
**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

AGENDA ITEM No. 10

DATE: **October 9, 2013**

TO: **Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission**

FROM: **David E. Fey, AICP, Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Consider Adoption – Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update Prepared for the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District.**

Recommendations:

- A) Acting as Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, find that prior to adopting the written determinations, the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence determination under consideration are Categorical Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15306, "Information Collection" and Section 15061(b)(3), "General Rule Exemption."

- B) Find that the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update prepared for the District are complete and satisfactory.

- C) Find that the written determinations within the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update satisfy State Law.

- D) Pursuant to Government Code Sections 56425 and 56430 make the required determinations for the Municipal Service Review and District Sphere of Influence, adopt the Municipal Service Review prepared for the District, and update the Sphere of Influence for said District by reaffirming the current boundaries.

Description:

The Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District encompasses 550,200 acres in southwestern Fresno including the Cities of Coalinga and Huron. The District provides mosquito abatement services to the residents in the District.

Summary / Background

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires LAFCo to review and update, as necessary, special district Spheres of Influence (SOIs) every five years. Prior to, or in conjunction with an agency's SOI update, LAFCo is required to conduct a *Municipal Service Review (MSR)* for each agency.

Municipal Service Reviews provide a comprehensive review of the services provided by a city or district and present recommendations with regard to the condition and adequacy of these services and whether or not modifications to a city or district's SOI are necessary. MSR's can be used as informational tools by LAFCo and local agencies in evaluating the efficiencies of current district operations and may suggest changes in order to better serve the public.

Sphere of Influence updates may involve an affirmation of the existing SOI boundaries or recommend modifications to the SOI boundaries. LAFCo is not required to initiate changes to an SOI based on findings and recommendations of the service review, although it does have the power to do so.

State law requires that the Commission adopt written MSR determinations for each of the following seven criteria:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area.
2. Location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities,
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
7. Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

As part of the SOI update, the Commission is required to consider the following four criteria and make appropriate determinations in relationship to each:

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 that 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.

Environmental Determination

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that the Commission undertake and review an environmental analysis before granting approval of a project, as defined by CEQA. This MSR is categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental documentation under a classification related to information gathering (Class 6 - Regulation section 15306), which states: "Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded." Indeed, MSR's collect data for the purpose of evaluating municipal services provided by the agencies. There are no land use changes or environmental impacts created by such studies.

Furthermore, this MSR qualifies for a general exemption from environmental review based upon CEQA Regulation section 15061(b)(3), which states: "The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." Additionally, the SOI update qualifies for the same general exemption from environmental review based upon CEQA Regulation section 15061(b)(3).

There is no possibility that this MSR or SOI update may have a significant effect on the environment because there is no land use changes associated with the documents. If the Commission approves and adopts the MSR and SOI update and determines that the project is exempt from CEQA, staff will prepare a notice of exemption as required by CEQA Regulation section 15062.



***COALINGA-HURON MOSQUITO
ABATEMENT DISTRICT
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW
PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT***

July 24, 2013

Prepared for the
Local Agency Formation Commission of Fresno County
by
Policy Consulting Associates, LLC

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1. AGENCY OVERVIEW

Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District (CHMAD) provides mosquito abatement services in the southwestern corner of Fresno County. The most recent municipal service review (MSR) for CHMAD was adopted in June 2007.

FORMATION

CHMAD was formed in 1952 as an independent special district. CHMAD was created to provide mosquito abatement to the cities of Coalinga and Huron in Fresno County.

The principal act that governs CHMAD is the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law, originally called Mosquito Abatement Act of California of 1915, that was revised in 2003 (SB 1588).¹ The principal act empowers such districts to conduct surveillance programs and other studies of vectors and vector-borne diseases, take appropriate actions to prevent the occurrence of vectors and vector-borne diseases, and take necessary actions to abate or control vectors and vector-borne diseases.² All districts must apply and obtain LAFCo approval to exercise latent powers or, in other words, those services authorized by the principal act but not provided by the district at the end of 2000.³

BOUNDARY

CHMAD is located in the southwest portion of the County of Fresno, adjacent to Kings, Monterey and San Benito counties, and encompasses approximately 560,246 acres (875 square miles). Included within the District's boundaries are the cities of Coalinga and Huron and surrounding unincorporated areas. The District abuts Fresno-Westside Mosquito Abatement District to the north and Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District in the northeast. Since the District's formation, there have been no changes to its boundaries.

Extra-territorial Services

CHMAD does not provide mosquito abatement service outside its boundaries, although it is allowed to cross agency boundaries in order to prevent mosquito populations from dispersing into the District.

¹ California Health and Safety Code § 2000-2093

² California Health and Safety Code §2000-2093.

³ Government Code §56824.10.

Unserved Areas

There are no areas within CHMAD's boundaries that lack mosquito abatement services.

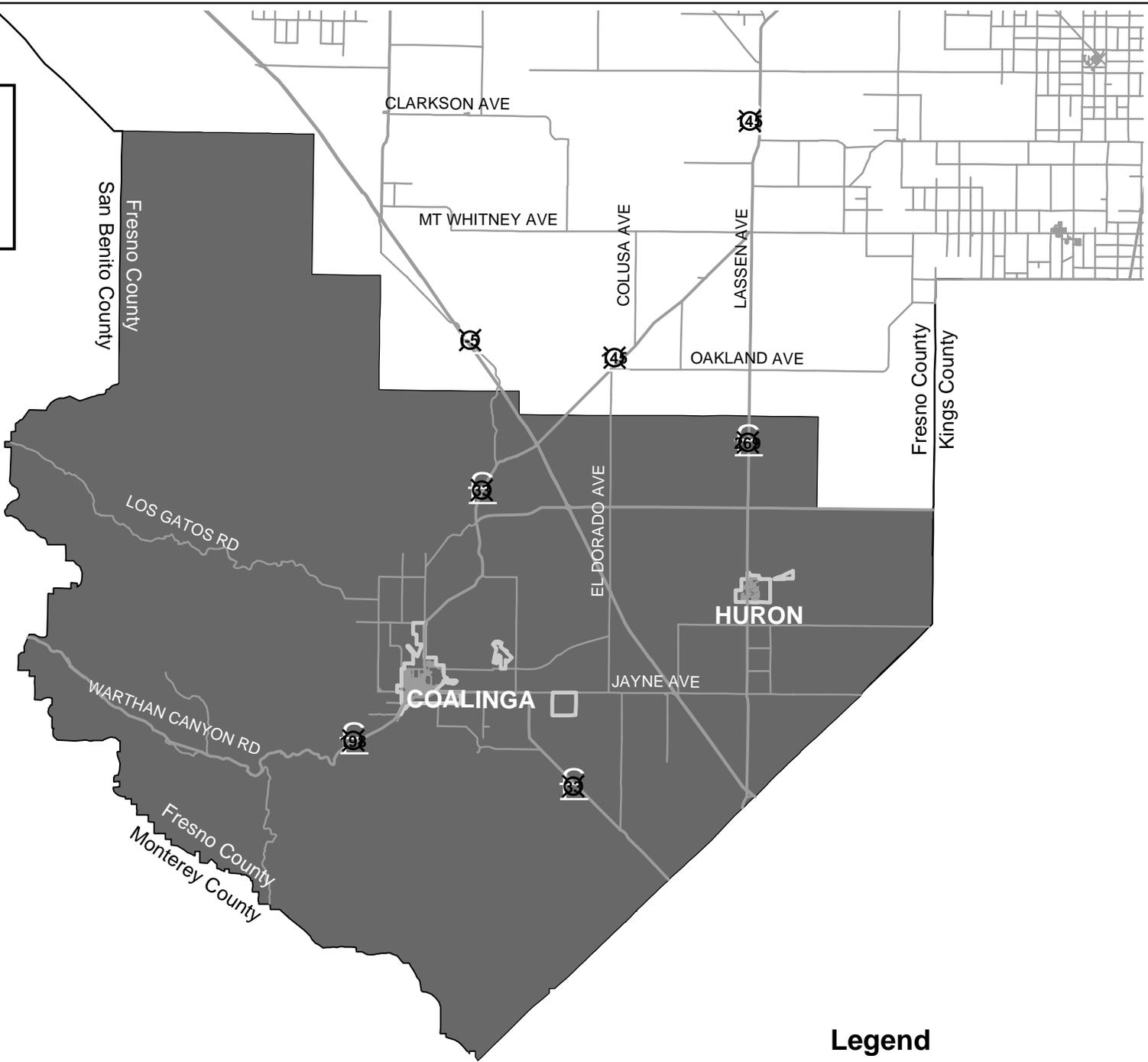
Overlapping Providers

There are two other agencies that overlap CHMAD's boundaries and provide similar pest and vector control services—West Fresno County Red Scale Protective District and the Fresno County Department of Public Health. The West Fresno County Red Scale Protective District provides control and eradication of citrus pests. The Environmental Health Division of the County's Department of Public Health offers a vector control program which entails investigation of complaints related to flies, cockroaches, rats and mice. While the services offered by these agencies are fairly similar to those provided by CHMAD, neither offer services related to mosquito control.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

CHMAD's SOI was established on March 24, 1973 as coterminous with the District's boundaries. No changes have been made to the SOI since its creation. During the 2007 SOI update the Commission elected to reaffirm CHMAD's coterminous SOI.

Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District



ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

Accountability of a governing body is signified by a combination of several indicators. The indicators chosen here are limited to 1) agency efforts to engage and educate constituents through outreach activities, in addition to legally required activities such as agenda posting and public meetings, 2) a defined complaint process designed to handle all issues to resolution, and 3) transparency of the agency as indicated by cooperation with the MSR process and information disclosure.

CHMAD is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. All trustees are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to four-year terms. Trustees do not receive any compensation. The District faces a challenge maintaining a full board, and at present there are two vacant positions. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 1-2.

The Board of Trustees meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month during the summer months when the District is operational. The time of the meeting depends on the availability of the Trustees. Meetings are held at the Coalinga Feed Yard, which one of the Trustees owns. Agendas are posted outside of the feed yard prior to each meeting, and minutes are made available on request.

Figure 1-2: Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District Governing Body

Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District					
<i>District Contact Information</i>					
Contact:	Ralph Baiza, General Manager				
Address:	PO Box 478, Coalinga, CA 93210				
Telephone:	559-935-3198				
Email:	None				
Website:	None				
<i>Board of Directors</i>					
Member Name	Position	Began Serving	Term Expires	Manner of Selection	Length of Term
Bill Mouran	Chair	1957	2016	Appointed	4 years
Theodore DenHartog	Secretary	2001	2016	Appointed	4 years
Craig Finster	Trustee	2012	2014	Appointed	4 years
Vacant				Appointed	4 years
Vacant				Appointed	4 years
<i>Meetings</i>					
Date:	Second Tuesday of each month, during open season				
Location:	Coalinga Feed Yard				
Agenda Distribution:	Posted outside of Coalinga Feed Yard				
Minutes Distribution:	Minutes made available on request				

CHMAD does not conduct public outreach or education efforts in addition to the legally required posting of its agendas. The District does not maintain a website where contact information and district documents are made available to the public.

CHMAD generally has not received complaints regarding its abatement services or staff in any given year. In 2012, the District reportedly received approximately three or four reports of potential mosquito sources, such as foreclosed houses with neglected swimming pools. Complaints and service requests may be submitted to the general manager or sent to the District in writing. Complaints and requests are not tracked. The general manager is responsible for handling complaints and requests to conclusion.

CHMAD demonstrated full accountability and transparency in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Fresno LAFCo during the MSR process. CHMAD responded to questionnaires and cooperated with document requests. It is recommended that the District devise a more formal means of receiving public requests and inquiries, perhaps via an email account.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

While public sector management standards vary depending on the size and scope of the organization, there are minimum standards. Well-managed organizations evaluate employees annually, track employee and agency productivity, periodically review agency performance, prepare a budget before the beginning of the fiscal year, conduct periodic financial audits to safeguard the public trust, maintain relatively current financial records, conduct advanced planning for future service needs, and plan and budget for capital needs.

CHMAD is staffed by a volunteer part-time general manager, a part-time bookkeeper paid an hourly wage, and one or two seasonal employees hired as needed during the summer months. The general manager is responsible for the administrative functions of the District. The bookkeeper is paid approximately \$300 every three months for limited services. The seasonal staff performs all necessary mosquito abatement services. Both, the bookkeeper and the seasonal staff report to the general manager, who in turn reports to the Board of Trustees at the regular board meetings.

Due to the small size of the District's operations, staff are not regularly evaluated. However, the general manager is certified by the California Department of Public Health in mosquito and vector control as required. Staff workload is not tracked in the form of a timesheet or other workload log.

CHMAD's management practices include annual financial reports to the State Controller's Office. The District does not conduct evaluations of district-wide performance, such as benchmarking, annual reports or performance-based budgeting.

Other than the annual financial reports to the State Controller's office, CHMAD has not compiled other documents to guide district efforts, such as a mission statement, audited financial statement, capital improvement plan, or budget.

Government Code §53901 states that within 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year each local agency must submit its budget to the county auditor. These budgets are to be filed and made available on request by the public at the county auditor's office. The County has reported that the District has not submitted a budget since at least 2004. It is a

recommended best management practice that the District adopt a budget prior to the start of the new fiscal year in anticipation of estimated revenues and expenditures, and submit the budget to the County as required by law.

All special districts are required to submit annual audits to the County within 12 months of the completion of the fiscal year, unless the Board of Supervisors has approved a biennial or five-year schedule.⁴ In the case of CHMAD, the District must submit audits annually. CHMAD has not submitted an audited statement to the County since at least 2003, when the County began tracking district submittals. Due to the District's minimal annual budget, it may be prudent for the District to request that the Board of Supervisors approve a lengthier auditing schedule, such as biennial or every five years. It is also recommended that the District initiate regular audits of its finances by a qualified CPA.

GROWTH AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS

This section discusses the factors affecting service demand, such as land uses, and historical and anticipated population growth.

Land Use

CHMAD's boundary area is approximately 875 square miles. The County is the land use authority for the unincorporated areas. Cities are the land use authorities within the respective city boundaries. CHMAD encompasses every land use designated by the cities. In the unincorporated areas, land uses are generally agricultural with grazing lands, grain and hay crops, other field crops, orchards, and berry crops.

Existing Population

As of 2010, the population of the area in CHMAD was approximately 25,224, based on GIS analysis of Census 2010 data. Its population density—29 residents per square mile—is lower than the countywide density of 159 people per square mile.

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 as any area with 12 or more

⁴ Government Code §26909.

registered voters, or as determined by commission policy, where the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median.⁵

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a mapping tool based on census data to assist in determining which communities meet the disadvantaged communities median household income definition. DWR is not bound by the same law as LAFCO to define communities with a minimum threshold of 12 or more registered voters. However, the DWR data can be used for the purposes of this report as an indicator of any larger communities that may meet the income definition of disadvantaged. Based on mapping information from DWR, there are at least two disadvantaged communities within or adjacent to CHMAD; however these areas are the two incorporated cities (Coalinga and Huron) within the District and are therefore not disadvantaged *unincorporated* territories.⁶

Projected Growth and Development

Based on population projections prepared for the Fresno Council of Governments, the population of the County is anticipated to grow by 64 percent over the 40-year period from 2010 to 2050, with annual average growth of 1.2 percent.⁷ These projections are countywide, and are not specific to the Coalinga and Huron areas; however, if these projections are used to inform anticipated growth in the region, the population within CHMAD is anticipated to increase to 40,358 by 2050. The City of Coalinga projects higher growth rates of 3.5 percent annually through 2025 in its General Plan update; however, these projections were made prior to the housing market crash and may be overestimated.

Potential development within the District is largely centered in the City of Coalinga. There are some areas that have roads and other infrastructure with between 100 and 150 finished lots, where there is the greatest potential for new residential development in the near future. In addition to these areas, the City reported that as of May 2013 there were five tentative maps that had been approved in the past that had the potential to add approximately 1,800 dwelling units to the area. However, these developments are presently on hold and are greatly dependent on demand for new housing. The City is working with the State on the Warthan Place multi-family housing project, which will add 162 multi-family units upon completion of two phases. If the City is approved for funding, the project could move forward in the next year.⁸

⁵ Government Code §56033.5.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Fresno Council of Governments, San Joaquin Valley Demographic Forecasts 2010 to 2050, March 27, 2012, p.18.

⁸ Communication with Sean Brewer, Assistant Director of Community Development, City of Coalinga, May 14, 2013.

Growth in population in the District has generally not impacted demand for CHMAD's services. CHMAD reported that there has been little change in demand for its services over the history of the District, given that the area is quite dry meaning that there is minimal need for mosquito abatement services. Demand for services is more dependent on weather patterns, and in recent years, the number of foreclosed homes with pools needing services. The mosquito population depends upon the existence of food, water and harborage. Any major changes in weather, food supplies or habitat modifications have an impact on the local mosquito populations. The District reported that it generally has the capacity to address existing and anticipated future demand.

FINANCING

The financial ability of agencies to provide services is affected by available financing sources and financing constraints. This section discusses the major financing constraints faced by CHMAD.

CHMAD has a small budget of approximately \$40,000 annually composed almost entirely of property taxes. The District reported that while the budget was minimal it was adequate to fund the current level of services provided. The District's expenditures appear to be modest with little room for additional cost avoidance opportunities. The District has experienced little fiscal impact from the recent economic recession. Unlike other public agencies around the State that rely on property tax revenues, CHMAD has experienced an increase in property tax revenues, due to an increase in assessed value of property within its boundaries. Between FY 06 and FY 13, the net assessed value of properties within the District increased by 93 percent, and only experienced a slight drop in value between FYs 10 and 11. Prior to this increase in revenue, the District reportedly was on the verge of closing. The additional revenue has made it possible for the District to continue operations.

CHMAD does not adopt an annual budget, but instead just aims to keep expenditures within anticipated revenues. Additionally, the District has never conducted audit. Consequently, the information in this section is based on the District's financial transaction report to the State Controller's Office for FY 12.

Revenues

In FY 12, CHMAD had a total of \$41,108 in revenues, comprised almost entirely of property tax income and a minimal amount (less than one percent) from interest income. The District does not charge any fees for its services.

Expenditures

CHMAD expenditures in FY 12 were \$42,214 and consisted of services and supplies (57 percent), salaries and wages (37 percent), and employee benefits (six percent).

In FY 12, total expenditures exceeded total revenues by \$1,106. CHMAD makes use of its rollover cash balance to cover this excess in expenditures.

Liabilities and Assets

CHMAD does not have a policy regarding maintaining reserve funds for contingencies or capital uses. Any funds in excess of each year's expenses are included in the District's unreserved undesignated fund balance and rolled over from year to year. At the end of FY 12, the District had a balance of \$60,843, which equates to approximately 1.5 years of operating expenses for the District.

The District did not have any long-term debt at the end of FY 12.

Financing Efficiencies

The District belongs to a common insurance program through the Vector Control Joint Powers Authority that shares costs with other similar agencies. The District does not belong to joint purchasing programs with other mosquito abatement districts in Fresno County.

2. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT SERVICES

Service Overview

Services provided by the District include mosquito suppression and control, and mosquito source reduction. Prevention services include spraying for larvae, introduction of mosquitofish in pools and other standing water bodies, and use of pellet insecticides for larvae prevention. The District also responds to public requests for services. All services are provided generally from the beginning of April to mid-October. The District does not provide mosquito and disease surveillance.

Demand for Services

A major factor influencing service demand, including control efforts, is the presence of mosquitos and mosquito-borne disease agents within the County and neighboring areas. There have been no public health advisories for vector-borne diseases in Fresno County in 2013. In 2012, there were 29 cases of West Nile Virus, which equates to 2.54 cases per 100,000 population. This ratio was above the statewide ratio of 1.27 incidents per 100,000 residents in that year.

CHMAD reported that demand for services is relatively low within its boundaries given limited water bodies in the area, which leads to mosquito breeding. Demand for services has reportedly remained constant over the last 30 years.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The District does not own any facilities. The District informally operates out of one of the Board Member's businesses (the Coalinga Feed Yard), where board meetings are held. Requests to the District are submitted to the general manager via his personal home phone.

With regard to equipment used to provide services, the District owns two pickup trucks and hand sprayers to spray larvae.

Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

It appears from the information provided, that the District is able to accommodate the minimal service needs from its existing equipment.

Around 2005, the State provided funds to the District for use in combatting West Nile Virus. The District used these funds to purchase the two pickup trucks. Eventually these trucks will need to be replaced. The District has not made plans as to when this will occur.

Shared Facilities and Regional Collaboration

CHMAD does not take part in facility sharing or regional collaborations of any kind. The District may wish to contact neighboring mosquito abatement districts to discuss opportunities for contract services or collaborations. For example, Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District offers lab services for disease surveillance, of which CHMAD may be able to make use.

Service Adequacy

This section reviews indicators of service adequacy, including success rate in reducing the outbreak of illnesses and response time to service requests.

As of the drafting of this report in early 2013, there had been no present or recent public health advisories concerning mosquito-borne illnesses in the areas served by CHMAD. CHMAD, like those in most other areas of the country, has been successful in reducing the outbreak of illnesses, including plague and encephalitis.

Response times are another indicator of service adequacy. CHMAD reported that it general responds to its service calls within hours of receiving a complaint or request. All requests are responded to within one business day. Exact response times were not available.

3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

Growth and Population Projections

- ❖ As of 2010, the population within Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District (CHMAD) was 25,224.
- ❖ Based on Fresno Council of Governments growth projections, the population of CHMAD is anticipated to be 40,358 by 2050.
- ❖ Most growth within CHMAD's boundaries is anticipated in the City of Coalinga.

Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

- ❖ Based on the Department of Water Resources mapping system, though there are two disadvantaged communities within or adjacent to CHMAD, they consist of the two incorporated cities of Coalinga and Huron within the District. There are no Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities within or contiguous to the Sphere of Influence.

Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

- ❖ A major factor influencing service demand, including control efforts, is the presence of mosquitos and mosquito-borne disease agents within the County and neighboring areas. There have been no public health advisories for vector-borne diseases in Fresno County in 2013.
- ❖ The District does not adopt an annual budget prior to the start of the fiscal year. It is a recommended best management practice that the District annually compile and adopt a budget prior to the start of the new fiscal year in anticipation of estimated revenues and expenditures and submit the budget to the County as required by law.
- ❖ The District has not submitted an audited financial statement to the County at least since at least 2003. Presently, the District is required to submit audits annually. It is recommended that the District initiate a regular schedule of financial audits and request that the County Board of Supervisors approve a lengthier auditing schedule given CHMAD's small annual budget.

- ❖ CHMAD reported that demand for services is relatively low within its boundaries given limited water bodies in the area, which leads to mosquito breeding. Demand for services has reportedly remained constant over the last 30 years.
- ❖ It appears from the information provided, that the District is able to accommodate the minimal service needs from its existing equipment.
- ❖ As of the drafting of this report in early 2013, there had been no present or recent public health advisories concerning mosquito-borne illnesses in the areas served by CHMAD. CHMAD, like those in most other areas of the country, has been successful in reducing the outbreak of illnesses, including West Nile Virus and encephalitis.
- ❖ The District does not own any real property or structures but owns two pickup trucks and larvae spraying equipment. Eventually the trucks will need to be replaced. The District has not made plans as to when this will occur.

Financial Ability of Agency to Provide Services

- ❖ The District reported that while the budget was minimal it was adequate to fund the current level of services provided. The District's expenditures appear to be modest with little room for additional cost avoidance opportunities.
- ❖ The District has experienced little fiscal impact from the recent economic recession. Unlike other public agencies around the State that rely on property tax revenues, CHMAD has experienced an increase in property tax revenues, due to an increase in assessed value of property within its boundaries.
- ❖ At the end of FY 12, the District had a balance of \$60,843, which equates to approximately 1.5 years of operating expenses for the District. It is recommended that the District adopt a policy on the target level of contingency reserves to be maintained and adopt a schedule for capital equipment replacement in order to ensure adequate funds are available when necessary.

Status and Opportunities for Shared Facilities

- ❖ CHMAD does not take part in facility sharing or regional collaborations of any kind.
- ❖ The District may wish to contact neighboring mosquito abatement districts to discuss opportunities for contract services or collaborations. For example, Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District offers lab services for disease surveillance, of which CHMAD may be able to make use.

Accountability for Community Services, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

- ❖ CHMAD demonstrated accountability and transparency in its cooperation during the service review process. Improvements to transparency could be made by establishing a district website where contact and meeting information is made available to the public, and establishing a general email address to improve access to district staff.
- ❖ Two governance structure options were identified with regard to CHMAD—consolidation with a neighboring provider of similar services, such as Consolidated MAD, or consolidation into a newly formed community services district with other special districts that serve the same geographical region as CHMAD, such as Coalinga-Huron Cemetery District and Coalinga Huron Recreation and Park District.

4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE

Existing Sphere of Influence Boundary

Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District's (CHMAD) existing SOI is coterminous with its boundaries.

SOI Options

Two options were identified with respect to CHMAD's SOI.

Option #1 – Maintain existing coterminous SOI

If the Commission determines that CHMAD should continue to exist in its present form and serve its current boundaries, then the existing coterminous SOI would be appropriate.

Option #2 – Adopt a zero SOI

If LAFCo desires to indicate that CHMAD should consolidate with either another mosquito abatement provider or other municipal service providers in the region, a zero SOI may be appropriate.

Recommended Sphere of Influence Boundary

CHMAD operates with a minimal budget, which limits the services that are offered, and faces challenges maintaining a full board, likely due to lack of public interest in the District's activities.

Given the challenges faced by the District, it is recommended that CHMAD consolidate with another larger more established district that offers professional staff allowing for greater transparency, accessibility, and a higher level of services. Potential consolidation options include consolidation with Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District or formation of a new multi-service district to take on the service of several single service districts in the area, including Coalinga-Huron Recreation and Park District and Coalinga-Huron Cemetery District.

Consolidating CHMAD with the adjacent Consolidated MAD was previously considered in 2006 but was generally not supported by the residents of CHMAD. If the two districts were to consolidate, properties located within CHMAD would be subject to a special tax to fund enhanced services that would be provided by the newly consolidated agency. At that time the proposed parcel tax was estimated to be between \$9 and \$22 for a single family residence. Consolidated MAD conducted a survey to residents within CHMAD in 2006 and determined that a significant number of voters were opposed to consolidation of the two districts if it would result in increased taxes and costs, even if the increases resulted in

more services. Given this response, the districts agreed not to pursue consolidation at that time. However, CHMAD reported that it was still interested in pursuing consolidation, as it faces challenges in keeping a full governing body and is only able to provide minimal services to residents, due to financial constraints. Consolidation with Consolidated MAD would allow for a higher level of service as it already has professional staff, including entomologists, and a lab, which allow for mosquito and disease surveillance and testing. CHMAD reported that it would only consider consolidation if it were substantially supported by the District's residents.

Consolidation of the several special districts that serve the Coalinga and Huron areas and have largely similar boundaries, including the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District, Coalinga-Huron Recreation and Park District, and the Coalinga-Huron Cemetery District, may also offer several benefits. These agencies could be consolidated into a single community services district that is authorized to provide all these services. Such a consolidation would eliminate two governing bodies, which are struggling to maintain full boards (CHMAD and CHCD), and may potentially allow for elimination of some duplicated administration costs.

CHMAD has indicated interest in either of these reorganization options. As service reviews are completed for the other districts discussed here, these options should be considered further. It appears that it would be premature to adopt a zero SOI in anticipation of consolidation or reorganization. It is recommended that LAFCo retain the existing coterminous SOI, encourage consolidation discussions and efforts, and revisit the feasibility of these options during the next SOI update.

Proposed Sphere of Influence Determinations

Nature, location, extent, functions, and classes of services provided

- ❖ Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District (CHMAD) provides mosquito abatement services in the southwestern corner of Fresno County. Services provided by the District include mosquito suppression and control, and mosquito source reduction. CHMAD provides services throughout its bounded territory. The District does not provide services outside of its boundaries.

Present and planned land uses, including agricultural and open-space lands

- ❖ The County is the land use authority for the unincorporated areas. Cities are the land use authorities within the respective city boundaries. CHMAD encompasses every land use designated by the cities. In the unincorporated areas, land uses are generally agricultural with grazing lands, grain and hay crops, other field crops, orchards, and berry crops.
- ❖ Land use plans in the County and its cities include land uses and population growth, which will require continued mosquito abatement services. The recommended SOI does not conflict with planned land uses.
- ❖ Mosquito abatement services are needed in all areas, and do not, by themselves, induce or encourage growth on agricultural or open space lands. No impacts upon Williamson Act protected land will occur.

Present and probable need for public facilities and services

- ❖ CHMAD reported that there has been little change in demand for its services over the history of the District, given that the area is quite dry meaning that there is minimal need for mosquito abatement services. Demand for services is more dependent on weather patterns, and in recent years, the number of foreclosed homes with pools needing services.
- ❖ Any major changes in weather, food supplies or habitat modifications have an impact on the local vector populations.

Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide

- ❖ The District reported that it generally has the capacity to address existing and anticipated future demand.
- ❖ It appears from the information provided, that the District is able to accommodate the minimal service needs from its existing equipment.

- ❖ Based on CHMAD's reported speed of response to requests and its success in keeping mosquito-borne illnesses at bay, the District's services appear to be adequate.
- ❖ Improvements could be made to the District's services by preparing an annual budget before the start of the fiscal year, conducting regular audits, and submitting these two documents to the County as required.

Existence of any social or economic communities of interest

- ❖ All residents and land owners within the District are considered a community of interest as customers benefitting from the District's services and contributors of property tax revenue to the District.