge for service provision and public access.