

DRYTOWN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Drytown County Water District (DCWD) provides retail water distribution and delivery services.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

Drytown County Water District (DCWD) was formed on July 17, 1961, as an independent special district.¹ DCWD was formed to provide water services to the unincorporated community of Drytown.

The principal act that governs the District is the County Water District Law.² The principal act empowers the District to “store water for the benefit of the district, conserve water for future use, and appropriate, acquire, and conserve water and water rights for any useful purpose.”³ Districts must apply and obtain LAFCO approval to exercise latent powers, i.e., those services authorized by the principal act but not already provided by the district at the end of 2000.⁴

Boundary

The DCWD boundary encompasses the community of Drytown, which is located in northwestern Amador County, approximately three miles south of the City of Plymouth. The boundary area extends west of SR 49, east along Spanish Street and New Chicago Road. The District has a boundary area of approximately 159 acres.

LAFCO staff has extensively researched the boundary records for DCWD. The original formation of the district specified the Drytown Township area as the boundaries of the district; however the resolution of the Board of Supervisors ordering the formation (Resolution #487, June 26, 1961) specified five areas for annexation, including land adjacent to the township boundary and in the New Chicago township. Additionally, three annexations have been completed. Project #94 attempted to include portions of parcels that were split by the township line and some additional property. Project #94 also annexed the lands in the New Chicago township area, that were intended to be included in the formation, but were not clearly defined by the formation legal description. These parcels form a dis-contiguous portion of the district with roadways excluded. The Bewsey Annexation (LAFCO Project #185) was recorded with an inadequate legal description. The corrected certificate of completion has now been recorded and the correction has been accepted by the State Board

¹ Formation date is from Board of Equalization records.

² California Water Code §§30000-33901.

³ California Water Code §31021.

⁴ Government Code §56824.10.

of Equalization. The Cruz-Robbins annexation (LAFCO Project #297) was completed August 2, 2018.

The current district boundaries divide some parcels, in part due to parcel line adjustments and changes since the boundaries were established. The District has not had reliable boundary maps with clearly defined boundaries to support its decisions and actions for extending service. Both the county and the district have relied on source maps prepared by others without reviewing actual annexation records. As a result DCWD has extended water service and made commitments to serve water to property outside the district's jurisdictional area, because of the belief that the parcels were within or partially their boundaries. Definite and certain boundaries with verified maps will now be available to the public and the district.

District comments further note that realignment of lot lines have resulted the parcels being reconfigured in such a way that two lots are outside the boundaries, but the precursor parcels were within or partially within the district. The District feels that these parcels should be grandfathered in.

Sphere of Influence

The District's SOI was originally adopted in 1976, but the resolution did not include any description of the area. LAFCO minutes from the time indicate that the District expressed a desire to concentrate on serving its existing customers and the vacant lots inside the District as they developed, leading the Executive Officer to infer that the SOI was established in 1976 as coterminous. Most recently, in 2009, LAFCO updated the District's SOI to include all territory within the District's boundaries, plus parcels outside the boundaries then receiving service.⁵ The Sphere of Influence is expected to be updated following this review, as the district intends to annex those parcels already receiving service and annex property where commitments to serve have been negotiated. Some newly subdivided parcels are for sale adjacent to the district and will need new water service from Drytown.

Local Accountability and Governance

DCWD is governed by a five-member board of directors. Directors are to be elected; although, in practice, there have been no contested elections in recent history. Directors have been appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The District describes that recently, when a board position became vacant, it put an ad out for those interested in becoming a Director. Following the application period, those submitting an application were interviewed by the Board and DCWD voted on who they thought would be the best choice for the position. This is consistent with elections code for filling the remainder of an unexpired term. County Elections department advises that when terms expire for all districts, the Elections office publishes notice at the opening of the filing period.

⁵ LAFCO Resolution 2009-06.

Figure 1: DCWD Governing Body

Drytown County Water District			
Governing Body			
	Name	Position	Term Ends
<i>Members</i>	Edwin Kaffer	Chair	Dec-2021
	Michael Borunda	Vice Chair	Dec-2019
	Linda Lacey	Secretary	Dec-2021
	Sandra Frey	Treasurer	Dec- 2019
	David Estey	Sgt of Arms	Dec-2021
<i>Manner of Selection</i>	Elections at large; appointment by Board of Supervisors for uncontested positions		
<i>Length of Term</i>	Four years, staggered		
<i>Meetings</i>	Date: First Thursday at 7 p.m.	Location: Drytown School House	
<i>Agenda Distribution</i>	Posted at Old Well Motel and the school house		
<i>Minutes Distribution</i>	By request		
Contact			
<i>Contact</i>	Nancy Gibbs, Clerk of the Board		
<i>Mailing Address</i>	P.O. Box 323, Ione, CA 95640		
<i>Phone</i>	(209) 274-6480 or (209)304-0940		
<i>Fax</i>	(209) 274-6480		
<i>Email/Website</i>	Nancygibbs08@yahoo.com		

The District does not routinely perform constituent outreach efforts, and does not maintain a website where public documents can be accessed. Drytown is a small community and informal communications among neighbors are common. New laws require districts to establish and maintain a web site beginning January 2020.

With regard to customer service, the District reported that past complaints included water quality (odors) and billing (incorrect meter reading). Complaints may be submitted to a board member or the clerk via mail, phone, or in person. The District did not report any complaints.

The District reported that it had not had any Brown Act violations in recent history. Appropriate financial disclosure forms and terms of office were available at the county Elections office. The District demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCO.

Management

The District contracts on a limited basis for services, including part-time bookkeeper/manager/board clerk, meter reader, and distribution operator. The manager, Nancy Gibbs, is the primary contact and administrator for the district, and her position is paid \$465/month to approximate 40 hours/month. This represents payment for a portion of the actual hours worked. She considers her position to be semi-volunteer and often works more than the hours paid.

The meter reader is a former board member and is paid \$75 to read the meters every other month for the bi-monthly billing. The district pays \$5 per delivery for any shut-off notices.

Routine tank level monitoring and tests are performed totaling 3.5 to 4 hours/month. The distribution operator performs water testing and minor repairs as needed, and is paid on an hourly basis. Roark Weber is the District's Engineer, when needed. Any of these staff may make reports to the Board at monthly meetings. The District does not conduct performance or operations evaluation practices, such as tracking workload, monitoring productivity, or staff evaluations. There is no General Manager position; board members share responsibility for district operations. The District has long desired to hire a full-time General Manager, but has determined that financing levels do not permit this.

The District adopted an emergency response plan on January 5, 2017. DCWD does not currently have a capital improvement plan and has limited funds for capital improvements. However, the District has initiated the effort to develop a capital improvement plan, and staff states that it should be completed by January/February 2019. District staff did not report any other planning efforts, such as a master plan for the water system.

District financial planning efforts include annual preparation of budgets and financial audits every two years. The District does not participate in the county treasury, as do many small districts in the county.

The District is a member of California Special Districts Association and has liability insurance through the Special District's Risk Management Authority for coverage up to \$2.5 million for all events, with the exception of employee dishonesty, which is covered up to \$400,000. The District's property insurance covers up to \$10 million in losses.

Nancy Gibbs states that each board member completes the required ethics training every two years as required and explains that the board members do not need to complete sexual harassment training because there are no employees, only contractors.

The district does not maintain a separate office. Records are held by the manager and board members.

Service Demand and Growth

Existing land uses in the District's boundary are primarily suburban residential (i.e., five acres per unit on average). Other land uses within the district boundary include commercial properties located along SR 49. Economic activity in the District's boundary area includes a bar, a motel, and a restaurant.

There are 63 residential water connections served by DCWD, and two commercial connections. Service is in place within and outside of the district boundaries. The number of water connections has increased by two connections with one additional connection about to be installed. The estimated population within District bounds is 136.⁶ The District's population density is 578 per square mile, compared to the countywide overall density of 64.

The District reported that service demand in the form of volume of water purchased by customers has remained relatively constant.

The St. Elizabeth subdivision was originally planned to add 11 new connections to the District's water system, but was reduced to nine parcels. Much of this subdivision area is outside the District boundaries. Construction is underway. The District has resolved a disagreement with the previous landowner/developer, including transfer of water system infrastructure constructed and installed by the landowner. System infrastructure to the St. Elizabeth subdivision (partially within District boundaries) was constructed by a developer and the line was transferred to the district. A portion of the line is outside district boundaries.

The Thomas Estate, 18.84 acres, is partially within the District's bounds. Tentative Subdivision Map #174 was revised from 17 parcels to eight parcels, and will expire October 13, 2021. The property is now for sale, and annexation will be needed if the parcels are developed.

Two 20-acre parcels and one 67.58-acre parcel are adjacent to the district and are also for sale.

The District has had communications in the past with some landowners on the western side of SR 49, along Vaira Ranch Road. Property owners there were interested in annexation because their private wells were drying up. Landowners have not pursued annexation, perhaps due to cost of annexation and infrastructure.

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies, but is aware of the development approvals within or adjacent to its service area. It is likely that developing areas adjacent to the district will annex soon.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCO is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities as part of this service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community is defined in state law 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.⁷

Any MSR conducted by LAFCO for a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection,

⁶ The population estimate for the District is the product of the number of water connections within the boundary area and the average household size (2.3) in Amador County in 2010, according to Census information.

⁷ Government Code §56033.5.

shall identify any DUCs within and contiguous to the sphere of influence of that city or special district and describe the present and probable needs and deficiencies for the provision of those public facilities and services within such DUC.⁸

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.⁹ DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County—three of which are cities and are therefore not considered unincorporated¹⁰. The entirety of the Drytown Census Designated Place (which includes the entirety of DCWD and extends outside of the District’s bounds) is considered a disadvantaged unincorporated community by DWR’s standards.

LAFCO policy 7.3, adopted February 16, 2017, defines disadvantaged communities as those consisting of 15 dwelling units at a density not less than one unit per acre. Drytown may be a DUC by this standard.

LAFCO policy 7.7 adopted February 16, 2017, further defines a Legacy Community as a geographically isolated community that meets DUC criteria and is at least 50 years old. Drytown is a legacy community.

The District and other regional providers provide services for water, wastewater, and structural fire protection within the Drytown CWD at adequate levels.

Financing

Existing financing may not be sufficient to adequately maintain the system and deliver adequate services in the long term. The District’s 2007 water rate study found that “the long-term interest of the water system is not well served with the existing very lean operation,” and recommended the District increase rates by 24 percent in FY 07-08, by 12 percent in FY 08-09, and by 12 percent in FY 09-10.¹¹ The District has raised rates incrementally with the last increase in mid-2017. The flat bi-monthly rate is \$122.27 for the first 40,000 gallons of water use and \$2.67 per each additional 1,000. Capital costs are not directly incorporated into the present or proposed rate structure. The District would need to increase rates further to provide for ongoing maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrade of the water system.

The District tracks its finances through a single enterprise fund. Revenues are held in a money market fund with a bank, as allowed by statute. The account is covered by Federal depository insurance. Audits are conducted biennially. The most recent Audit covered the period ending June 30, 2017. The district omitted the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section of the Audit. Generally accepted accounting principles require the MD&A as a supplement to the audit statements. The MD&A places the audit information in the appropriate operational, economic and historical context.

⁸ LAFCO Policy 7.3, adopted 2-16-17.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Reed Group, *Water Rate Study*, Oct. 5, 2007, Exhibit 4.

The district financial information is filed with the State Controller's Office and is available on their website.

Total water enterprise revenue in FY 17 was \$69,256.77. The 2017 Audit identified \$52,965 as operating revenues, and \$16,292.53 as non-operating revenues. Revenue sources are water rates (76 percent), property taxes (24 percent), and interest and other sources comprised less than one percent of revenues.

Total expenditures for FY 17 were \$72,240.49, per the District Manager. The same amount was reported in the Audit. These expenses are composed of water purchased from AWA (53 percent), administration and general costs (27%), capital depreciation (14%), and operations and maintenance (6%).

The District relies on cash reserves and grants for capital improvements. In FY 06-07, the District received CDBG funds from the County to finance construction of a new water storage tank. Long-term maintenance of the infrastructure may require a more stable funding source.

The District has no long-term debt.

The District does not have an adopted policy on its target level for financial reserves. DCWD had a net position of \$698,224 at the end of 2017. The District would appear to have more than four years of working capital, reserves however, are the District's only existing capital financing source.

WATER SERVICES

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

Nature and Extent

DCWD purchases treated water from AWA through a master meter and a secondary meter located on Bunker Hill, and distributes it by gravity to residential and commercial users and more than 30 hydrants throughout the district. The District does not provide water treatment services. The District provides maintenance and operation of the water distribution system directly through its part-time distribution operator, and, in addition, maintains a contract with AWA for additional maintenance support in the event of a major problem.

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

The District relies on state directives and AWA for responding to droughts. Nancy Gibbs noted that voluntary efforts by customers reduced water consumption about 25% during the recent drought.

Gene Mancebo, General Manager, Amador Water Agency, provides the following system information related to water rights, treatment, transmission and service growth potential for Drytown:

The Water Agency serves Drytown CWD through a source diversion at Lake Tabeau, flowing via the Amador Transmission Pipeline to the Tanner Water Treatment Plant and to Drytown via treated water lines that also serve Amador City and the City of Plymouth. The water service agreement between AWA and Drytown CWD dates to 1966 for raw water and was revised in 1977 for treated water with PG&E. The Water Agency purchased its Amador Water System in 1985 and has continued service to Drytown CWD under this contract.

AWA source water is from the Mokelumne River under a pre-1914, 15,000 AF annual water right for consumption. There is sufficient source capacity in the near-term for new services within Drytown CWD and the five Amador cities. The Amador Transmission Pipeline was sized to deliver the total water right. Since AWA is currently using about 50 percent of its water right, there is about 50 percent remaining capacity in the pipeline.

The Tanner Water Treatment Plant has current capacity to serve more than 1,400 additional single family homes or the equivalent. The pipeline(s) that serves Drytown CWD has excess capacity, some of which is dedicated to the City of Plymouth. The capacity can be increased with improvements.

AWA estimates that, at this time, Drytown CWD could add about 30 additional homes or the equivalent without capacity concerns affecting Amador Water Agency facilities. This increase would be a substantial percentage increase for Drytown CWD,

which has seen limited growth in the past. If demand in the Drytown service area exceeded 30 additional connections, the Water Agency would want to review the pipeline capacity in greater detail. The treated water pipeline is the first concern for capacity constraints.

The Water Agency charges a wholesale participation fee to Drytown CWD (as well as the City of Plymouth) and those revenues can be used to make improvements to the water pipeline system to further increase capacity in an incremental fashion. The participation fees would also allow incremental capacity improvements for the Tanner Water Treatment Plant. Drytown CWD should contact the Water Agency in advance of approving any significant number of connections (such as a subdivision) to insure there is available capacity in the treated water system.

Drytown CWD is responsible for providing treated water storage and for maintaining their distribution system.

Location

DCWD provides services within its bounds and to several parcels outside of its bounds. The District's water services are available to all of its boundary area, and there are no areas within the boundary that could not be served. Service connections outside the boundaries were added by LAFCO in 2009 to the sphere of influence to allow future annexation.

Infrastructure

Key infrastructure includes the District's water storage tank and approximately five miles of distribution pipelines. Water from Amador Water Agency's Tanner treatment tank is delivered via gravity to six to seven hydrants, approximately ten service connections and ultimately to the 274,000-gallon steel bolted storage tank. The district maintains approximately 30 additional hydrants. Most of the community of Drytown is served via gravity from the storage tank, which was constructed in 2007. The District must apply to AWA for a commitment to serve additional connections.

The storage tank is reported by the district to be in excellent condition, and the District did not identify any storage needs or deficiencies.

In the event of emergencies, the District would rely on reserves in the storage tank, which would accommodate peak demand for six days. The District also has two interties with the AWA system—the AWA pipeline from Tanner Plant to the storage tank and AWA's Plymouth Pipeline. If the water supply from AWA were to be halted for any emergency situation, the District would rely entirely on its stored water. All District board members and staff are trained to handle emergency events; the District adopted an emergency response plan January 5, 2017.

The distribution system consists of about five miles of six and eight-inch iron pipe. There is no asbestos-cement pipe in the system. Individual connections are via two-inch diameter pipe. The 2008 and 2014 MSRs reported that the distribution system has a significant rate of loss, which averaged 20 percent between 1995 and 2007.

The district manager explains that water usage comparing water sold to customers and water purchased from Amador Water Agency is difficult to calculate as the accounting

periods vary and are not routinely monitored. Additionally, water service to the community room where the District Board meets is not metered. Use of water by AWA at the sewer treatment plant (backwash) is also not metered or billed. At the request of LAFCO, water loss rates, including these two unmetered beneficial uses, were calculated for 12 month periods for 2013 through 2017. Loss rates were typically five to eight percent. The 2014 water loss was 11 percent, and 2015 water loss was 15 percent due to a line break that year.

The quality of water is generally good, with past occurrences of strong chlorine odors, as reported by the District. Corrosion of lead distribution pipes previously led to increased lead levels in the water. DCWD exceeded the regulatory standards for lead in 2002 and 2007. Ultimately, AWA was required by the California Department of Public Health to reduce the corrosiveness of the water being delivered to Drytown from Tanner Plant by maintaining a pH of between 7.6 and 8. From the time that AWA enacted these measures, beginning in 2011, lead and copper levels have remained within regulatory standards in DCWD's system. The 2015 water system report conducted by Amador County Environmental Health Department notes that the District has adopted a cross connection control program.

Source water quality monitoring is performed by Amador Water Agency. Drytown is required to monitor its distribution monthly for coliform bacteria and chlorine residual. The water system is in compliance with this requirement.

The 2007 rate study noted rate restructuring would finance gradual replacement of the entire system over a 50-year timeline.¹² While there is no capital improvement plan, increases in the District's reserves demonstrate progress towards accruing sufficient funding to assist with system improvements. These funds are maintained in a single enterprise accounting fund, the district general fund, and are available at the Board's discretion for any purpose. The funds are not restricted or reserved.

¹² Reed Group, *Water Rate Study*, October 5, 2007.

Figure 2: DCWD Water Service Profile

DCWD				
Water Service Configuration & Infrastructure				
Water Service	Provider(s)	Water Service	Provider(s)	
Retail Water	Direct	Groundwater Recharge	None	
Wholesale Water	AWA	Groundwater Extraction	None	
Water Treatment	AWA	Recycled Water	None	
Service Area Description				
Retail Water	The District's service area lies along SR 49 in the community of Drytown. The District serves			
Wholesale Water	NA			
Recycled Water	NA			
Boundary Area	0.25 sq. miles	Population (2013)	136	
System Overview				
Average Daily Demand	28,474 gal.	Peak Day Demand	59,087 gal.	
Supply	The District is not aware of any limits on the amount of water that can be purchased			
Major Facilities				
Facility Name	Type	Capacity	Condition	Yr Built
Storage tank	Storage	0.27 mg	Excellent	2007
Other Infrastructure				
Reservoirs	0	Storage Capacity (mg)	0.27 mg	
Pump Stations	0	Pressure Zones	0	
Production Wells	0	Pipe Miles	5 miles	
Other:				
Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies				
Pipes are old and in poor condition. To minimize distribution losses, the District needs to replace a significant portion of				
Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration				
Current Practices: The District currently receives treated water from the AWA Tanner Treatment Plant through AWA				
Opportunities: No further opportunities were identified.				
Notes:				
(1) NA means Not Applicable, NP means Not Provided, mg means millions of gallons, af means acre-feet.				

continued

DCWD							
Water Demand and Supply							
Service Connections	Total	Inside Bounds	Outside Bounds				
Total	63						
Irrigation/Landscape	0	0	0				
Domestic	60						
Commercial/Industrial/Institutional	3	3	0				
Recycled	0	0	0				
Other	0	0	0				
Average Annual Demand Information (Acre-Feet per Year)							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	25.4	30.9	0.0	32.8	NP	NP	NP
Residential	23.7	30.9	-2.0	31.6	NP	NP	NP
Commercial/Industrial	2.0	0.0	2.0	1.2	NP	NP	NP
Irrigation/Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Sources		Supply (Acre-Feet/Year)					
Source	Type	Average		Maximum		Safe/Firm	
Purchased water from AWA	Surface	35.9		NP		NP	
Supply Information (Acre-feet per Year)							
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	38.3	40.0	0.0	31.3	NP	NP	NP
Imported/Purchased	38.3	40.0	0.0	31.3	NP	NP	NP
Groundwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surface	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recycled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drought Supply and Plans							
Drought Supply (af) ¹	Year 1: NP		Year 2: NP			Year 3: NP	
Significant Droughts	1976, 1977, 1988-1994, 2001, 2013						
Storage Practices	Storage is for short-term emergencies only.						
Drought Plan	The District relies on AWA for all drought planning activities, as water is purchased from AWA. Even during multiple-year droughts, AWA has received its full water rights and has never enacted curtailments. Voluntary reductions resulted in about 25% decrease in use.						
Water Conservation Practices							
CUWCC Signatory	No						
Metering	Yes						
Conservation Pricing	Yes						
Other Practices	None						
Notes:							

continued

DCWD				
Water Rates and Financing				
Domestic Water Rates-Ongoing Charges FY 17-18¹				
	Rate Description	Avg. Monthly Charges	Consumption²	
Residential	Flat Bi-monthly: \$127.27 for 40,000 gallons Water Use: \$2.67 per 1,000 gallons in	\$63.63	250 gal/day	
Special Rates				
Water rates are the same throughout the District.				
Rate-Setting Procedures				
Policy Description	The rate is calculated to cover operational costs and water purchases from AWA. Rate increases are meant to include a portion of the cost of capital improvements, however these funds are not reserved or restricted for capital improvements.			
Most Recent Rate Change	2017	Frequency of Rate Changes	As needed	
Water Development Fees and Requirements				
Connection Fee Approach	New connections pay actual cost for connection, but initially deposit \$1,500 for connection costs. Staff states Capital improvement fees are also charged. New owners must extend the pipe to the nearest "T" at their own cost.			
Connection Fee Timing	Prior to connection.			
Connection Fee Amount ³	\$6,380 for ¾-inch meter. \$7,297 for 1-inch meter.			
Water Enterprise Revenues, FY 17			Expenditures, FY 17	
Source	Amount	%	Amount	
Total	\$69,492	100%	Total	\$72,241
Rates & charges	\$52,965	76%	Administration + legal	\$19,816
Property tax	\$16,238	23%	O & M	\$4,125
Grants	\$0	0%	Capital Depreciation	\$10,192
Interest	\$54	0%	Debt	\$0
Connection Fees	\$25	0%	Purchased Water	\$38,108
Other	\$210	0%	Capital Investments	\$0
Notes:				
(1) Rates include water-related service charges and usage charges.				
(2) Water use assumptions were used to calculate average monthly bills. Assumed use levels are consistent countywide for comparison purposes.				
(3) Connection fee amount includes both the \$1,500 deposit and the capital improvement fee. Does not include AWA participation fees.				

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DCWD			
Water Service Adequacy, Efficiency & Planning Indicators			
Water Planning	Description		Planning Horizon
Water Master Plan	None		
UWMP	None, not required		
Capital Improvement Plan	None		
Emergency Response Plan	Adopted 1/5/2017		
Service Challenges			
The District identified encroaching development and limited capacity for additional connections as challenges to providing water services. The County Department of Environmental Health also identified the aging distribution system as a challenge for the District.			
Service Adequacy Indicators			
Connections/FTE	2,480	O&M Cost Ratio ¹	\$154,773
MGD Delivered/FTE	1.14	Distribution Loss Rate	7%
Distribution Breaks & Leaks ²	0	Distribution Break Rate ³	0
Response Time Policy	ASAP	Response Time Actual	NP
Water Pressure	NP	Total Employees (FTEs)	0.03
Water Operator Certification			
The District's distribution operator has a D4 certification for distribution systems. The District is required to have a D1 certified chief operator; the District is exceeding this requirement.			
Drinking Water Quality Regulatory Information ⁴			
	#	Description	
Health Violations	0		
Monitoring Violations	0	Deficiencies in lead and copper sampling in 2000.	
DW Compliance Rate ⁵	100%		
Notes:			
(1) Operations and maintenance costs (exc. purchased water, debt, depreciation) per volume (mgd) delivered.			
(2) Although there are problems with pipe corrosion, the District reported no preceptable leaks or breaks in 2012.			
(3) Distribution break rate is the number of leaks and pipeline breaks per 100 miles of distribution piping.			
(4) Violations since 2000, as reported by the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System.			
(5) Drinking water compliance is percent of time in compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations in 2012.			

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS

Growth and population projections

- ❖ There has historically been limited development in and around the District, however, parcels are adjacent to district boundaries or partially within district boundaries are likely to need district water service in the foreseeable future. Amador Water Agency estimates approximately 30 additional connections could be possible.
- ❖ In anticipation of growth, the Board will need to address significant policy decisions about future demand for service, the appropriate future size of the District and the optimum levels of service that can be feasibly provided.
- ❖ Increased demand for service will be a challenge for part-time staff and board members. Annexation of parcels where the District had made commitments to serve could be a funding challenge.
- ❖ Some nearby properties have previously expressed interest in annexation due to declining well yields; however, landowners of these properties could pursue annexation, although they have not done so due to the cost of extending related infrastructure and the annexation and connection fees.
- ❖ The District relies heavily on the volunteer time of its Board and paid staff who receive minimal stipends. While this currently remains an effective arrangement, the long-term availability of qualified volunteers and/or low-cost staff may affect the sustainability of service provision. Greater demand for service and development in and around the District's service area will further challenge current staffing arrangements.

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

- ❖ The Drytown Census Designated Place is an identified disadvantaged unincorporated community based upon mapping information provided by the State of California Department of Water Resources. The District and other regional providers are providing services for water, wastewater, and structural fire protection at adequate levels.

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

- ❖ The 2008 and 2014 MSRs reported that the distribution system has a significant rate of loss, which was reported to average 20 percent between 1995 and 2007. Current estimates of water loss are lower.

- ❖ The District anticipates completion of its capital improvement plan in early 2019. If not included in the capital improvement plan, the district should perform an evaluation of the entire system to prioritize replacement and determine the maximum capacity that can be served with the existing infrastructure.
- ❖ The District should consider routinely monitoring water use and loss rates.

Financial ability of agencies to provide services

- ❖ The District anticipates completion of a capital improvement plan in early 2019. This plan will significantly enhance the district's ability to prioritize and plan financing for future services.
- ❖ The District has gradually increased rates in order to accumulate reserves. The District would need to increase rates further to provide for ongoing maintenance, the capital costs of rehabilitation and upgrade of the water system.

Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

- ❖ DCWD relies on AWA for treatment and transmission of treated water through AWA facilities.
- ❖ No additional opportunities for facility sharing were identified.

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

- ❖ Accountability to local voters is constrained by a lack of contested elections. Emphasizing public outreach activities could make improvements to accountability.
- ❖ Due to the passage of SB929, the District will need to consider establishing a website that complies with the requirements of the new legislation, as well as previously enacted legislation, by January 1, 2020.
- ❖ The District has faced and overcome challenges in the past in providing adequate services and maintaining low rates. The District wishes to retain local control over water services, and is concerned about impacts on water rates if it should be consolidated into AWA.