

1. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

Description of District

Freewater County Water District has been supplying surface water from the Kings River since the 1800's but did not become a special district until 1955. The District encompasses 2,056 acres in central Fresno County, located adjacent to Trimmer Springs Road approximately two miles northeast of the City of Sanger.

District Services and Background

Freewater County Water District (District) is an independent special district formed pursuant to Water Code Section 30000. County water districts are empowered to provide water, sewer, fire protection, hydroelectric power plant, and recreation services. At this time the districts only purpose is to coordinate the Fresno Irrigation District water contracts, provide surface water to the agricultural lands within the district, and to maintain the irrigation lines used to provide the water to the users.

2. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This portion of the report addresses the factors specified in the governing statute for Municipal Service Reviews.

Growth and Population Projections

District services do not affect population growth and the district does not anticipate any growth or development.

Location and Characteristics of any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

There are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities in the District.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District does not own any infrastructure and reported that there are no needs or deficiencies in the district.

Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

The District reviews the rates water users are charged annually.

Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

The District is too far from the other County Water Districts to share facilities or for consolidation. The District is adjacent to the Kings River Water District but the option of consolidation with or annexation to the Kings River Water District is not feasible due to the differences in water rights, delivery schedules, contracts, and cost of operations.

Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

The District is governed by a five member board of directors who meet at least annually and as necessary to conduct District business. There are no obvious opportunities for a different government structure

3. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

Government Code Section 56076 defines Sphere of Influence as “A plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission.”

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District boundary and Sphere of Influence are coterminous and encompass approximately 2,056 acres as shown on the enclosed map.

Proposed Sphere Changes

The District sphere of influence was adopted in 1975 and updated in 2007. It is recommended that the Commission re-affirm the current sphere of influence.

Sphere of Influence Recommendation and Determinations

It is recommended the Commission approve the following determinations and approve the changes in the Sphere of Influence.

1. Present and planned land uses in the area, including agriculture and open-space.
The current land use is primarily agriculture with no anticipated changes.
2. Present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
The District is comprised of agricultural lands and has no need for facilities or additional services.
3. Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public service that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
The District has contracts with Fresno Irrigation District who in turn has contracts with the Corps of Engineers who controls the water in the Pine Flat Reservoir. The existing contracts have been in place since 1956 to provide water to the agricultural users in the district.
4. Existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.
There are no existing social or economic communities of interest in the District.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

This draft Municipal Service Review was prepared by Fresno LAFCo staff. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with the Freewater County Water District.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission:

1. Accept public testimony regarding the proposed Municipal Service Review.
2. Approve the recommended Municipal Service Review determinations, together with any changes deemed appropriate.
3. Approve the Sphere of Influence determinations and re-affirm the current Sphere of Influence.
4. Start proceedings to dissolve inactive districts that do not have seated board members and are not providing services.