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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Sphere of Influence Description

The Calaveras Local Agency Formation Commission is charged with developing and updating the Sphere of Influence (SOI) for each city and special district within the county. Since LAFCO has adopted the MSR determinations, it must now update the SOI for the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District.

An SOI is a LAFCO-approved plan that designates an agency's probable future boundary and service area. The definition for a Sphere of Influence in Government Code Section 56076 is a *"Sphere of Influence" means a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission.* Spheres are planning tools used to provide guidance for individual boundary change proposals and are intended to encourage efficient provision of organized community services and prevent duplication of service delivery. Territory cannot be annexed by LAFCO to a city or district unless it is within that agency's sphere. The purposes of the SOI include the following:

- To ensure the efficient provision of services
- To discourage urban sprawl and premature conversion of agricultural and open space lands
- To prevent overlapping jurisdictions and duplication of services

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg (CKH) Act requires LAFCO to develop and determine the SOI of each local governmental agency within the county and to review and update the SOI every five years, as necessary. LAFCOs are empowered to adopt, update and amend the SOI. They may do so with or without an application and any interested person may submit an application proposing an SOI amendment.

While SOIs are required to be updated every five years, as necessary, this law does not necessarily define the planning horizon of the SOI. The term or horizon of the SOI is determined by each LAFCO. In the case of Calaveras LAFCO, the Commission's policies state that an agency's near term SOI shall generally include land that is anticipated to be annexed within the next five years, while the agency's long-term SOI shall include land that is within the probable growth boundary of an agency and therefore anticipated to be annexed in the next 20 years.

LAFCO may recommend government reorganizations to particular agencies in the county, using the SOIs as the basis for those recommendations.

In determining the SOI, LAFCO is required to complete an MSR and adopt six determinations. The MSR for Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District was adopted by Calaveras LAFCO Resolution 2012-02 on June 18, 2012.

1.2 Sphere of Influence Requirements

In determining the Sphere of Influence for each local agency, LAFCO must consider and prepare a statement of determinations with respect to each of the following:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands
2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services which the agency provides, or is authorized to provide
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency
5. For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing Sphere of Influence.

Additionally, the CKH Act stipulates several procedural requirements in updating SOIs. It requires that special districts file written statements on the class of services provided and that LAFCO clearly establish the location, nature and extent of services provided by special districts.

By statute, LAFCO must publish a notice and notify affected agencies 21 days before holding the public hearing to consider the SOI and may not update the SOI until after that hearing. The LAFCO Executive Officer must issue a report including recommendations on the SOI amendments and updates under consideration at least five days before the public hearing.

1.3 Calaveras LAFCO Sphere of Influence Policies

In addition to State requirements for SOIs, Calaveras LAFCO has adopted policies regarding Spheres of Influence in the County and minimum requirements necessary in order to update or adopt an agency's SOI. Six highlighted requirements are summarized as follows:

1. The Sphere of Influence Plan must be consistent with LAFCO's policies, State law, other agencies' SOI plans, the municipal service review, and long range planning goals of the area.
2. LAFCO will not include lands that are unlikely to require the services of the agency or which cannot be feasibly served within a time frame consistent with the sphere plan.
3. Agencies are encouraged to keep the supporting documentation for their SOI plans up to date.
4. Sphere of Influence Plans have to be updated every five years or more frequently.

5. If an agency is unable to provide an adequate level of service within a portion of its service area boundaries within the time frame provided for that boundary, the Sphere of Influence Plan has to be updated so that the probable service boundaries are consistent with the determinations in the Municipal Service Review.
6. A District Sphere of Influence Plan shall contain the following:

Proof that the territory within the District's SOI is likely to require the district's services and that the district has or will have the capacity to serve the area at the appropriate level.

In the case of multi-service districts, LAFCO has to adopt an SOI plan for each distinct function or class of service provided by a district. These sphere plans may or may not be coterminous. Each sphere shall establish the nature, location, and extent of the functions or classes of services provided by the district.

LAFCO adopts a sphere of influence plan for a newly formed district within two years of the completion of formation proceedings.

Amendment proposals involving sphere expansion to include open space or prime agricultural land will not be approved by LAFCO if there is sufficient alternative land available for annexation within the existing sphere of influence.

1.4 Possible Approaches to the Sphere of Influence

LAFCO may recommend government reorganizations to particular agencies in the county, using the SOIs as the basis for those recommendations. Based on review of the guidelines of Calaveras LAFCO as well as other LAFCOs in the State, various conceptual approaches have been identified from which to choose in designating an SOI. These seven approaches are explained below:

1) Coterminous Sphere:

A Coterminous Sphere means that the sphere for a city or special district that is the same as its existing boundaries. This is the recommendation but to also include district infrastructure areas.

2) Annexable Sphere:

A sphere larger than the agency's boundaries identifies areas the agency is expected to annex. The annexable area is outside its boundaries and inside the sphere.

3) Detachable Sphere:

A sphere that is smaller than the agency's boundaries identifies areas the agency is expected to detach. The detachable area is the area within the agency bounds but not within its sphere.

4) Zero Sphere:

A zero sphere indicates the affected agency's public service functions should be reassigned to another agency and the agency should be dissolved or combined with one or more other agencies.

5) Consolidated Sphere:

A consolidated sphere includes two or more local agencies and indicates the agencies should be consolidated into one agency.

6) Limited Service Sphere:

A limited service sphere is the territory included within the SOI of a multi-service provider agency that is also within the boundary of a limited purpose district which provides the same service (e.g., fire protection), but not all needed services. Territory designated as a limited service SOI may be considered for annexation to the limited purpose agency without detachment from the multi-service provider.

This type of SOI is generally adopted when the following four conditions exist:

- a) The limited service provider is providing adequate, cost effective and efficient services
- b) The multi-service agency is the most logical provider of the other services
- c) There is no feasible or logical SOI alternative
- d) Inclusion of the territory is in the best interests of local government organization and structure in the area

Government Code §56001 specifically recognizes that in rural areas it may be appropriate to establish limited purpose agencies to serve an area rather than a single service provider, if multiple limited purpose agencies are better able to provide efficient services to an area rather than one service district.

Moreover, Government Code Section §56425(i), governing sphere determinations, also authorizes a sphere for less than all of the services provided by a district by requiring a district affected by a sphere action to “establish the nature, location, and extent of any functions of classes of services provided by existing districts” recognizing that more than one district may serve an area and that a given district may provide less than its full range of services in an area.

7) Sphere Planning Area:

LAFCO may choose to designate a sphere planning area to signal that it anticipates expanding an agency’s SOI in the future to include territory not yet within its official SOI.

1.5 SOI Amendments and CEQA

LAFCO has the discretion to limit SOI updates to those that it may process without unnecessarily delaying the SOI update process or without requiring its funding agencies to bear the costs of environmental studies associated with SOI expansions. Any local agency or individual may file a request for an SOI amendment. The request must state the nature of and reasons for the proposed amendment, and provide a map depicting the proposal.

LAFCO may require the requester to pay a fee to cover LAFCO costs, including the costs of appropriate environmental review under CEQA. LAFCO may elect to serve as lead agency for such a review, may designate the proposing agency as lead agency, or both the local agency and LAFCO may serve as co-lead agencies for purposes of an SOI amendment. Local agencies are encouraged to consult with LAFCO staff early in the process regarding the most appropriate approach for the particular SOI amendment under consideration.

Certain types of SOI amendments are usually exempt from CEQA review. Examples are SOI expansions that include territory already within the bounds or service area of an agency, SOI reductions, and zero SOIs. SOI expansions for limited purpose agencies that provide services (e.g., fire protection, levee protection, cemetery, and resource conservation) needed by both rural and urban areas are typically not considered growth-inducing and are likely exempt from CEQA. Similarly, SOI expansions for districts serving rural areas (e.g., irrigation water) are typically not considered growth-inducing.

Remy et al. write

In City of Agoura Hills v. Local Agency Formation Commission (2d Dist.1988) 198 Cal.App.3d480, 493-496 [243 Cal.Rptr.740] (City of Agoura Hills), the court held that a LAFCO's decision to approve a city's sphere of influence that in most respects was coterminous with the city's existing municipal boundaries was not a "project" because such action did not entail any potential effects on the physical environment.¹

¹ Remy, Michael H., Tina A. Thomas, James G. Moose, Whitman F. Manley, Guide to CEQA, Solano Press Books, Point Arena, CA, February 2007, page 111.

2 **MOKELUMNE HILL SANITARY DISTRICT BACKGROUND**

2.1 **Mokelumne Hill Area**

2.1.1 **Mokelumne Hill History**

Mokelumne Hill (also, Big Bar, Mok Hill, and The Hill) is a census-designated place (CDP). The population was 646 at the 2010 census, down from 774 at the 2000 census. It is commonly referred to as "Moke Hill" by locals. The town takes its name from the neighboring Mokelumne River, which in turn is Miwok for the "people of Mokol," the likely name of an Indian village in the area.

Mokelumne Hill was one of the richest gold mining towns in California. Founded in 1848 by a group of Oregonians, the placers were so rich that the miners risked starvation rather than head to Stockton to replenish their supplies (one finally did and made it rich by becoming a merchant). Soon after, gold was discovered in the nearby hills, so much so that miners were restricted to claims of 16 square feet and yet many of those claims were reported to have paid up to \$20,000.

By 1850 the town was one of the largest in the area, with its population reaching as high as 15,000 with people of all nationalities: Americans, French, German, Spanish, Chileans, Mexican Chinese, and others. Besides racial tensions, the easy gold attracted criminal elements, and the town gained a reputation as one of the bawdiest in the area. Notorious bandit Joaquin Murietta is said to have been a frequent visitor to the gambling venues. Violence was a major problem as well. In 1851, there was at least one homicide a week for seventeen consecutive weeks. A "vigilance committee" was formed and by 1852, the worst of the crime was eliminated. That year, the town became the county seat. By the 1860s the gold started to run out and the town's population and importance diminished. When San Andreas became the new county seat in 1866, Mokelumne Hill's status declined even further.

The town today is a quiet place, with lots of tourism due to its historic status. The first post office was established in 1851.² Mokelumne Hill is registered as California Historical Landmark #269.³

The Mokelumne Hill Elementary School is located at 8350 Highway 26, Mokelumne Hill CA 95245, Phone (209) 754-2140, Fax (209) 286-1038. The school campus is relatively new since it was completed in 2000 due to the passage of a bond measure passed in Calaveras County. The school's enrollment fluctuates between 100 and 120 students from year to year.⁴

² Durham, David L. (1998). *California's Geographic Names: A Gazetteer of Historic and Modern Names of the State*. Quill Driver Books. p. 804. ISBN 9781884995149

³ Office of Historical Preservation, California State Parks. Retrieved 2012-10-06.

⁴ http://www.calaveras.k12.ca.us/07%20Schools/MHE/About%20us/about_mhs.htm, June 6, 2014.

2.1.2 Mokelumne Hill Landmarks

Landmarks in Mokelumne Hill are as follows:

- The I.O.O.F. Hall (CHL #256) is said to be California's first three-story building to be erected outside the coastal towns.
- The Congregational Church building (CHL #261) is the oldest such in the state.
- The Hotel Leger (CHL #663) is one of the oldest continuously-operating hotels in California. One of its buildings was the county courthouse when the town was the county seat.
- The original elementary school in Mokelumne Hill, which is still standing but has been converted to a private residence, was built in 1852 and was used until 1964.
- The basement of the Hotel Léger was the first meeting place of E Clampus Vitus.

2.1.3 Mokelumne Hill Population Data

The 2010 US Census reported that Mokelumne Hill had a population of 646 living in 299 households, out of which 63 (21.1%) had children under the age of 18 living in them. There were 99 households (33.1%) made up of individuals and 38 (12.7%) had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.16. There were 174 families (58.2% of all households); the average family size was 2.71.

The Mokelumne Hill population was spread out in age as follows:

MOKLUMNE HILL AGE DISTRIBUTION 2010		
Under the age of 18	102 people	15.8%
18 to 24	39 people	6.0%
25 to 44	119 people	18.4%
45 to 64	245 people	38.0%
65 years of age or older	<u>141 people</u>	<u>21.8%</u>
TOTAL	646 people	100.0%

The median age was 51.4 years. For every 100 females there were 88.9 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 84.4 males.

There were 354 housing units of which 205 (68.6%) were owner-occupied, and 94 (31.4%) were occupied by renters. The homeowner vacancy rate was 2.8%; the rental vacancy rate was 18.3%. There were 447 people (69.2% of the population) living in owner-occupied housing units and 199 people (30.8%) living in rental housing units.

2.2 Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District⁵

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District (MHSD) was formed on August 20, 1945 as an independent special district.⁶ The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District was formed for the purpose of constructing and operating a system of collection, treatment and disposal of sewage for the community of Mokelumne Hill.

The boundaries of MHSD extend from west of Del Orto Road along SR 49 to Italian Vista Court along SR 26 in the east, and from Sierra Lane in the north to south of Corral Flat Road as shown on Map 9-1. The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District has a boundary area of approximately 1.33 square miles or 848 acres.

The District has a five-member governing body. Board members are elected at large to staggered four-year terms. There has not been a contested election for a board seat since at least 2000. The District's permanent office is located at 8299-B Main Street, Mokelumne Hill, CA with a mailing address of PO Box 209, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245. Board Meetings are held at the Mokelumne Hill Library on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:15pm. Administrative work is completed at the plant, the plant operator's residence and board members' residences.

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District reported that while the current financing level is adequate to deliver services presently, additional financing will be necessary to increase staffing levels in the future in order to comply with state reporting, monitoring and training demands. The District operates out of a single fund for operation and maintenance purposes. The District maintains a separate fund for capital improvements.

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District's total revenues were approximately \$0.22 million in FY 09-10. Revenue sources include service charges (88%), property taxes (8%), interest (3%), connection fees (1%), and other (less than one percent).

The District's expenditures were approximately \$0.22 million in FY 09-10. Of this amount, 26% was spent on operations and maintenance, 25% was spent on debt payments, 32% was spent on administration, and 23% was allocated to capital depreciation.

MHSD provides all services entirely within the District's boundaries. No services are provided outside the District's boundaries. There are no unserved areas with septic systems within the District.

⁵ Calaveras LAFCO, Water and Wastewater Municipal Services Review, Beverly Burr, Jennifer Stephenson and John Benoit, Adopted June 18, 2012, Pages 199-216

⁶ Board of Equalization Official Date.

2.3 SOI Options for Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

The District's SOI was last updated by LAFCO in 2005, and is coterminous with the District's boundaries.⁷

2.3.1 *Option #1: Provisional Coterminous SOI*

By adopting a provisional SOI, LAFCO may revisit the District's SOI at a later date to ensure that recommended conditions are adequately addressed in a timely manner. The Commission may wish to stipulate accountability measures and planning efforts to allow MHSD to make service enhancements, before a longer-term SOI is adopted. MHSD is a small district with minimal staffing that has faced accountability challenges. While accountability challenges were documented in the Service Review in 2012, these challenges concerning late reporting to the state and an out of date SSMP (Sanitary Sewer Management Plan). Reporting and the SSMP have been brought up to date.

Should the District desire to retain the existing governing structure over wastewater services, enhanced accountability practices are recommended, such as developing a website, holding meetings at a public facility, promoting constituent involvement in board activities, and additional staffing to promptly address any public requests. In addition, the District could improve service adequacy by initiating planning efforts, such as creating a multi-year capital improvement plan and completing a rate study in order to update rates accordingly to cover operation costs and depreciation of capital assets.

As previously mentioned, the District Board of Directors meets at the Mokelumne Hill Library – a public place, promotes constituent involvement, has a 24 hour live-person answering service, answers all calls and requests from the public in a timely manner and completed a rate study prior to its most recent construction project. The District does not currently have plans to develop a website.

Another alternative to improve adequacy of district services and simultaneously retain a level of local control may be contracting for operation and maintenance services with Calaveras County Water District (CCWD). Benefits of contracting with CCWD would be reduced operation and maintenance costs and improved regulatory compliance. In this scenario, MHSD would continue to govern the activities of the District and it would still be recommended that the District make suitable improvements to management and accountability practices.

2.3.2 *Option #2: Retain Existing Coterminous SOI plus District Infrastructure*

By retaining the existing coterminous SOI and add the District's infrastructure including, ponds, the treatment facility and the spray Irrigation field, LAFCO would indicate that the District is not expected to annex or detach territory in the foreseeable future with the exception of the area where the District has infrastructure generally located northwest of the District's boundaries. This is the recommendation for this Sphere of Influence Update, which would be an expansion of the existing Coterminous Sphere of Influence to include District infrastructure.

⁷ Calaveras LAFCO Resolution 2005-01.

2.3.3 SOI Options Analysis

Should the Commission choose to adopt a provisional SOI, LAFCO will need to set specific conditions for the District to meet within a required time frame. A minimum of two years is recommended to allow the District to complete and implement the recommended studies. Many of the deficiencies found in the Service Review no longer apply since district has undergone significant improvements.

Examples of LAFCO conditions that could be established in response to recognized deficiencies include the following:

1. Lack of constituent outreach: Create a website where service related information, contact information, and board meeting details, agendas, and minutes are available.

The District does not currently have staffing available to maintain a website. The public is apprised of and invited to attend all open meetings.

2. Lack of an emergency contact system for constituents: Set up a call in service for emergency purposes.

The District has a 24 hour live-person answering service.

3. Board meetings may lack transparency as they are held at a Board Member's office: Hold meetings at a public venue.

Meetings are held at the Mokelumne Hill Library – a public place,

4. Lack of a capital improvement plan: Identify, prioritize, and budget for existing and anticipated capital needs in a five-year capital improvement plan.

The District recently completed a construction project essentially replacing all antiquated line within the system and is currently discussing a more aggressive maintenance plan to keep all lines in the most operational condition possible.

5. Rates are inadequate to cover services and depreciation and have not been updated in three years: Complete a rate study and update rates as recommended. (The District reported that it is considering a rate increase in 2012.)

A rate study was conducted and rates were increased in July of 2012 to fund the collection system project that was completed in 2013. Included in the rate increase were scheduled increases through 2016 with rates increasing each year thereafter adjusted the CPI per MHS Resolution 2012-03.

Since the District has undergone significant improvements this option is not recommended.

The recommendation is that a coterminous sphere of influence be adopted to include district infrastructure. This would allow the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District five years to continue to improve the operation and governance of the District and possibly annex territory where District infrastructure is located. The District is informed of the problems and possible solutions by the adoption of the Municipal Service Review and needs the maximum amount of time to continue to address these issues.

3 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE (SOI) DETERMINATIONS FOR MOKELUMNE HILL SANITARY DISTRICT

3.1 Present and Planned Land Uses in the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District Area, Including Agricultural and Open Space Lands

3.1.1 Calaveras County General Plan and Zoning for Mokelumne Hill Area

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District bounds encompass residential, commercial, agricultural, and public land uses. Existing residential areas within the District are single family dwelling units, concentrated in the central portion of the District in the community of Mokelumne Hill, and rural residential in the remainder of the District.

Public land uses within the District include the Mokelumne Hill Cemetery and the Mokelumne Hill Elementary School. Local business activities include a convenience store, two restaurants, a hotel, a used car lot, and a thrift shop. Major employers within the District include the Hotel Leger on Main Street.

3.1.2 SOI Determinations on Present and Planned Land Use for Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

- 1-1] While the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District does not anticipate significant growth in the future, land use designations for undeveloped areas within the District accommodate growth in the future as follows:
- Single family residential infill is planned to be constructed on two parcels south of Center Street.
 - Multi-family residential development is planned in the northwestern portion of the District, along Miwok Trail, at a density of six units per acre, and south of Lafayette Street in the eastern portion of the District, at a density of 12 units per acre.
 - Commercial and residential mixed use development is planned within the community of Mokelumne Hill along Highway 49, Main Street, Center Street and Maretta Lane.
 - Commercial and commercial/rural residential mixed use development is planned along Highway 49 in the western portion of the District, and along Highway 26 in the southern portion of the District.⁸
- 1-2] The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies. The District should maintain close communication with the Calaveras County Planning Department to be informed of development proposals within the District.
- 1-3] The estimated number of residents in 2010 was 646 (per the service review), based on the number of residential connections and average household size in Calaveras County.
- 1-4] The population growth within MHSD's boundaries has historically averaged less than one percent annually between 2000 and 2010.

⁸ Calaveras County, Mokelumne Hill Community Plan Land Use Designations Map, January 2008.

- 1-5] The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District anticipates continued limited growth in the future with approximately one additional connection annually, which would increase the District's population by six percent from 2010 to 2030. By comparison, the countywide growth rate for the same period is projected to be 40 percent by the State of California Department of Finance.
- 1-6] There are no significant planned or proposed developments of greater than 10 dwelling units within the vicinity of MHSD that could possibly be served by the District.

3.2 Municipal Services—Present and Probable Capacity and Need

3.2.1 Present and Probable Capacity and Need Background

As of 2014, the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District provided wastewater services to 284 wastewater connections—264 single family residential, 14 multi-family residential (36 total units), and 6 commercial connections. The estimated number of residents in 2010 was 646 (per the Service Review adopted by LAFCo in 2012)

3.2.2 SOI Determinations on Present and Probable Capacity and Need for Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

- 2-1] MHSD provides wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services to the unincorporated community of Mokelumne Hill. All operation and management services are provided directly by the agency through district staff, with the exception of billing which is provided by Calaveras Public Utility District.
- 2-2] CCWD provides backup emergency response in the event that the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District does not have the necessary tools or equipment to repair a problem.
- 2-3] Based on the District's projected population growth over the next 20 years, by the year 2030 the District is projected to have an ADWF of approximately 0.038 mgd, which is well within the District's permitted and actual capacity.
- 2-4] The need for the Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District will continue and the District has the capacity to meet the expected need.

3.3 The Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services Provided by Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

3.3.1 Adequacy of Services Provided by Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District's staff consists of three part-time staff—one plant operator, a maintenance technician, and a secretary. Due to increasing state reporting and training requirements, the previous plant operator reported that additional staffing may be necessary to continue operating at a satisfactory level in the future. Key MHSD wastewater infrastructure includes one wastewater treatment plant, irrigation fields, 3.2 miles of sewer pipes and two lift stations. As of September 2014, the District's plant operator, Dan Young, has stated that he does not need additional staffing to continue operating at a satisfactory level.

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District's wastewater collection system was originally installed in 1947 and extended and updated in 1974, the 1990s and 2005. The 2012 Service Review reported of the 3.2 miles of existing pipeline, approximately 6,800 feet (40 percent of the total system) remain of the original clay piping. The District identified the collection system as generally being in good condition, with the exception of the 6,800 feet of original clay piping that is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. The District is in the process of applying for funding to replace this portion of the system, and estimates that it will cost approximately \$1.6 million. Once this section has been completed, the District reported that the collection system will have no infrastructure needs or deficiencies. In order to CCTV the system before beginning this replacement project, the District hopes to purchase CCTV equipment.

Approximately 99% of District lines have been upgraded as of the completion of its 2013 construction project. Other improvements within the last 5 years included improvements to the head works including a frame and roof to reduce weather impact, roadways cleared around the perimeter of all spray fields, repairs and upgrades to both pump stations, addition of OIT Grade 1 to staff, new aerators and pumps for treatment ponds.

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District's effluent is treated to a secondary level at the WWTP, discharged into a storage pond and then used to irrigate a 20-acre field on the WWTP property, during summer months, the field is used for cattle grazing. The treatment plant was originally completed in 1974. The District reported that the plant is generally in good condition. The District reported in the 2012 Service Review that there is a need to upgrade the chlorination system, which has occasionally stopped working in the past. An upgrade to a commercial unit would ensure reliable operation. A new chlorination system would cost approximately \$5,000. However, according to the District's new plant operator, Dan Young, the chlorination system is in good working order and does not currently need to be replaced.

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District WWTP has a permitted capacity of 0.15 mgd average dry weather flow. As of 2010, there was an average dry weather flow of 0.035 mgd or 23 percent of the WWTP's permitted capacity. However, during wet weather months, the limiting factor of the treatment system is the District's treated effluent storage capacity, as the District is restricted from irrigating during those months and must store the effluent until the dry months. The District estimated that during wet weather months, it has sufficient capacity to treat and store on average 0.06 mgd. Consequently, during the wet weather months, the District uses approximately 58 percent of its capacity. The District does not presently have any "will serve" letters, but reports that there is sufficient capacity to serve infill and future development.

Peak wet weather flow was .125 mgd in 2006, which is still within the plants permitted capacity for average dry weather flows.⁹ During wet periods the District stores excess effluent in a storage reservoir that has a capacity of approximately 0.96 mg.

Additional facility and equipment needs that may enhance district efficiency are a space at the plant with a computer, an internet connection, a printer, and a company vehicle. The plant operator presently completes administrative work at his residence. The District is currently researching the installation of a computer, internet connection at the plant office.

3.3.2 SOI Determinations on Adequacy of Services Provided by Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

- 3-1] The MHSD system has sufficient capacity to serve existing connections and significant remaining capacity to serve anticipated demand well into the future, as only 58 percent of the District's capacity is in use.
- 3-2] The District reported that the treatment plant is generally in good condition, but there is a need to upgrade the chlorination system, which has occasionally stopped working in the past.
- 3-3] Additional facility and equipment needs that may enhance district efficiency are a space at the plant with a computer, an internet connection, a printer, and a company vehicle.
- 3-4] Wastewater services offered by the District appear to be minimally adequate based on overflow rates, peak flows, response times, and treatment effectiveness. The District could improve upon 1) planning efforts, which are absent, 2) accountability and transparency, and 3) regulatory compliance, as the District had a slightly higher rate of violations per population served than the median rate throughout the County.
- 3-5] The District reported that while the current financing level is adequate to deliver services presently, additional financing will be necessary to increase staffing levels in the future in order to comply with state reporting, monitoring and training demands.
- 3-6] The MHSD system has sufficient capacity to serve existing connections and significant remaining capacity to serve anticipated demand well into the future, as only 58 percent of the District's capacity is presently in use and future growth is anticipated to be minimal.

⁹ Peak flows could have been higher as the flow meter maxed out at 125,000 mgd.

3.4 Social or Economic Communities of Interest

3.4.1 Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District Community Background

Communities of interest within the District's boundary and SOI includes the unincorporated community of Mokelumne Hill. Economic communities of interest include the businesses located along Main and Center Streets and the landowners within the District that pay a portion of their property tax to MHSD. These communities are not divided by the District's boundaries or SOI.

3.4.2 SOI Determinations on Social or Economic Communities of Interest for Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

- 4-1] District outreach efforts include agendas posted at the post office, and notifications in the local newspaper when necessary.
- 4-2] The District reported that it is trying to transition to using more available technology for its outreach activities, such as email, websites, and possibly a call-in service for emergency needs.
- 4-3] The District does not presently maintain a website; although, meeting announcements are occasionally available on the Mokelumne Hill Community website.

3.5 Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community Status

3.5.1 Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

SB 244 defines disadvantaged unincorporated community 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.

3.5.2 Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community Status

- 5-1] Based on 2010 Census income information for Census Designated Places in Calaveras County, Mokelumne Hill does not meet the definition of a disadvantaged unincorporated community.

ABBREVIATIONS

CCWD	Calaveras County Water District
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CKH Act	Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000
District	Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District
DOF	Department of Finance (California)
DPH	Department of Public Health (California)
DUC	Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community
FY	Fiscal Year
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
MHSD	Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District
MSR	Municipal Service Review (LAFCO)
pH	Measure of the acidic or basic (alkaline) nature of a solution.
PUD	Public Utility District
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SOI	Sphere of Influence (LAFCO)

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