

LAFCO



# Municipal Service Review Arvin Area

*City of* **Arvin**

**Arvin Community Services District  
Arvin Edison Water Storage District  
Bear Mountain Recreation & Parks  
South Kern Cemetary District  
Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa Water Storage District**

**November 2007**



LSA

# MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

KERN COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

ARVIN AREA

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION TO MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

This Municipal Service Review (MSR) has been prepared to assist Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) in meeting the requirements of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (CKH Act) of 2000, which requires LAFCO to update the spheres of influence (SOI) for all applicable jurisdictions in Kern County (County). An SOI is defined by Government Code 56425 as "...a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency or municipality..." The CKH Act further requires that an MSR be conducted prior to or in conjunction with the update of a sphere of influence.

This MSR has been prepared in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code and in accordance with the Service Review Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research. This MSR evaluates the public service providers:

- City of Arvin
- Arvin Community Services District
- Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District
- South Kern Cemetery District
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

In 1997, the State Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 1484, which established the Commission on Local Governance (Commission) for the 21st Century. The Commission was responsible for assessing governance issues and making appropriate recommendations regarding the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act of 1985. Among other recommendations, the Commission suggested that each LAFCO should have knowledge of the services available within its county. This knowledge would assist in decision-making about city and district boundaries. The Commission stated that this knowledge should include the current efficiency of providing service, future service needs, and expansion capacity of the service providers. Additionally, "Information on public service capacity could be gathered as part of the implementation of a new requirement for periodic service reviews. LAFCOs could conduct such reviews prior to or in conjunction with amendments to spheres of influence. A service review would encompass a comprehensive study of each identifiable public service provided by counties, special districts, and the cities in the region. The review would not focus exclusively on an individual jurisdiction to determine its future boundary or service areas. Rather, it would require LAFCO to look broadly at all agencies within a geographic region that provide a service" (*Growth within Bounds*, January 2000).

The State Legislature acknowledged the Commission's findings and created a legislative tool (as described in Section 56430 of the Government Code) to be used to collect information and evaluate service provision. On September 26, 2000, AB 2838 (Chapter 761, Statutes of 2000), authored by Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg, was signed into law. This legislation, the CKH Act of 2000, marked the most significant reform to local government reorganization law since the 1963 statute that created a local agency formation commission in each California county. Section 56430 of the Government Code now requires that a review of the municipal services provided to the particular area be conducted in order to update any SOI in accordance with Section 56425. LAFCOs must prepare a written statement of determinations for each agency with respect to each of the following:

1. Infrastructure needs and deficiencies
2. Growth and population projections for the affected area
3. Financing constraints and opportunities
4. Cost avoidance opportunities
5. Opportunities for rate restructuring
6. Opportunities for shared facilities
7. Government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers
8. Evaluation of management efficiencies
9. Local accountability and governance

In conducting MSRs, LAFCOs must comprehensively review all of the agencies that provide the identified service or services within the designated geographic area. In addition, service reviews must be conducted before, or in conjunction with but no later than, establishing or updating an SOI. The CKH Act of 2000 also requires LAFCO to update the SOIs for all applicable jurisdictions in the County by January 1, 2008.

As listed above, the CKH Act identifies nine factors to be addressed when conducting an MSR. For each factor, information is gathered and analyzed, with written determinations prepared for LAFCO's consideration. The following paragraphs list each factor and provide information about the required analysis.

### **Determination 1: Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

LAFCO is responsible for determining that an agency is reasonably capable of providing needed resources and basic infrastructure to serve areas within the agency's boundary and in any possible annexation areas. It is important that such findings of infrastructure and resource availability occur when revisions to the agency's SOI occur or, as in this case, during the mandated MSR. In the case of this MSR, it is prudent to evaluate the present and long-term infrastructure demands and resource availability of the jurisdiction. This is accomplished by evaluating: (1) the resources and services that are available, and (2) the expansion of such resources and services in line with increasing demands.

### **Determination 2: Growth and Population Projections**

**Purpose:** To evaluate service needs based on existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

The efficient provision of municipal services is linked to the ability to plan for future need. For example, existing and future levels of demand for services must be prepared to plan for the expansion of infrastructure, and to be able to determine where future demand will occur. Growth and population projections data will allow for verification that there is adequate capacity or supply to serve the existing and future residences and businesses and to ensure that projections for future growth and population patterns are integrated into the planning function.

### **Determination 3: Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

LAFCO is responsible for evaluating the ability of the agency to pay for improvements or services associated with growth. The planning can begin at the SOI stage by identifying: (1) infrastructure and maintenance needs associated with future annexations and development, and (2) limitations on financing such improvements as well as opportunities that exist to construct and maintain those improvements.

### **Determination 4: Cost Avoidance Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

LAFCO is responsible for evaluating cost avoidance opportunities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Eliminating duplicative services
- Reducing high administration-to-operation cost ratios
- Replacing outdated or deteriorating infrastructure and equipment
- Reducing inventories of underutilized equipment, building, or facilities
- Redrawing overlapping or inefficient service boundaries
- Replacing inefficient purchasing or budgeting practices
- Implementing economies of scale
- Increasing profitable outsourcing

### **Determination 5: Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

When applicable, the MSR will review agency rates that are charged for public services to examine opportunities for rate restructuring without impairing the quality of service. Agency rates will be analyzed for conditions that could affect future rates and variances among rates, fees, taxes, charges, etc., within an agency.

### **Determination 6: Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

Public service costs may be reduced and service efficiencies increased if service providers develop strategies for sharing resources. Sharing facilities and excess system capacity decreases duplicative efforts, may lower costs, and minimizes unnecessary resource consumption. The MSRs will inventory facilities within the study area to determine if facilities are currently being utilized to capacity and whether efficiencies can be achieved by accommodating the facility needs of adjacent agencies. Options for planning for future shared facilities and services will be considered.

### **Determination 7: Government Structure Options**

**Purpose:** To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

The purpose of considering options for the structure of governance when reviewing an SOI is to identify opportunities for increased efficiency in the provision of services that lead to savings for both the service provider and the consumer. The MSR will provide a tool to comprehensively study existing and future public service conditions and to evaluate organizational options for accommodating growth and ensuring that critical services are efficiently and cost-effectively provided.

### **Determination 8: Evaluation of Management Efficiencies**

**Purpose:** To consider the management structure of the jurisdiction.

Management efficiency refers to the effectiveness of an internal organization to provide efficient, quality public services. The MSR will evaluate management efficiency by analyzing agency functions, operations, and practices as well as the agency's ability to meet current and future service demands. Services will be evaluated in relation to available resources and consideration of service provision constraints.

### **Determination 9: Local Accountability and Governance**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

LAFCO is responsible for evaluating the degree to which the agency fosters local accountability. Local accountability and governance refers to public agency decision-making and operational and management processes that:

- Include an accessible and accountable decision-making body and agency staff;
- Encourage and value public participation;
- Disclose budgets, programs, and plans;
- Solicit public input when considering rate changes and work and infrastructure plans; and
- Evaluate outcomes of plans, programs, and operations and disclose results to the public.

## 2.0 POPULATION AND GROWTH

### 2.1 POPULATION

The California Department of Finance estimates the City of Arvin's (City) 2007 population to be 16,138. In the 10 years between 1990 and 2000, the City's population increased from 9,286 to 12,956, a total of 39.5 percent. During the same 10-year period, the housing stock increased from 2,450 units to 3,145 units, or about 28.37 percent. Tables 2.A and 2.B show past population and housing growth in the City and Kern County (County) as a whole. As shown, the rate of growth within the City has been slightly higher than growth within the County as a whole.

**Table 2.A: City of Arvin Population and Housing (1990, 2000, 2007)**

Year	Population	Annual Percent Change	Housing	Annual Percent Change
1990	9,286	—	2,450	—
2000	12,956	2.83	3,145	2.83
2007	16,138	3.50	3,785	2.91

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 2007, with 2000 DRU Benchmark; and City/County Population Estimates, 1990, with 1990 Census Counts.

**Table 2.B: Kern County Population and Housing (1990, 2000, 2007)**

Year	Population	Annual Percent Change	Housing	Annual Percent Change
1990	544,981	—	198,636	—
2000	661,653	2.14	231,567	1.66
2007	801,648	3.02	270,616	2.40

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 2007, with 2000 DRU Benchmark; and City/County Population and Housing Estimates, 1991–2000, with 1990 Census Counts.

The major economic activity in Arvin is agriculture and industries related to agriculture. As a result, there is a significant seasonal influx of farm workers, and the population of the City is higher during harvest time. Specific numbers of seasonal farm workers are unknown; however, the 2000 Census estimates that 1,550 or 47.6 percent of the known labor force within the City are employed in an agriculture-related industry.

## 2.2 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The State of California Department of Finance reports that there are 3,623 households in the City, with an average household size of 4.44. Arvin’s existing population per household is above average when compared to:

- City of Bakersfield (3.02)
- City of Delano (4.16)
- City of Wasco (3.93)
- City of Shafter (3.80)
- Kern County (3.14)

The growth projections that are included in the Draft 2007 Destination 2030 Regional Transportation Plan show the County’s population per household increasing to 3.17 by 2030 and the City’s population per household decreasing slightly to 4.21 in 2030.

## 2.3 GROWTH PROJECTIONS

The growth projections that are included in the Draft 2007 Destination 2030 Regional Transportation Plan prepared by Kern COG indicate that the City’s population growth between 2010 and 2030 is expected to be 4.80 percent annually. The growth in households is expected to be higher (5.26 percent). These projections are shown in Tables 2.C and 2.D. As shown, the City’s projected growth rate is much higher than the growth for the County as a whole.

**Table 2.C: City of Arvin Growth Projections (2010–2030)**

Year	Population	Households
2010	17,200	3,900
2020	24,100	5,600
2030	33,700	8,000
<b>Annual Growth Rate</b>	4.80%	5.26%

Source: Draft 2007 Destination 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, March 2007.

**Table 2.D: Kern County Growth Projections (2010–2030)**

Year	Population	Households
2010	845,600	260,700
2020	1,010,800	316,700
2030	1,208,200	381,700
<b>Annual Growth Rate</b>	2.14%	2.32%

Source: Draft 2007 Destination 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, March 2007.

## 3.0 CITY OF ARVIN

The following services are provided by the City of Arvin (City) and are discussed within this Municipal Service Review (MSR):

- Fire Protection
- Law Enforcement
- Solid Waste
- Wastewater
- Stormwater Drainage
- Roads and Transportation
- Transit
- Parks and Recreation

### 3.1 CITY LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

The City is located at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains in the southeastern part of Kern County, approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Bakersfield. The City encompasses 3,055.88 acres, as shown in Figure 3.1. The City's sphere of influence (SOI) is generally coterminous with the City limits, with the exception of a 104.42-acre area located northeast of the City.

### 3.2 GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The City was incorporated in December 1960 and has a City Council-City Manager form of Government. The City Council is comprised of five members who are elected by the City's voters. The City Manager is appointed by the City Council. Regularly scheduled City Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. Meeting agendas are posted 72 hours prior to regularly scheduled meetings at City Hall in the City's Chamber. In addition, agendas are printed in the local newspaper (*The Arvin Tiller*).

### 3.3 FINANCE

The City adopts an annual budget. In June of each year, the City Manager submits to the City Council a proposed budget. Public hearings are conducted at City Council meetings to obtain public comments prior to and during June. After review and revision by City Council, the budget is adopted prior to July 1. The City Manager is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any fund; however, any change to total expenditures of any fund must be approved by the City Council.

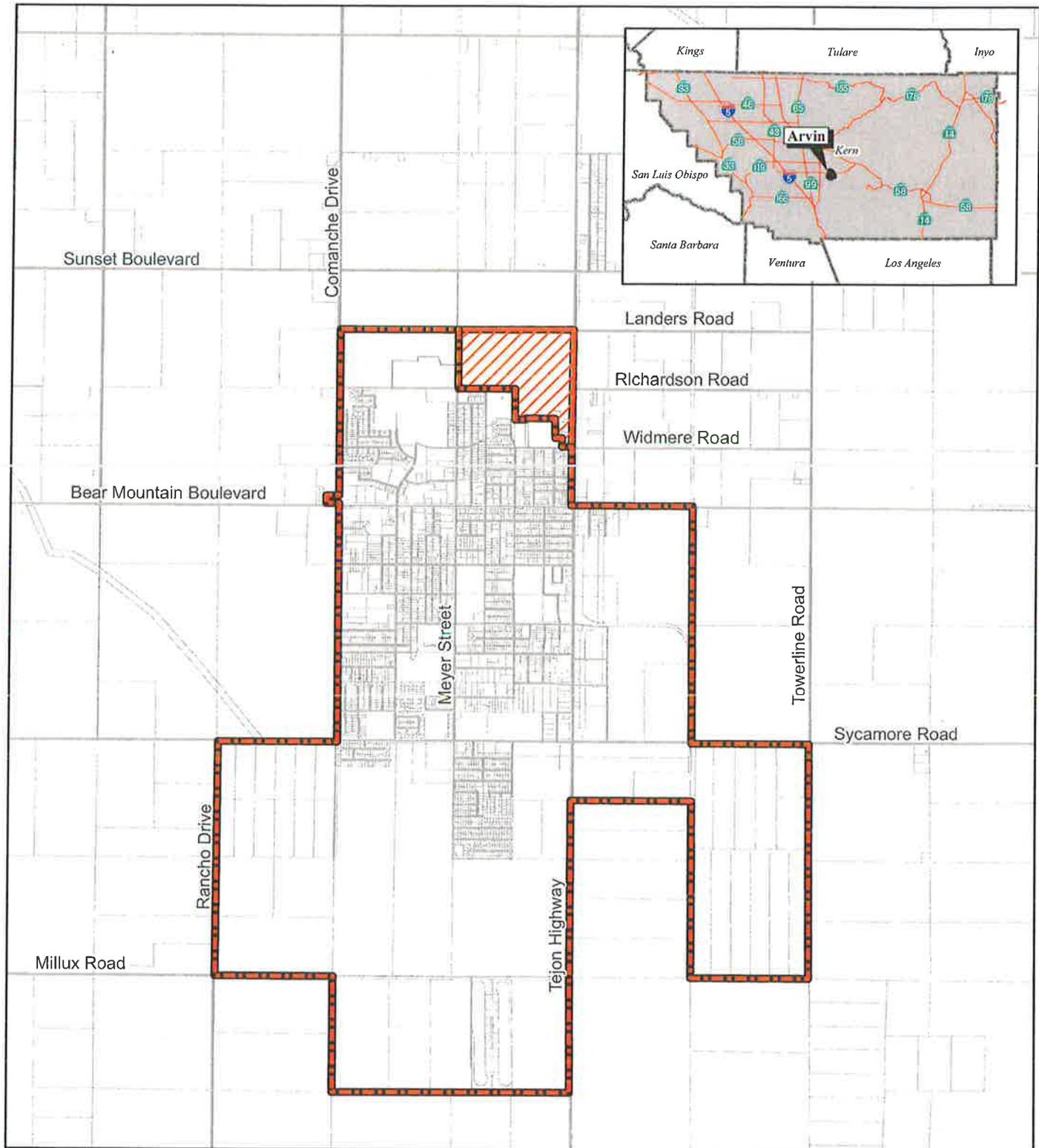
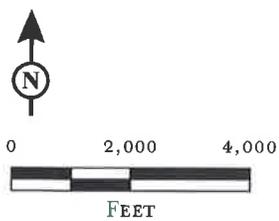


FIGURE 2.1

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Legend

-  Arvin City Limits
-  Arvin Sphere of Influence

*Kern County Municipal Service Review  
City of Arvin Limits and SOI*

SOURCE: KERN COUNTY

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The City obtains its revenue largely from taxes and charges for services. The City's largest expenditure is for public safety. Table 3.A lists the City's revenues and expenditures.

**Table 3.A: City of Arvin Sources and Uses of Revenue**

Sources of Revenue	Percentage
Taxes	17.6
Licenses and Permits	6.7
Fines and Penalties	0.8
Revenue from Use of Money and Property	1.5
Charges for Services	27.8
Intergovernmental Revenues	31.9
Fees and Other Revenues	13.6
Uses of Funds	Percentage
General Government	17.5
Public Safety	26.3
Public Works	17.8
Sanitation Plant Operating Fees	13.5
Planning and Community Development	3.2
Capital Outlay	9.5
Debt Service	10.1

Source: City of Arvin Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005.

As shown in Table 3.B, the City had revenues exceeding expenditures in the fiscal year ending 2005; however, the City's budgets for the years ending 2006 and 2007 show expenditures exceeding revenues.

**Table 3.B: City of Arvin Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses**

	2004-2005 Actual	2005-2006 Budget	2006-2007 Budget
Total Revenues	\$6,650,158	\$5,115,969	\$5,253,331
Total Expenses	\$5,625,669	\$5,368,722	\$5,685,027
Net Revenues (Loss)	\$1,024,489	(\$252,753)	(\$431,716)

Source: City of Arvin Financial Statements for the Year Ending 2005; City Budgets for Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The City's long-term obligations totaled \$6,086,175 on July 1, 2005. The large majority of this debt is due to contract obligations for the wastewater treatment plant. In 1998 the City entered into a 35-year agreement with a private contractor to operate the wastewater treatment plant and to make improvements to the facility. The City funds this agreement through ad valorem assessment revenue, service fees, and connection fees.

The City has adopted an investment policy that provides a guideline for investing funds. The criteria for selecting investments in the order of priority are: safety, liquidity, and yield. The City has established an investment committee to review and make recommendations on the investment policy and strategy of the City. The committee is composed of the City Manager, a City Council Member, and the City Treasurer.

The City participates in the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority, which is a consortium of 57 cities in the San Joaquin Valley that was created to provide insurance coverage. Through its membership, the City obtains insurance at lower rates than it would receive otherwise.

The City has stated that it does not participate in joint financing efforts nor does it share any facilities with any other agency. The City has also stated that no potential opportunities have been identified for shared facilities, staffing, or programs between the City and any other entity.

### **3.4 FIRE PROTECTION**

The City receives fire and emergency protection through a contract for services with the Kern County Fire Department (Department). The Department provides service from a fire station (Station #54) located at 301 Campus Drive within the City. Presently the station is staffed by three full-time firemen equipped with two Type 1 engines and one Type 4 FWD Watershed Patrol.

The next closest station (Station #51) is located in Lamont, 9.33 miles northwest of Arvin. Edison (Station #45) is located 11.50 miles northwest of Arvin in the City of Bakersfield. Keene (Station #11) is located 18.30 miles east of Arvin.

The Fire Department currently responds to approximately 692 service calls annually within the City. The Department currently has an average response time of 4 minutes and 14 seconds.

The City has not noted any infrastructure or service deficiencies regarding the Kern County Fire Department.

### **3.5 LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Law enforcement services are provided by the City of Arvin Police Department. The Arvin Police Department is located at 200 Campus Way in the center of town, two blocks north of the main street.

The Arvin Police Department currently has 17 sworn law enforcement officers. Based on the State Department of Finance 2007 population estimate (16,138), the City is currently providing 1.05 officers per 1,000 population. This is less than the City's preferred ratio, which is 1.4 sworn officers per 1,000 population. However, the City's existing ratio is average in comparison to other law enforcement agencies throughout the State. It should be noted that the City has mutual aid agreements with the Kern County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol.

The Arvin Police Department responded to 39,881 calls for service in the year beginning November 27, 2005, and ending November 27, 2006. This averages 109 calls for service per day. The average response time for Priority 1 calls during this period was 5 minutes, and 9 minutes average for all call types. The Police Department's goal is to have an average response time of 4 minutes or less, and is therefore not meeting its goal. The City has stated that the Police Department is routinely evaluated through crime statistics and ongoing programs by department staff, City staff, and the public.

The Arvin Police Department receives and dispatches all police calls for service; all fire related calls are transferred to the Kern County Emergency Communications Center (EEC). These calls are received through the Department's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, which is located within the Arvin Police Department building. The dispatchers are in charge of answering all the 9-1-1 emergency, nonemergency, and public service calls. In addition to the incoming calls, this person is responsible for receiving and transferring medical calls to the Kern County Fire Department Dispatch Center for medical prioritizing.

The City has stated that the Arvin Police Department facilities are inadequate and are in need of expansion and/or complete renovation. The Police Department has stated that the expansion of law enforcement facility would be financed by a combination of police impact fees, general fund monies, and grants.

In order to expand facilities for law enforcement services to support future growth, the City has established development impact fees. The City assesses \$150 per new single-family residence, \$100 per unit in each new apartment complex, and \$300 per acre on commercial property. The Police Department has stated that these fees need to be drastically increased to bring services in line with other Cities' law enforcement services. Similarly, the Department has stated that there are revenue constraints that affect the Department.

### **3.6 SOLID WASTE**

Solid waste service is provided by the City and via contract with Mountainside Disposal. The solid waste that is collected within the City is hauled to the following Class III landfills, which accept construction/demolition waste, dead animals, and mixed municipal refuse.

- Bakersfield Metropolitan (Bena) Sanitary Landfill is located at 2951 Neumarkel Road. The facility is permitted to accept 4,500 tons per day. The operator is the Kern County Waste Management Department, and the estimated closure date of this facility is December 31, 2038.
- Shafter-Wasco Sanitary Landfill is located at 17621 Scofield Avenue in Shafter. The facility is permitted to accept 888 tons per day. The operator is the Kern County Waste Management Department, and the estimated closure date of this facility is December 31, 2027.
- Taft Sanitary Landfill is located at 13351 Elk Hills Road in Taft. The facility is permitted to accept 419 tons per day. The operator is the Kern County Waste Management Department, and the estimated closure date of this facility is December 31, 2123.

- Tehachapi Sanitary Landfill is located at 12001 Tehachapi Boulevard in Tehachapi. The facility is permitted to accept 370 tons per day. The operator is the Kern County Waste Management Department, and the estimated closure date of this facility is December 31, 2013.

In 2005, which is the most recent data available, the City disposed of 9,220 tons of solid waste. The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) shows that the solid waste disposal generation factors for the City are 2 pounds per resident per day and 7.2 pounds per employee per day.

Diversion rates are defined as the percentage of total solid waste that a jurisdiction diverted from being disposed in landfills through reduction, reuse, recycling programs, and composting programs. The California Public Resources Code (PRC 41780) requires all jurisdictions to achieve 50 percent solid waste diversion after the year 2000. Per CIWMB, the City has not reached this goal. The City's preliminary diversion rate was 40 percent in 2005.

The City levies a flat rate of \$17.00 per residential unit for solid waste services, which is higher than other cities within the geographical area, as listed below:

- Bakersfield: \$14.54 for single-family residential units and \$13.15 for multi-family residential units
- Shafter: \$9.90 or \$16.75 for single-family residential units depending upon alley connection and \$8.90 for multi-family residential units
- Tehachapi: \$12.08, plus \$2.50 per month recycling charge for all residential units.
- Taft: \$13.20 for single-family residential units and \$11.83 for multi-family residential units

### **3.7 WASTEWATER**

The City has owned and operated their wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities since 1989. The Arvin County Sanitation District formerly owned the wastewater system. The City's wastewater service boundaries are coterminous with the City limits.

Wastewater from the City is collected in a 15-inch-diameter sewer trunk and is routed by an 18-inch-diameter inceptor south of Sycamore Road to the wastewater treatment plant. The capacity of the inceptor is 3.8 million gallons per day (mgd) and is considered in good condition, as noted in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project Report (July 2006).

The City's 2006–2010 Capital Improvement Plan identifies a sewer system extension project that would install new 24- and 18-inch-diameter sewer lines along the corridor of Comanche Road to provide service to the City's proposed Commercial and Industrial Enterprise Zones. The City has not identified any sewer system deficiencies.

The City has a wastewater treatment plant, which is operated and maintained through an agreement with a private contractor. The City owns all of the wastewater facilities and leases them to the contractor, who is then responsible for service provision in addition to performing any maintenance or upgrades. The City provides approval and funding for all upgrades and major maintenance projects.

The City’s wastewater treatment plant was upgraded and expanded in 1984 and 1998. The plant facilities include a headworks, an oxidation ditch, an Orbal Aeration oxidation ditch, final clarifiers, aerobic digester, sludge drying beds, two effluent storage ponds, and an administration/laboratory/motor control center building. The plant was upgraded to its current capacity of 2.0 mgd in 1998. The plant currently has an average flow of 1.40 mgd, which equates to a per capita flow of 87 gallons per day (gpd).

The City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project Report assumes a population growth rate of 4.0 and projects that the current hydraulic capacity will be able to treat the City’s flows through the year 2016. The projected flows are shown in Table 3.C.

**Table 3.C: City of Arvin Projected Wastewater Treatment Plant Flows (mgd)**

Year	Population	Average Annual Daily Flow	Average Daily Maximum Month Flow
2005	14,966	1.30	1.49
2010	18,208	1.58	1.82
2015	22,153	1.92	2.21
2020	26,953	2.34	2.69
2025	32,792	2.85	3.27
2030	39,897	3.47	3.98
2035	48,541	4.22	4.85

Source: City of Arvin Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project Report, July 2006.

Treated water is disposed into three effluent storage ponds and then used to irrigate feed and fodder crops on adjacent farmland owned by the City and on fields owned by Community Recycling under terms of a rental agreement. Two irrigation pump stations are used to pump stored effluent to the adjacent farmland.

The existing sludge drying beds at the treatment plant are unlined. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has stated that the use of unlined sludge drying beds poses a threat to the quality of groundwater, and that groundwater monitoring wells at the treatment plant indicate elevated levels of waste constituents. The RWQCB has also stated that future regulations will contain a provision requiring the City to demonstrate that its sludge disposal operations constitute best practicable treatment and control, and that it is unlikely that the City will be able to demonstrate that the use of the unlined beds constitutes best practicable treatment and control. Therefore, the RWQCB has requested a work plan and time schedule from the City to either install lined sludge drying beds or retrofit the existing unlined beds. The City has submitted the RWQCB findings to an independent hydrologist for review and has noted that two monitoring wells below the sludge drying beds have been dry at each sample date.

The City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant has an existing capacity of 2.0 mgd. The City is currently planning to increase the plant capacity to 2.4 mgd. This project would also replace existing unlined sludge beds with new lined beds. This expansion is expected to accommodate flows through 2018. The improvements are estimated to cost between \$3 million and \$4.5 million. The City is planning to

fund the project by utilizing existing sewer funds and increases to sewer impact fees and wastewater service rates.

The City has adopted a three-tiered rate structure for wastewater services as shown in Table 3.D. As shown, parcels that were developed after June 30, 1997, benefit from improvements and have a higher rate because the rate includes the cost of the improvements. Wastewater generated on parcels south of Sycamore Road flow to a lift station and have higher rates due to the costs associated with the lift station. Table 3.D compares the City’s wastewater service rates with those of other cities in the geographical area.

**Table 3.D: Comparison of Monthly Residential Wastewater Service Rates**

City of Arvin	\$29.25 single family unit \$39.00 single family unit if constructed after 6/30/97 \$49.83 single family unit if in Tract 5839 (south of Sycamore Road)
City of Bakersfield	\$12.92 single family unit \$9.69 multi-family units and mobile homes
City of Shafter	\$21.60 multi-family units and mobile homes \$22.40 single-family residential
City of Tehachapi	\$32.78 single family unit \$26.51 multi-family units

### 3.8 STORMWATER DRAINAGE

The City lies within the 100-year floodplain of Caliente Creek. Water flow is only seasonal, but historically has encompassed large volumes of water over short time periods and has caused flooding within the City.

Storm runoff generated within the City is collected and transported by streets to two storm water sumps. The 160-acre Jewett Square area drains to an existing storm water sump located near Comanche Drive and Bear Mountain Boulevard. The vast majority of the remainder of the City drains to an existing storm water sump located in Smotherman Park.

A Master Grading/Drainage Plan for the City was adopted in 2001 that outlines a drainage system intended to collect and hold runoff originating within the majority of the City from any storm of magnitude less than or equal to a 10-year storm. Storm events of greater magnitude can also be accommodated through the overflow provision provided with the sumps. The majority of runoff produced by a storm is and will continue to be collected and conveyed to the south end of the City by existing and proposed street improvements and pipelines to sumps. This Master Grading/Drainage Plan is intended to serve as the basis for design of drainage improvements for future developments within the study area.

The City's Master Grading/Drainage Plan recommends establishing a routine maintenance schedule. The Plan states that much of the existing drainage system is in need of maintenance, and a routine maintenance schedule would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the drainage facilities.

The Master Grading/Drainage Plan also recommends that the City levy a "drainage fee". The drainage fee could be collected along with other already established fees, such as the sewer connection fee, as part of the development process. As of the end of 2006, the City had not adopted a drainage fee.

### **3.9 ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**

The basic street network in Arvin consists of a regular grid system with 1-mile spacing between major streets. Secondary streets are planned for construction at 0.5-mile spacing intervals. The City road network is comprised of 8 arterial streets and 86 local streets.

State Route 223 (SR-223), locally known as Bear Mountain Boulevard, is the most heavily traveled route in the City. This road is an east-west principal arterial running through Arvin that provides regional access to the City. Another central road within Arvin is Meyer Street/Campus Drive. It is a secondary street and the primary north-south street in the City. Meyer Street is located south of Bear Mountain Boulevard, while Campus Drive is located in the same alignment to the north.

Comanche Drive, Derby Street (Tejon Highway), and Sycamore Road are also major streets within the City. Comanche Drive and Derby Street run in a north-south direction while Sycamore Road runs in an east-west direction. All four identified streets are located on section lines. In addition to roadways, alleys are utilized as part of the circulation system in the City. Alleys have been historically used as primary roads to gain access to illegally established residential lots.

The City completed a Pavement Management Plan in 2001, which surveyed the City's streets and assessed current pavement conditions. The study found that over 70 percent of the City's streets were in good or better condition. However, 22 (16.29 percent) of the streets were considered to be in "poor" condition, 12 (8.88 percent) were in "very poor" condition, and 4 (or 2.96 percent) received a "failed" mark. The Pavement Management Plan provided recommendations to improve the pavement of the City's street system. In addition, the City's Capital Improvement Program has planned and budgeted for roadway projects.

### **3.10 TRANSIT**

The City provides Dial-A-Ride public transportation with five daily services to Lamont. The Arvin Transportation Service maintains four natural gas buses that can accommodate either 19 or 31 passengers. All of the buses have wheelchair accessibility. The City also maintains three vans that can accommodate either 15 or 19 passengers, and one bus that can accommodate 22 passengers and has wheelchair accessibility. The 22 passenger bus is planned to be converted to a natural gas bus. Fares for these transportation services are listed in Table 3.E.

**Table 3.E: Fares for Dial-A-Ride Transportation Services**

Arvin		Arvin-Lamont	
General Public	\$1.00	General Public	\$1.25
Seniors (62 and over)	\$0.50	Seniors (62 and over)	\$0.75
Disabled	\$0.50	Disabled	\$0.75
Children 8 and under	\$0.50	Children 8 and under	\$0.75
1 Child under 3 years of age free with paying adult			

### 3.11 PARKS AND RECREATION

The City owns two park facilities as listed in Table 3.F.

**Table 3.F: City of Arvin Park Facilities**

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Kovacevich Park 5th Street and A Street	Playground equipment, barbeque area, picnic tables, and a softball field	7
Smotherman Park Meyer Street and Langford Avenue	Senior center and daycare center	15

The City does not have any adopted standard related to the provision of park and recreational services.

As noted in Table 3.F, Smotherman Park has a Senior Citizen Center. This facility is owned by the City and operated by the County of Kern (County). In addition, the daycare center located in the park is owned by the California Department of Education and operated by the Community Action Partnership.

As further detailed in Section 6.0, there are three service providers within the City of Arvin that are currently providing and maintaining park and recreational facilities. This includes: the Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District, City of Arvin, and County of Kern. The facilities that each agency owns and maintains are listed in Tables 6.C, 6.D, and 6.E, respectively. The structure of having numerous agencies provide services to such a small community may be inefficient. It may be more efficient to have one agency operate and maintain all of the facilities. This may save the costs of equipment, labor, and employee benefits.

### 3.12 MSR DETERMINATIONS FOR THE CITY OF ARVIN

The MSR guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research recommend that issues relevant to the jurisdiction be addressed through written determinations called for in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. Based on the above information, the following are the written determinations for the City.

#### Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

**Purpose:** To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

1. The City has stated that the Arvin Police Department facilities are inadequate and are in need of expansion and/or complete renovation.
2. The existing sludge drying beds at the treatment plant are unlined, which according to the RWQCB, poses a threat to the quality of groundwater. The groundwater monitoring wells at the treatment plant indicate elevated levels of waste constituents. Due to this, the RWQCB has requested a work plan and time schedule from the City to install lined sludge drying beds or the retrofit of the existing unlined beds. The City disagrees with this direction and has noted that two monitoring wells below the sludge drying beds have been dry at each sample date.
3. The City's Master Drainage Plan recommends establishing a routine maintenance schedule because much of the existing storm water drainage system is in need of maintenance and a routine maintenance schedule would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the existing facilities.
4. The City's 2001 Pavement Management Plan found that 16.29 percent of the City's streets were in "poor" condition, 8.88 percent were in "very poor" condition, and 2.96 percent received a "failed" mark. The City's Capital Improvement Plan has budgeted for roadway improvements.

#### Growth and Population Projections

**Purpose:** To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

1. Regional projections show the City of Arvin's population growing approximately 4.80 percent annually through 2030. Growth would incrementally increase the demand for all municipal services.

#### Financing Constraints and Opportunities

**Purpose:** To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

1. The City's budgets for the years ending 2006 and 2007 show expenditures exceeding revenues, which is a financing constraint.
2. The Police Department has stated that there are revenue constraints that affect the Department and that the existing development impact fees for law enforcement services need to be drastically increased to bring services in line with other Cities' law enforcement services. The

City has also stated that the needed expansion of the existing law enforcement facility would be financed by a combination of police impact fees, general fund monies, and grants.

3. The City is planning to fund upgrades and an expansion to the wastewater treatment plant by utilizing existing sewer funds and increases to sewer impact fees and wastewater service rates.
4. The City's Master Grading/Drainage Plan recommends that the City levy a "drainage fee," which would assist in funding drainage improvements to accommodate growth within the City.

### **Cost Avoidance Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

1. The City participates in the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority. Through this membership, the City obtains insurance at lower rates than it would receive otherwise.
2. Cost avoidance opportunities may exist in participation in additional cooperative arrangements. The City should explore potential opportunities that may exist with other agencies, such as the Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District or Arvin Community Services District.
3. Three agencies are operating and maintaining park and recreational facilities within the City. It may avoid costs having one agency operate and maintain all of the facilities. This may save the costs of equipment, labor, and employee benefits.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

1. The City revised wastewater service rates for the 2006-2007 year. The City's rates should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that revenues remain sufficient to meet expenditures related to service provision and infrastructure upgrades.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

1. The City is not involved in any joint-power agreements and does not share its facilities with any other agencies, nor has the City identified any opportunities to do so.
2. The City should explore potential efficiencies that could be achieved through shared personnel, equipment, and other cost-sharing agreements with other agencies in the area, such as the Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District. There may be an opportunity to share employees and equipment utilized in maintaining and operating the parks that are located within the City and owned by different agencies.

### **Government Structure Options**

**Purpose:** To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

1. Based on the current provision of service, it is reasonable to conclude that services can continue to be provided by the City. No other government structure option has been identified.

### **Evaluation of Management Efficiencies**

**Purpose:** To consider the management structure of the jurisdiction.

1. Currently, three different agencies operate and maintain park and recreational facilities within the City. It may be more efficient to have one agency operate and maintain all of the facilities. This may save the costs of equipment, labor, and employee benefits.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

1. The City ensures that local accountability and governance standards are met by holding meetings pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act. In addition, the City publishes meeting agendas in the local newspaper.

## **4.0 ARVIN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

The Arvin Community Services District (CSD) provides municipal water services that are discussed within this Municipal Service Review (MSR).

### **4.1 LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES**

The Arvin CSD is located 21 miles southeast of Bakersfield. As shown in Figure 4.1, the CSD covers 3 square miles including the City of Arvin (City). The CSD's boundary comprises several noncontiguous areas, and its sphere of influence (SOI) is coterminous with its boundaries. The areas located between the CSD's noncontiguous boundaries are lands within agricultural use that are being served by private wells.

### **4.2 GOVERNANCE**

The Arvin CSD was formed on November 26, 1956, to provide municipal water service. The CSD purchased the water system from the Arvin Water Company in 1957. The CSD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected at large for 4-year terms. The Board of Directors conducts regularly scheduled public meetings at the CSD office on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The District Office is located at 309 Campus Drive. These meetings are held in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

The Arvin CSD is required to report on operations to and obtain permits/licenses from the City and the State Department of Health.

The Arvin CSD shares a maintenance yard facility with the City. The facility is located on Langford Avenue and South Derby. The CSD is not involved in any joint-power agreements. The CSD may want to consider the exploration of potential efficiencies that may be achieved through sharing technical knowledge and equipment with other agencies such as the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District. Potential opportunities may exist to share skilled employees and equipment used for maintenance and upgrades of infrastructure.

### **4.3 FINANCE**

The Arvin CSD receives revenue from water sales, service charges, and investment interest. The CSD's revenue sources and uses of funds are listed in Table 4.A. As shown in Table 4.B, the CSD's revenues have been exceeding expenses.

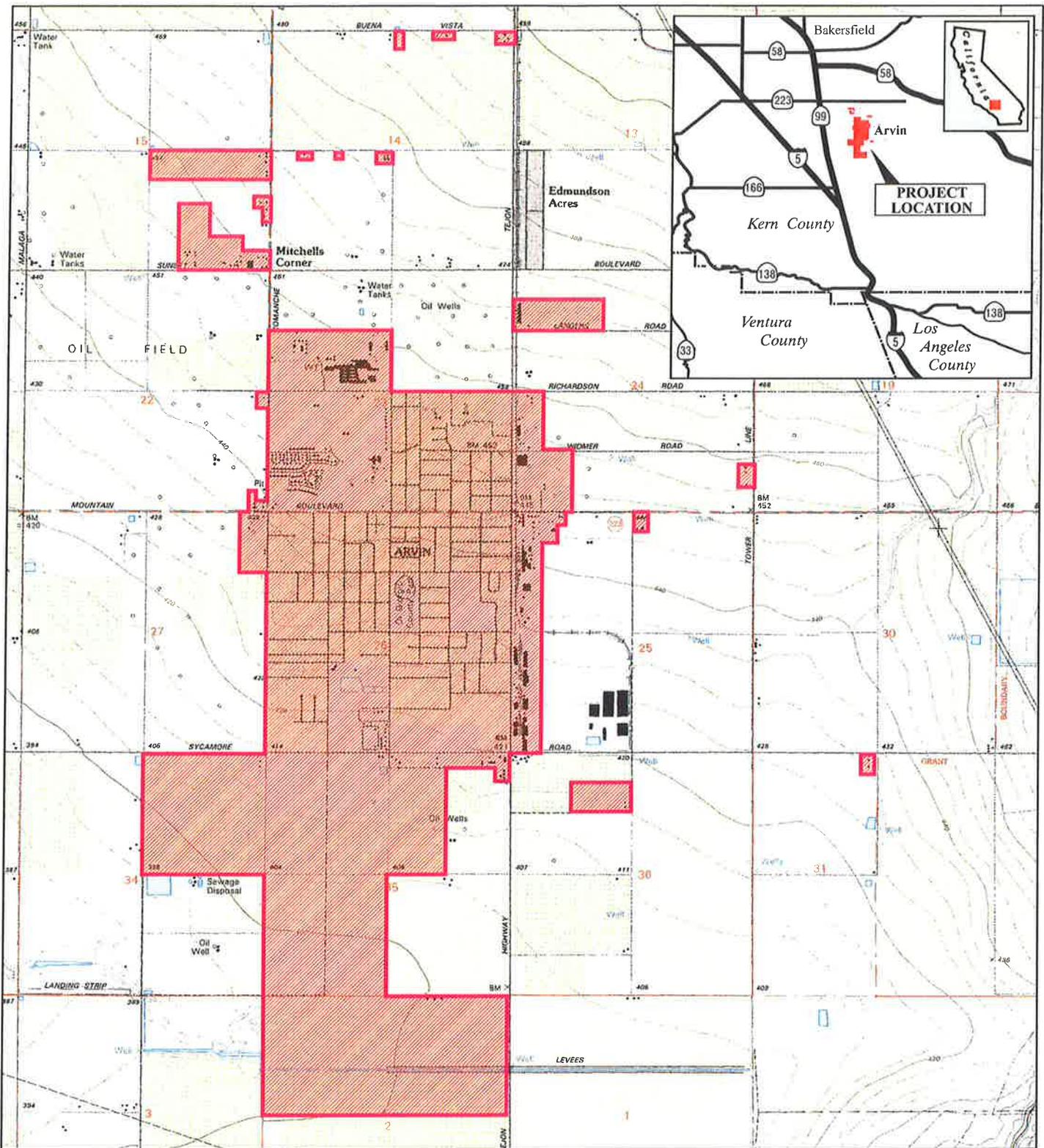


FIGURE 4.1

LSA

ARVIN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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FEET  
SOURCE: USGS 7.5' QUAD - ARVIN, CA.

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**Table 4.A: Arvin CSD Sources and Uses of Funds**

<b>Sources of Funds</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Water Service Charges	77.3
Service Fees	20.6
Interest Income	2.1
<b>Uses of Funds</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Transmission and Distribution	63.8
General and Administrative	26.7
Depreciation	9.5

Source: Arvin CSD Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2006, and 2005.

**Table 4.B: Arvin CSD Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses**

	<b>2004-2005 Actual</b>	<b>2005-2006 Actual</b>	<b>2006-2007 Budget</b>
Total Revenues	\$1,227,223	\$1,438,409	\$2,692,388
Total Expenses	\$1,132,023	\$1,140,512	\$2,692,388
Net Revenues (Loss)	\$95,200	\$297,897	\$0

Source: Arvin CSD Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2006, and 2005.

The Arvin CSD's 2006-2007 budget notes that the CSD has \$319,440 in reserve funds. The CSD has stated that there are no constraints on its ability to generate revenue, nor are there issues with revenue that affect the level of service or infrastructure needs. However, the CSD has not currently identified funding to acquire arsenic removal equipment that may be needed to meet new water quality standards. It may be possible for the CSD to pursue grant funding to reduce the costs of needed infrastructure such as the arsenic removal equipment.

The Arvin CSD has recently completed a meter replacement program that is expected to increase revenue by more accurately measuring the amount of water being delivered and by reducing the labor costs related to meter reading.

Any land developed within the Arvin CSD is subject to a connection charge. The charge is currently \$4,800 per acre, or a pro rata amount for any fraction of an acre, with a minimum charge of \$960.00 per parcel. Connection fees can only be used for capital improvements such as new well construction.

The Arvin CSD has two 40-year loans and one 10-year loan that had a total principal of \$255,058 on December 31, 2005.

#### 4.4 LAND USE AND GROWTH

As mentioned previously, the Arvin CSD's SOI is coterminous with its boundary; however, as shown on Figure 4.1, there are several noncontiguous areas within the CSD's boundary. There is currently no need for service to the areas in between the noncontiguous areas; hence, the areas have not been annexed to the CSD.

The Arvin CSD typically responds to growth and does not have growth projections. The CSD provides additional service on an as-needed basis in response to requests from developers. The CSD has identified the area of Edmondson Acres, which is located approximately 1 mile north of the existing CSD boundary, as an area it could efficiently serve with existing facilities. The CSD has stated that it would propose annexation of this area if services are needed.

#### 4.5 WATER SERVICE

The Arvin CSD provides municipal water service to approximately 3,093 customers within the CSD's boundary. The CSD's water supply is derived from groundwater pumping. The CSD currently operates 5 active wells, 1 standby well, and 3 inactive wells. The CSD's wells produce 4,000–5,000 gallons of water per minute. The location and status of the wells are listed below:

- Well #1: Langford Avenue and South Derby Street – Active
- Well #2: 5th Street and North Derby Street – Inactive since 1995
- Well #3: 5th Street and North Derby Street – Inactive since 1989
- Well #4: Haven Drive near Santa Rosa Street – Inactive since 1998
- Well #5: 5th Street near North Derby Street – Active
- Well #6: Monroe Street near Durham Street – Active
- Well #7: Alderette Street and Packard Drive – Standby well
- Well #8: Charles Street – Active
- Well #9: Meyer Street near Orange Street – Active

The Arvin CSD has a 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank and booster pumping station for reserve pressure and capacity. The water distribution system is comprised of approximately 25 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 2 to 10 inches in diameter.

In 2006, the Arvin CSD delivered 95,491,100 cubic feet of water. The CSD's estimated peak demand is 4.7 million gallons per day (mgd), and its peak capacity is estimated at 4,500 gallons per minute. The CSD's Domestic Water System Improvement Report (1986) states the average daily demand as 323 gallons per capita per day. Maximum demand for water occurs in the summer months due to the heat and the seasonal increase in population resulting from the short-term agricultural workforce. At this time, the CSD has stated that it is meeting the peak demand. However, to ensure adequate water supply for peak demand periods and to provide additional water supply for proposed developments within the CSD's boundary, the CSD has several current infrastructure/supply projects, which include the following:

- The CSD is currently having a well drilled that will be traded to Gurnett Ski Lakes for an existing well that is closer to the CSD’s water system.
- The CSD is negotiating for two agriculture wells that would be converted to domestic wells.
- The CSD is constructing two additional new wells and a 500,000-gallon water storage system.

The Arvin CSD is currently preparing a new master plan and water study. Generally, infrastructure needs are determined as developers and landowners request service from the CSD. The CSD requires developers to either construct infrastructure or pay developer impact fees, in addition to connection charges, to provide for infrastructure that is required to serve the proposed development.

The Arvin CSD has one well that has exceeded standards for nitrates. In response, the CSD lowered the pumping level 60 feet, which has lowered the nitrate levels. Since the improvements, the CSD has been testing the well monthly and has two readings that are above the standards. The CSD has been making quarterly notifications to the local weekly newspaper (*The Arvin Tiller*) as required by the State Department of Health.

The Arvin CSD will be required to lower the arsenic produced by its active well to below 10 parts per billion (ppb) in the near future. The CSD’s average arsenic level is 19 ppb. The CSD is planning on meeting the new arsenic standards by drilling additional wells in aquifers where water meets the new standard. In addition, the CSD is researching arsenic removal equipment that may be needed to meet the new standards.

#### 4.6 WATER RATES

A new rate and fee structure (Resolution 03-01) was ratified effective May 2003. As shown in Table 4.C, the Arvin CSD’s fees include a monthly minimum and rate for each cubic foot.

**Table 4.C: Comparison of Monthly Water Rates**

Arvin CSD		Bakersfield*	Shafter
<b>Minimum Charges</b>			\$15.35 multi-family units, mobile homes, and single-family units with front footages less than 49 feet
5/8 to ¾ inch meter	\$7.00	\$9.55	
1-inch meter	\$10.00	\$14.55	
1½-inch meter	\$16.00	\$22.20	
2-inch meter	\$22.00	\$30.22	
3-inch meter	\$34.00	\$55.85	
4-inch meter	\$46.00	\$81.18	
6-inch meter	\$70.00	\$145.89	\$23.45 single-family units with front footages between 50 and 79 feet
	<b>Quantity Rates</b>	<b>Quantity Rates</b>	\$30.45 single-family units with front footages 80 feet or more
	\$.85 per 100 cubic feet	\$.74 per 100 cubic feet	

\*Within City Limits

## **4.7 DETERMINATIONS FOR THE ARVIN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

The MSR guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research recommend that issues relevant to the jurisdiction be addressed through written determinations called for in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. Based on the above information, the following are the written determinations for the Arvin CSD.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

1. The Arvin CSD is meeting the peak demand. To ensure adequate water supply for peak demand periods and to provide additional water supply for future development, the CSD is working on several current infrastructure/supply projects.
2. Nitrate levels have been an issue in the past. Since well improvements were implemented, the CSD has been performing monthly water quality tests.
3. The CSD must meet new arsenic standards. The CSD is planning on meeting the new arsenic standards by drilling additional wells in aquifers where water meets the new standard. In addition, the CSD is researching arsenic removal equipment that may be needed to meet the new standards.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

**Purpose:** To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

1. The Arvin CSD typically responds to growth (i.e., requests for service from developers) and does not have or utilize any growth projections. Regional projections show the City's population growing approximately 4.80 percent annually through 2030.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

1. The Arvin CSD has stated that there are no constraints on its ability to generate revenue.
2. The CSD has not currently identified funding to acquire arsenic removal equipment that may be needed to meet new water quality standards. It may be possible for the CSD to pursue grant funding to reduce the costs of needed infrastructure such as the arsenic removal equipment.
3. The CSD requires developers to either construct infrastructure or pay developer impact fees, in addition to connection charges, to provide for infrastructure that is required to serve the proposed development.

### **Cost Avoidance Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

1. The Arvin CSD should pursue grant funding where possible to reduce the cost of infrastructure projects such as the needed arsenic removal equipment or the meter replacement program. This is a potential cost avoidance opportunity.
2. The CSD's meter replacement program is expected to avoid costs by accurately measuring water and by reducing labor costs related to meter reading.
3. Implementation of agreements for shared equipment or skilled employees with other agencies (e.g., the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District) may reduce the CSD's costs.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

1. The Arvin CSD ratified a new rate and fee structure in May 2003. The CSD's rates should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that revenues remain sufficient to meet expenditures related to service provision and infrastructure upgrades.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

1. The Arvin CSD currently shares a facility with the City. The CSD has not identified any additional opportunities for shared facilities.

### **Government Structure Options**

**Purpose:** To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

1. Based on the current provision of service, it is reasonable to conclude that services can continue to be provided by the Arvin CSD as the CSD is not adjacent to any other potable water service provider.
2. The CSD has identified the area of Edmondson Acres as an area that it could efficiently serve. The CSD would propose annexation of this area as services are needed. It may be an appropriate time to include this area along with adjacent areas into the District's SOI to clarify future service boundaries.

### **Evaluation of Management Efficiencies**

**Purpose:** To consider the management structure of the jurisdiction.

1. The provision of domestic water service to the Arvin CSD's service area is efficient because one entity is providing water service within the area. There are no other potable water service providers within or near the existing service area.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

1. The Arvin CSD ensures that local accountability and governance standards are met by holding meetings pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

## 5.0 ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

The Arvin-Edison Water Storage District provides agricultural water services that are discussed within this Municipal Service Review (MSR).

### 5.1 LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

As shown on Figure 5.1, the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (District) is located southeast of the City of Bakersfield, generally east of Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 99 (SR-99), and south of State Route 58 (SR-58). The District is comprised of approximately 131,600 acres of agricultural land. The District's sphere of influence (SOI) is coterminous with its boundary.

### 5.2 GOVERNANCE

The District was formed January 29, 1942, under the provisions of the California Water Act. The District was formed to mitigate groundwater overdraft. The District is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors who are elected by the landowners within the District. The Board of Directors meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month at the District office. The meeting agendas are posted 72 hours prior to the meeting at the District office.

### 5.3 FINANCE

The District adopts an annual budget each year. The District's revenue sources and uses of funds are listed in Table 5.A.

**Table 5.A: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District  
Sources and Uses of Funds**

Sources of Funds	Percentage
Water Sales	80.9
Miscellaneous	1.3
Service Fees	14.7
Interest Income	3.1
Uses of Funds	Percentage
Source of Supply	29.3
Pumping Plant and Maintenance	18.2
Distribution	40.2
General, Administration	12.5

Source: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Financial Statements for Years Ended February 28, 2005, and 2006.

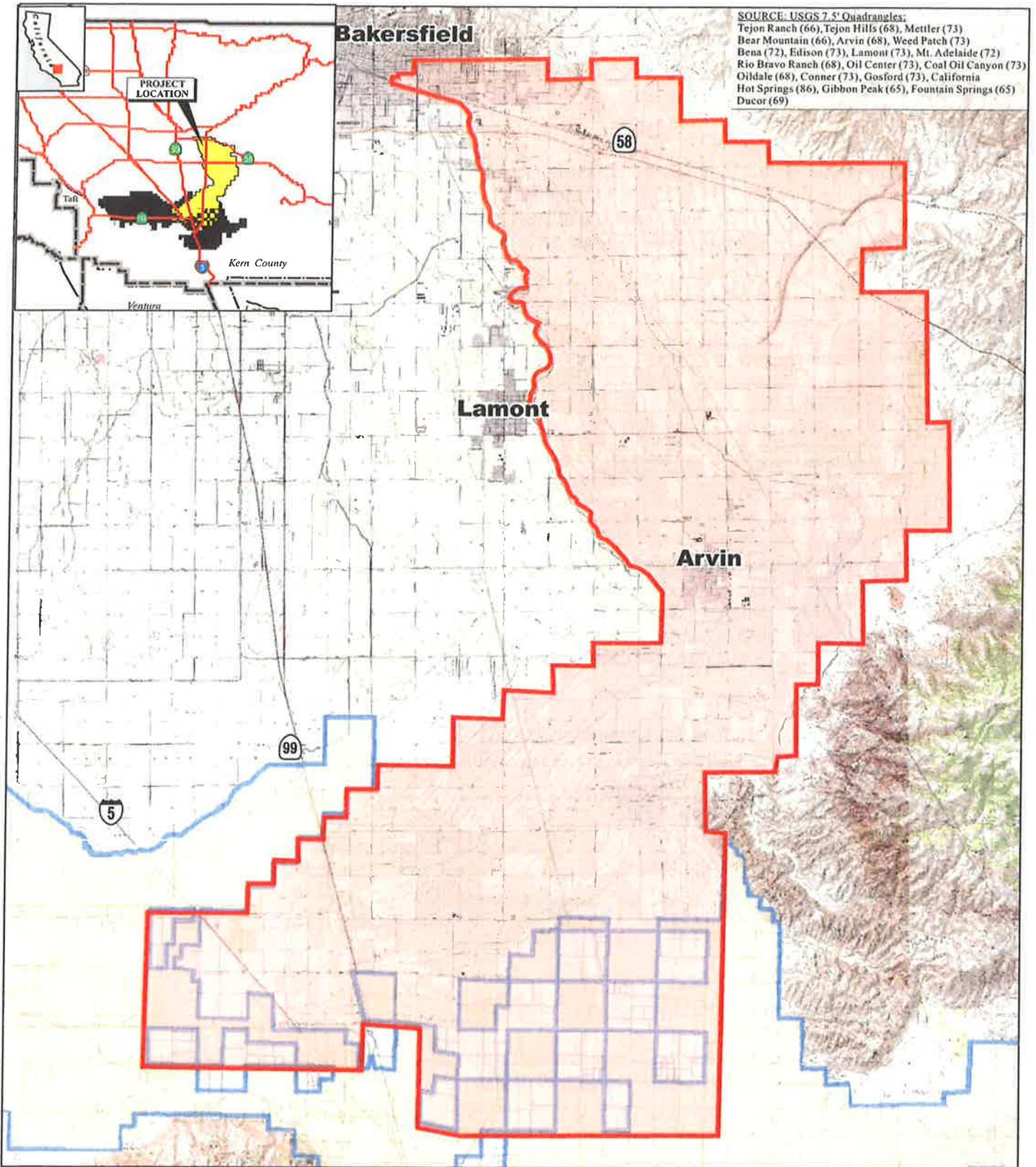
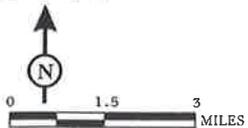


FIGURE 5.1

LSA



**LEGEND**

- ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
- WHEELER RIDGE - MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
- OVERLAP AREAS

*Kern County Municipal Service Review*

**Arvin-Edison Water Storage District**

SOURCE: Kern County

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As shown in Table 5.B, the District has been operating at a deficit, which is expected to continue through the 2006–2007 budget. The District’s 2006 Financial Statements state that revenues have been decreasing due to a decrease in water banking revenue, and that operating expenses have increased due to increases in power costs and repair and maintenance costs.

**Table 5.B: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses**

	2004–2005 Actual	2005–2006 Actual	2006–2007 Budget
Total Revenues	\$16,177,000	\$16,968,000	\$20,585,000
Total Expenses	\$21,002,000	\$18,539,000	\$23,240,350
Net Revenues (Loss)	(\$4,825,000)	(\$1,571,000)	(\$2,655,350)

Source: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Financial Statements for Years Ended February 28, 2005, and 2006.

The District has been funding the negative cash flow from the District’s Water Rate Stabilization Reserve fund. This fund was established to safeguard the District’s customers from adverse financial impacts caused by unpredictable costs. The District also has a Contingency Reserve Fund; however, this fund can only be expended to meet extraordinary and unanticipated financial obligations. Table 5.C shows the District’s reserve fund balances at the beginning of the 2006–2007 year.

**Table 5.C: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Reserve Fund Balances at the Beginning of the 2006–2007 Year**

Reserve Fund	Balance
Contingency Reserve	\$3,000,000
Water Rate Stabilization Reserve	\$18,006,000
<b>Total Reserve Funds</b>	<b>\$21,006,000</b>

Source: Arvin Edison Water Storage District Financial Statements for Years Ended February 28, 2005, and 2006.

The District has several debt balances as detailed below.

- In 2002, the District received a loan to construct additional infrastructure. The remaining loan balance as of February 28, 2006, was \$4,090,485.
- In 2005, the District received a loan to repair and expand infrastructure. The remaining loan balance as of February 28, 2006, was \$10,000,000.

The District has adopted an Investment Policy with the primary objective of safety of principal. The policy details authorized investments and requires the District’s Assistant Manager to submit monthly investment reports to the Board of Directors.

The District is a member of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Authority (Authority). The Authority is a group of California water districts that have pooled funds to provide self-insurance coverage. This method of insurance coverage reduces the District's costs.

#### **5.4 AGRICULTURAL WATER SERVICE**

The District's agricultural water service operations began in 1966 with the importation of a federal water supply. Of the District's 131,600 acres within its boundary, 50,000 acres receive surface water from the District and 50,000 acres rely on private wells for agricultural water supply.

The District receives its water supply through long-term contracts with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Kern County Water Agency, and various other water districts. Water is imported by the Friant-Kern Canal, State Aqueduct, and the Cross Valley Canal. Due to the logistics of importing and storing water, the District's imported water is obtained through multiagency shared facilities. In addition, the District stores water in facilities owned by the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District. Due to the District's location, additional opportunities for shared facilities may exist with the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District.

The District's facilities include canals, 76 wells, water storage facilities, and a water distribution system. It should be noted that a large portion of the District's canal and two of its storage facilities are located outside the District's boundary and SOI.

A portion of the water imported to the District is percolated into underground storage. This water is then pumped from District wells into the District's water distribution system during periods when sufficient imported surface water is not available for purchase. The costs associated with water percolated into underground storage are deferred until later years when the water is pumped from the storage and delivered to landowners.

In 2005, the District imported 253,206 acre-feet of water and delivered 139,033 acre-feet. In addition, the District had 833,859 acre-feet in underground storage. Therefore, the District had ample water to meet its demand. The District has stated that it anticipates no measurable growth in demand for agricultural water within its service area. Hence, the District should be able to continue to meet the demand for agricultural water in the future.

The District does not have a Master Plan for infrastructure, but reviews needs for capital improvements on an as-needed basis. Currently, the District anticipates making improvements to its canal in the area south of the Tejon Balancing Facilities within the next 3 years.

A large area of the District overlaps areas that are within the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, as shown on Figure 5.1. Both water storage districts have facilities within this overlapping area and appear to serve areas that are adjacent to one another. The Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District has stated that there are no lands being served by both water storage districts. Each water storage district is providing services to areas its infrastructure can serve and where demand exists. The two Districts work together coordinating the provision of existing and future services to the parcels within this area. This coordination ensures that there is no overlap or doubling of service or fees and also to ensure that adequate service is provided as needed.

## 5.5 WATER RATES

The District reviews its rates for services annually. The District's 2006 rates are listed in Table 5.D.

**Table 5.D: Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Service Rates**

Number of Lifts	Water Per Acre-Foot	Energy	Total
1	\$37.00	\$33.00	\$70.00
2	\$37.00	\$51.00	\$88.00
3	\$37.00	\$69.00	\$106.00
4	\$37.00	\$87.00	\$124.00
5	\$37.00	\$105.00	\$142.00
6	\$37.00	\$123.00	\$160.00

## 5.6 DETERMINATIONS FOR THE ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

The MSR guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research recommend that issues relevant to the jurisdiction be addressed through written determinations called for in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. Based on the above information, the following are the written determinations for the District.

### Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

**Purpose:** To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

1. No infrastructure deficiencies have been noted, and the District is meeting the current demand for services.

### Growth and Population Projections

**Purpose:** To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

1. The District does not anticipate any measurable growth in demand for agricultural water within its service area. Regional projections show the City of Arvin's population growing approximately 4.80 percent annually through 2030. This growth would only affect the District if it resulted in large adverse impacts to water supply.

### Financing Constraints and Opportunities

**Purpose:** To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

1. The District has had expenditures exceeding revenues, which is a financing constraint. The District has been utilizing reserve funds to fund the deficit.

2. The District may want to consider increasing rates to cover the costs of providing services.

### **Cost Avoidance Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

1. The District is a member of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Authority. This membership reduces the District's insurance costs.
2. The District's type of service provision and fixed contracts for water supplies limit potential cost avoidance opportunities.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

1. The District adopted new rates in 2005. The District's rates should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that revenues remain sufficient to meet expenditures related to service provision and infrastructure upgrades.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

1. The District's imported water is obtained through multiagency shared facilities. In addition, the District stores water in facilities owned by the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District. Due to the District's location, additional opportunities for shared facilities may exist with the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District.

### **Government Structure Options**

**Purpose:** To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

1. Based on the current provision of service, it is reasonable to conclude that services can continue to be provided by the District.
2. Areas of the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa and Arvin-Edison Water Storage Districts overlap. Because the two Districts work together to ensure that there is no overlap or doubling of service or fees and also to ensure that adequate service is provided as needed, no government structure changes are necessary at this time.

## **6.0 BEAR MOUNTAIN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**

The Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District (District) provides services that are discussed within this Municipal Service Review (MSR).

### **6.1 LOCATION AND BOUNDARY**

The District is located southeast of the City of Bakersfield and west of the City of Tehachapi. As shown on Figure 6.1, the District's boundary includes the unincorporated community of Lamont, the City of Arvin, and the adjacent unincorporated areas southerly to the Los Angeles County line. The District's sphere of influence (SOI) is coterminous with its boundary.

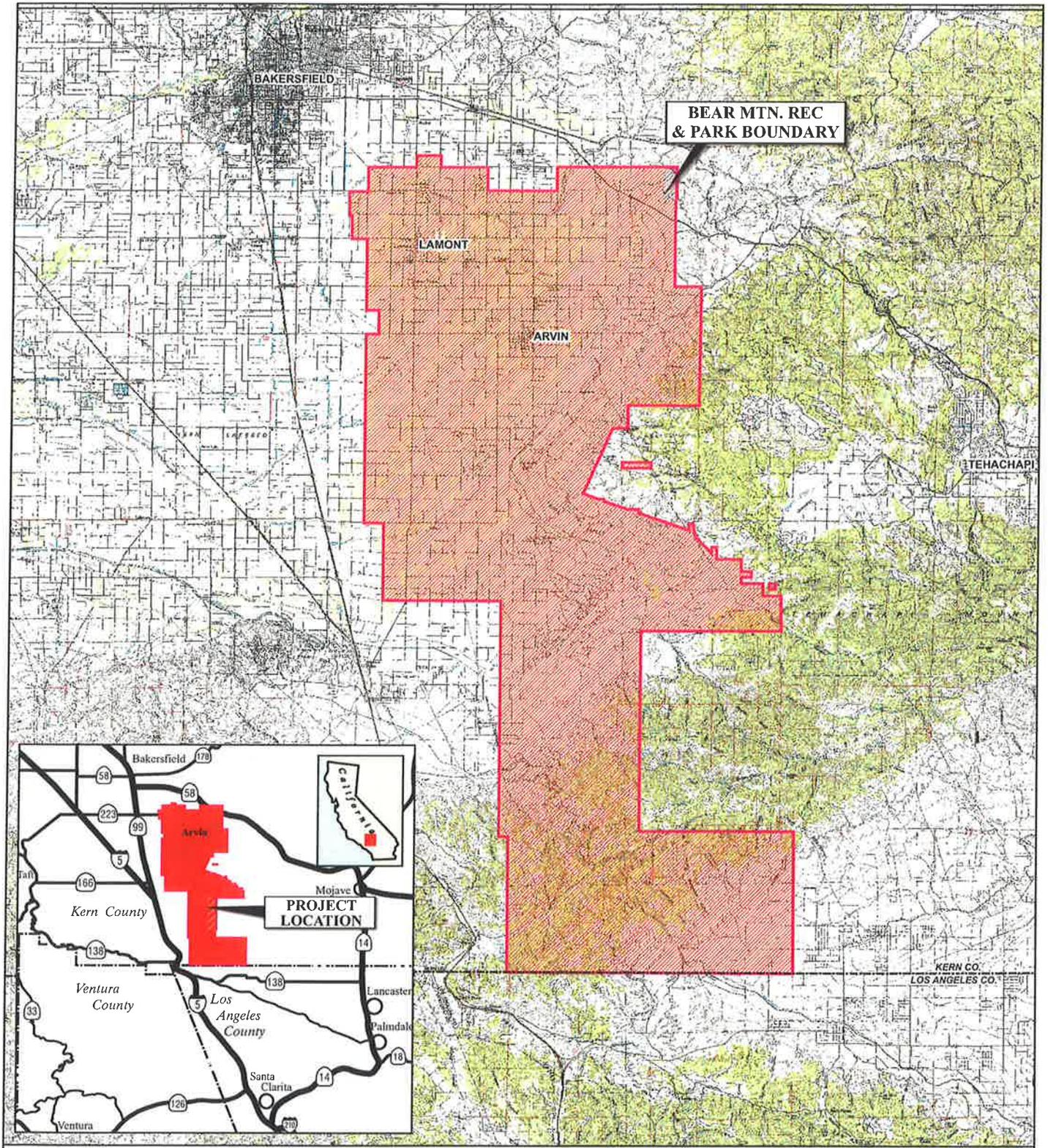
### **6.2 GOVERNANCE**

The District was formed on June 27, 1957, to provide a summer recreation program at two local swimming pools. Since then the District's role has expanded to provide both park and recreation services within its boundary.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are elected by the voters within the District's boundary. The Board of Directors holds regularly scheduled meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting agendas are posted at the District office 72 hours prior to the meeting. To advertise its programs, the District publishes a flyer several times a year that is distributed to the local schools and printed in two local newspapers.

### **6.3 FINANCE**

The District annually adopts a budget. The District Manager annually submits to the Board of Directors a proposed operating budget that includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. Public hearings are subsequently held to obtain public comments, after which any necessary revisions are made and the budget is adopted prior to July 1. The District obtains a majority of its revenue from property taxes and grants. A summary of the District's sources and uses of funds is provided in Table 6.A. As shown in Table 6.B, the District has revenues that exceed expenditures.



**BEAR MTN. REC & PARK BOUNDARY**

LAMONT

ARVIN

TEHACHAPI

**PROJECT LOCATION**

 - BEAR MTN. RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

FIGURE 6.1

LSA



*Kern County Municipal Service Review*

**Bear Mountain Recreation & Park Boundaries**

SOURCE: USGS 1:1000 000 Quad's - Cuyama, Lancaster, Santa Barbara, & Los Angeles, CA.

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**Table 6.A: Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District Sources and Uses of Funds**

<b>Sources of Funds</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Property Taxes	46.6
Charges for Services	8.3
Grants	29.5
Interest	0.1
Insurance Proceeds	11.7
Miscellaneous	3.8
<b>Uses of Funds</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Salaries and Employee Benefits	62.2
Services and Supplies	37.8

Source: Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2005.

**Table 6.B: Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses**

	<b>2003–2004 Actual</b>	<b>2004–2005 Actual</b>	<b>2006–2007 Budget</b>
Total Revenues	\$882,050	\$793,603	\$966,250
Total Expenses	\$722,536	\$768,112	\$880,085
Net Revenues (Loss)	\$99,514	\$25,491	\$86,165

Source: Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005; District Budget for Fiscal Year 2006–2007.

To accommodate the demand for park and recreational facilities that results from growth, the District receives either land dedications or development impact fees from new developments. The District's standard for dedication is 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

#### **6.4 PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES**

The District currently operates two swimming pools and two parks, as listed below in Table 6.C. It should be noted that the pools that the District operates are located within Kern County (County) park facilities.

The District has stated that both the Lamont and Arvin pools are 50 years old and are in need of replacement. In May 2007, the District was finalizing contracts for the pools to be completely rebuilt. The project cost is approximately \$2 million. The District is funding this project from numerous sources, including grants, loans, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and funds from the Arvin Redevelopment Agency.

**Table 6.C: Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District Facilities**

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Bear Mountain Park, 10300 San Diego Street, Lamont	Community center (which includes the District office, Senior Center, rental hall), daycare center, two soccer fields, tot lot, playground, four lighted tennis courts, two basketball courts, barbeques, picnic shelters, public restrooms	15
Weedpatch Park, Buena Vista Avenue, Weedpatch	Community center, soccer field, tot lot, playground, two lighted basketball courts, two baseball diamonds, barbeques, picnic shelters, public restrooms	5
Lamont Pool within Lamont Park, Lamont	Lap swim pool, diving board with diving area, wading pool, public locker room facilities	N/A
Arvin Pool within Di Giorgio Park, Arvin	Lap swim pool, diving board with diving area, wading pool, public locker room facilities, District satellite office, classroom	N/A

N/A = not applicable

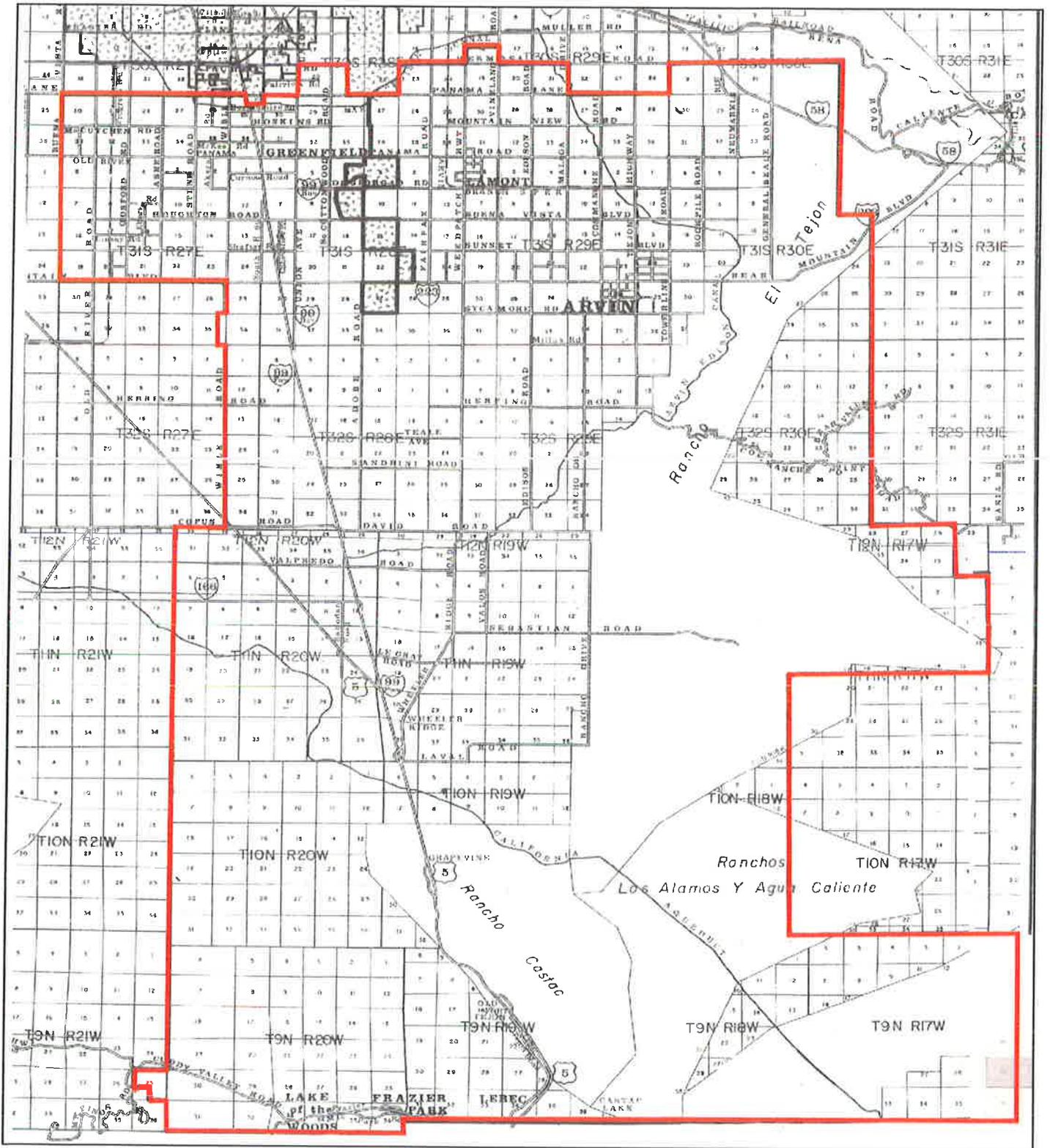
The City of Arvin (City) owns and maintains two park facilities that are located within the District. These facilities are listed in Table 6.D.

**Table 6.D: City of Arvin Park Facilities**

Facility and Location	Amenities	Acreage
Kovacevich Park, 5th Street and A Street	Playground equipment, barbeque area, picnic tables, and a softball field	7
Smotherman Park, Meyer Street and Langford Avenue	Senior citizen center and daycare center	15

As noted in Table 6.D, Smotherman Park has a Senior Citizen Center. This facility is owned by the City and operated by the County. In addition, a daycare center is located in the park. This facility is owned by the California Department of Education and operated by the Community Action Partnership.

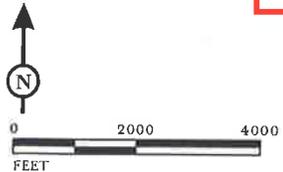
The Kern County Department of Parks and Recreation also has two facilities that are located within the District's boundary. These facilities are detailed below in Table 6.E.



LSA

BOUNDARY AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

FIGURE 7.1



SOURCE: Kern County

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Kern County Municipal Service Review

Arvin Public Cemetery District

**Table 7.A: South Kern Cemetery District Sources and Major Uses of Funds**

Sources of Funds	Percentage
Taxes	32.3
Service Fees	56.0
Donations	10.0
Interest Income	0.4
Miscellaneous	1.3
Major Uses of Funds	Percentage
Salaries and Employee Benefits	51.4
Maintenance	19.1
Insurance	7.2
Vaults and Liners	6.7
Office Expenses and Utilities	3.7

Source: South Kern Cemetery District Financial Statements, June 2004.

As shown in Table 7.B, in the 2003-2004 fiscal year the District's expenditures exceeded revenues. The District has stated that a financial audit for the 2004-05 fiscal year has been completed; however, as of this date, it was not provided for review for this MSR.

**Table 7.B: South Kern Cemetery District Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses**

	2003-2004 Actual	2006-2007 Budget
Total Revenues	\$252,668	\$271,297
Total Expenses	\$260,962	\$271,297
Net Revenues (Loss)	(\$8,294)	\$0

Source: South Kern Cemetery District Financial Statements, June 2004; 2006-2007 Budget.

The District has an endowment fund, which is funding that has been set aside for perpetual care of the cemetery. At the end of the 2004 fiscal year, the District had \$283,494 in the endowment fund.

The District invests in only U.S. Government Securities. At the end of the 2004 fiscal year, the District had \$264,634 invested.

## 7.4 CEMETERY SERVICES

The purpose of the District is to provide and maintain cemeteries for the burial of District residents or for a family of a resident who has purchased a burial lot. The District averages approximately 120 burials annually.

The District currently has one cemetery located at 15543 South Vineland Road. The cemetery totals 11.5 acres, of which 7.5 acres are developed and 4 acres undeveloped. The District has stated that the current facility is large enough to meet the District's service demand far into the future.

The District has four employees, which include three grounds men and the District manager. The District does not share any facilities, equipment, or personnel with any other agency. Due to the District's limited services and facilities, it has not noted any potential opportunities.

## 7.5 RATES FOR SERVICES

In January 2005, the District adopted new rates for cemetery services. The District stated that it only reviews rates for services when it is necessary to ensure that revenues are sufficient. Table 7.C lists the District's current rates for services.

**Table 7.C: South Kern Cemetery District Rates for Services**

	Single-Depth Graveside or Chapel	Dual Interment	Second Interment
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$1,758.56	\$2,137.41	\$875.00
<b>Out of District Fee</b>	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	\$1,908.56	\$2,287.41	\$1,025.00

## 7.6 DETERMINATIONS FOR THE SOUTH KERN CEMETERY DISTRICT

The MSR guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research recommend that issues relevant to the jurisdiction be addressed through written determinations called for in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. Based on the above information, the following are the written determinations for the District.

### Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

**Purpose:** To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

1. No infrastructure deficiencies have been noted. The District's facility has 4 undeveloped acres that are available to meet future service needs. The District has stated this acreage is large enough to meet the District's service demand far into the future.

### Growth and Population Projections

**Purpose:** To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

1. The District does not have or utilize any growth projections. Regional projections show the City of Arvin's population growing approximately 4.80 percent annually through 2030. As noted above, the District's existing facility has the available capacity to meet near-future service needs.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

1. The District's expenditures exceeded revenues in the 2003-2004 fiscal year. However, no constraints on the ability to generate revenue have been noted. The District has the ability to increase rates to cover the costs of providing services.

### **Cost Avoidance Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

1. The District's limited services and facilities also limit potential cost avoidance opportunities.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

1. The District ratified new service rates in 2005. The District's rates should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that revenues remain sufficient to meet expenditures related to service provision.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

1. The District does not share any facilities. As the District's facilities are limited, no opportunities for shared facilities have been identified.

### **Government Structure Options**

**Purpose:** To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

1. Based on the current provision of service, it is reasonable to conclude that services can continue to be provided by the District. No other government structure option has been identified.

### **Evaluation of Management Efficiencies**

**Purpose:** To consider the management structure of the jurisdiction.

1. The provision of cemetery services to the District's service area is efficient because one public entity is providing service within the area. There are no other public cemetery service providers within or near the existing service area.

## **Local Accountability and Governance**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

1. The District ensures that local accountability and governance standards are met by holding meetings pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

## **8.0 WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT**

The Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (District) provides irrigation water services that are discussed within this Municipal Service Review (MSR).

### **8.1 LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES**

The District comprises approximately 143,500 acres and is located to the south and southwest of the cities of Arvin and Bakersfield. As shown in Figure 8.1, the District's boundary, which is irregular and noncontiguous, is coterminous with its sphere of influence (SOI).

### **8.2 GOVERNANCE**

The District was formed in August of 1959. The District is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, who are elected by the landowners. Each landowner's assessed property valuation determines the number of votes held by each landowner. Regularly scheduled board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the District office. Agendas are posted at the District office on the Friday prior to the meeting. In addition, notices are mailed to anyone requesting the service. Public participation in District activities is encouraged. The meeting location provides adequate room for anyone who would like to attend.

The District has a total of 40 full-time and 2 part-time employees. The operations of the District are reviewed monthly by the Board of Directors through staff reports.

### **8.3 FINANCE**

The District adopts an annual budget that is prepared by staff and submitted to the Board of Directors for review. The proposed budget is heard at a public meeting. The meeting is printed in the local newspaper and the agenda is posted 72 hours prior to the meeting pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act. At the hearing, the Board of Directors reviews, revises, and adopts the annual budget. The District's revenue sources and uses of funds are listed in Table 8.A. As shown in Table 8.B, the District's revenues have been exceeding expenses.

The District has several reserve funds. The reserve fund balances as of December 31, 2006, are provided in Table 8.C.

The District has debt, which is a result of general bonds sold by the District. The District's 2006 financial statements note that the outstanding debt is \$7.6 million. The debt service is recovered through fixed charges for water service.

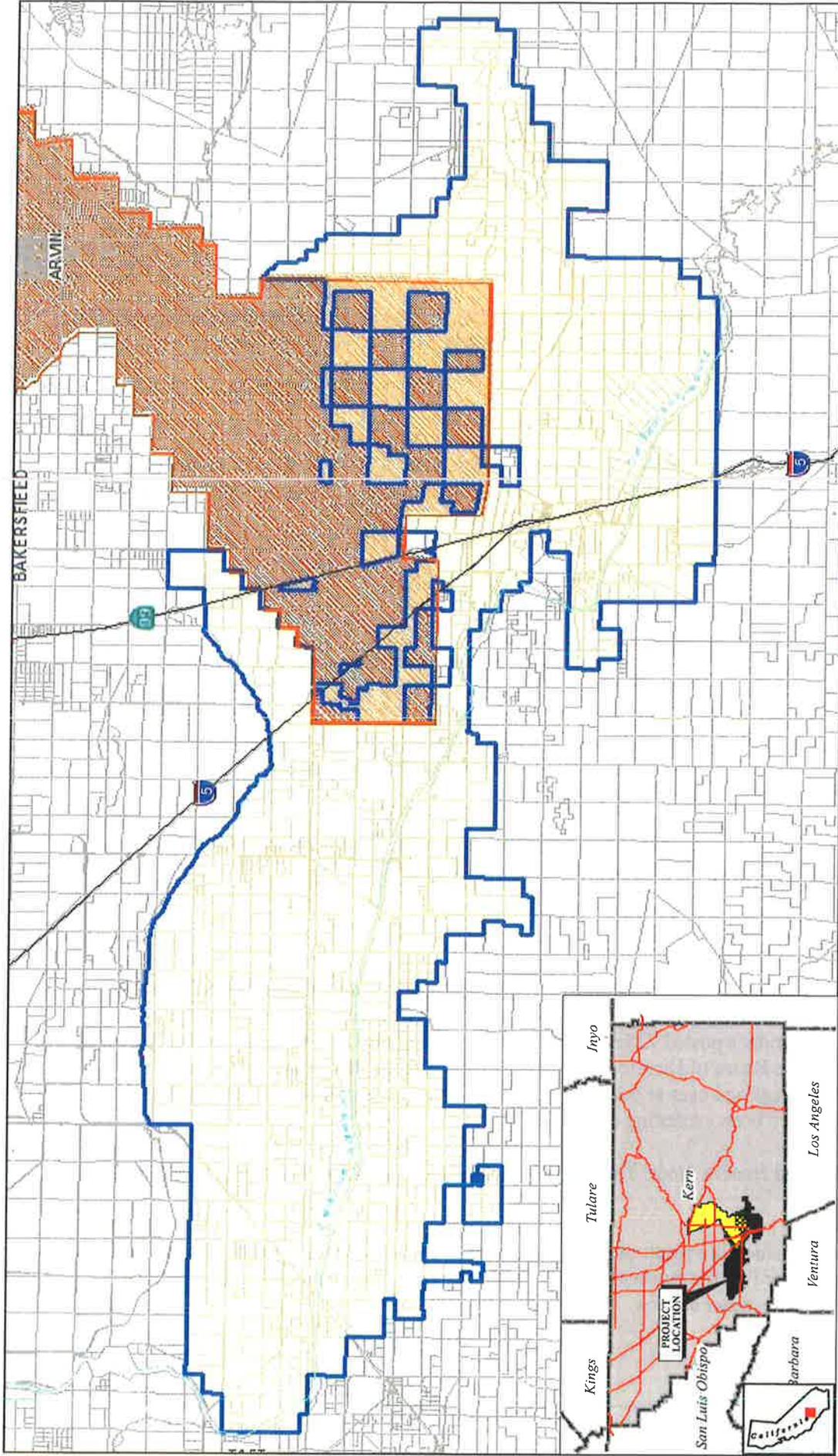


FIGURE 8.1

- LEGEND**
- County Boundary
  - Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
  - Arvin -Edison Water Storage District
  - Overlapping Areas

Kern County Municipal Service Review

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Boundary

SOURCE: Kern County  
I:\KCT330\GIS\districbound.cdr (6/8/07)

**Table 8.A: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Sources and Uses of Funds**

Sources of Funds	Percentage
Water Sales	88.4
Service Fees	1.4
Interest Income	7.0
Miscellaneous	3.4
Uses of Funds	Percentage
Source of Supply	60.1
Pumping and Maintenance	18.0
Distribution	4.5
Other Operating Expenses	1.0
General Administrative	6.6
Water Cost Adjustments	5.4
Other Non-Operating Expenses	4.4

Source: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Financial Statements for Years Ended December 31, 2005, and 2006.

**Table 8.B: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Summary of Total Revenues and Total Expenses**

	2004-2005 Actual	2005-2006 Actual	2006-2007 Budget
Total Revenues	\$28,731,000	\$32,671,000	\$31,858,246
Total Expenses	\$27,022,000	\$29,523,000	\$31,858,246
Net Revenues (Loss)	\$1,709,000	\$3,148,000	\$0

Source: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Financial Statements for Years Ended December 31, 2005, and 2006; District Budget for 2007.

**Table 8.C: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Reserve Fund Balances**

Reserve Fund	Balance
Operating Reserve	\$11,646,314
Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$3,135,339
Groundwater Replenishment Reserve	\$886,977
Contingency Reserve	\$11,766,166
Water Banking Reserve	\$10,698,773
Rate Stabilization Reserve	\$12,916,232
Kern Water Bank Authority Equipment Replacement Reserve	\$160,914
Employee Retirement Plan Reserve	\$476,911
1998 Water Marketing Reserve	\$4,047,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,734,972</b>

Source: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Financial Statements for Years Ended December 31, 2005, and 2006.

The District has adopted an investment policy with the objective of maximizing the yield of invested funds while assuring that the investments are safe from loss. Primarily, the District deposits funds in the Kern County Treasurer's Investment Program. The District has also adopted a purchasing policy with the objective of avoiding costs. The policy includes specific procedures for open market purchases, formal contract purchases, and emergency purchases.

New infrastructure, when necessary, is financed by utilizing the following funding sources:

- District reserve funds (i.e., Equipment Replacement Reserve and Water Banking Capital Reserve)
- Fees for services
- Annual Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement components of service charges
- Annual Capital Budget portion of service charges
- Bond Financing (although the District has refinanced its bond debt twice, no additional bond debt has been added since 1978)

#### 8.4 RATES FOR SERVICES

The District reviews rates annually along with preparation of the budget. Each year the District's customers are informed of their annual obligations for water service for the following year. The District collects fees for services in eight equal monthly installments beginning in February and ending in September.

The District levies rates through water service contracts, which are long-term contracts that require an annual accounting adjustment. This adjustment is based upon actual incurred costs. The District's rates are listed in Table 8.D. A range of rates are shown because different district areas are charged different amounts due to the location of service and the pumps needed to deliver water.

**Table 8.D: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Service Rates**

<b>Water Availability Charge*</b> <b>Per Acre-Foot</b>	<b>Water Use Charge</b> <b>Per Acre-Foot</b>	<b>Special Service Area Charge</b>
\$253.06-\$318.45	\$35.00-\$179.00	\$3.92

Source: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Budget for 2007.

\*Includes fixed obligations

#### 8.5 AGRICULTURAL WATER SERVICE

The District provides irrigation water service to approximately 90,000 acres of agricultural lands. Approximately 72,081 acres of this area are under water service contracts with the District, and approximately 18,000 acres are provided irrigation water service intermittently. The remaining 56,000 acres are undeveloped and used primarily for grazing. The undeveloped lands utilize groundwater supplies and do not currently receive service from the District. Likewise, many landowners have private wells on site that are primarily used and supplemented with water supplied from the District. Depending on land lease agreements, the number of District customers ranges from

100 to 150. The District also provides some of the water supply that is utilized by the Pastoria Energy Facility as well as small amounts of water for industrial purposes such as oil well drilling.

The District distributes State Water Project water from the California Aqueduct, which is provided via contract with the Kern County Water Agency under their entitlement from the State Water Project. The District currently receives 231,293 acre-feet of water from the Kern County Water Agency. This consists of 197,088 acre-feet of firm water and 34,205 acre-feet of surplus water. The District's current water demand is approximately 200,818 acre-feet per year. The District does not anticipate any measurable growth in demand for agricultural water; therefore, the District should have adequate water supply to meet its existing and future needs.

Due to the potential for reduced State Water Project water supply in drought years, the District has developed several additional sources of supply, which include: groundwater wells, banking programs, and transferring water from outside of the District. The District has 17 groundwater wells within the District's boundary. These wells are only operated during significantly dry years when water resources are low. Since 1990, these wells have only been utilized in 3 years.

As mentioned, the District is a participant in several water recharge and banking projects with other water agencies in the Kern County area. These projects include: Pioneer Project, Kern Water Bank, and Berrenda Mesa Project. The objective of these projects is to store surface water in the groundwater basin in years of excess water supply for extraction and use in future years of deficient water supply. The District's estimated groundwater storage on December 1, 2006 was:

- The Kern Water Bank – 308,975 acre-feet
- The Pioneer Project – 115,763 acre-feet
- The Berrenda Mesa Project – 10,519 acre-feet

The District's water delivery infrastructure consists of approximately 250 miles of pipelines, 144 pumps at several pumping stations, 8 miles of canal, 17 water wells, and a District office and facilities complex. There have been no significant infrastructure expansion projects since 1992. Additional infrastructure needs are determined by service requests.

The District has no plans for major capital improvement, replacement or upgrades of District facilities. However, the District is participating in the Cross Valley Canal Expansion Project to assure the availability of conveyance capacity from the California Aqueduct to groundwater banking facilities. The District's share of the projected capital costs is \$3.2 million. Construction began in February 2007 and is expected to be completed in spring 2009.

Due to the logistics of importing and storing water, the District's imported water is obtained through multiagency shared facilities. Due to the District's location, additional opportunities for shared facilities may exist with the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District.

A large area of the District overlaps areas that are within the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, as shown on Figure 8.1. Both water storage districts have facilities within this overlapping area and appear to serve areas that are adjacent to one another. The District has stated that there are no lands being served by both water storage districts. Each water storage district is providing services to areas

that its infrastructure can serve and where demand exists. The two Districts work together coordinating the provision of existing and future services to the parcels within this area. This coordination ensures that there is no overlap or doubling of service or fees and also to ensure that adequate service is provided as needed.

## **8.6 DETERMINATIONS FOR THE WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT**

The MSR guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research recommend that issues relevant to the jurisdiction be addressed through written determinations called for in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. Based on the above information, the following are the written determinations for the District.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the infrastructure needs and deficiencies in terms of supply, capacity, condition of facilities, and service quality.

1. No infrastructure deficiencies have been noted, and the District is meeting the current demand for services.
2. The District has no plans for major capital improvements, replacements, or upgrades. However, the District is participating in the Cross Valley Canal Expansion Project to assure the availability of conveyance capacity from the California Aqueduct to groundwater banking facilities.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

**Purpose:** To evaluate service needs based upon existing and anticipated growth patterns and population projections.

1. The District does not anticipate any measurable growth in demand for agricultural water within its service area. Regional projections show the City of Arvin's population growing approximately 4.80 percent annually through 2030. This growth would only affect the District if it resulted in large adverse impacts to water supply.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate a jurisdiction's capability to finance needed improvements and services.

1. No financing constraints have been identified.

### **Cost Avoidance Opportunities**

**Purpose:** To identify practices or opportunities that may help eliminate unnecessary costs.

1. The District has adopted purchasing policies to guide the District's procurement process and to avoid costs when possible.
2. The District's type of service provision and fixed contracts for water supplies limit potential cost avoidance opportunities.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

**Purpose:** To identify opportunities to impact rates positively without decreasing service levels.

1. The District provides services primarily via long-term contracts. The contracts allow for an annual adjustment to recoup actual incurred costs; however, due to the structure of these contracts, little opportunity for rate restructuring exists.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the opportunities for a jurisdiction to share facilities and resources to develop more efficient service delivery systems.

1. The District's imported water is obtained through multiagency shared facilities.
2. The District is a participant in several water banking and recharge projects with other agencies throughout the region and State.
3. Due to the location of the District, opportunities for shared facilities may exist with the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District.

### **Government Structure Options**

**Purpose:** To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various government structures to provide public services.

1. Based on the existing provision of service, it is reasonable to conclude that irrigation services can continue to be provided by the District under the existing government structure.
2. Areas of the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa and Arvin-Edison Water Storage Districts overlap. Because the two Districts work together to ensure that there is no overlap or doubling of service or fees and also to ensure that adequate service is provided as needed, no government structure changes are necessary at this time.

### **Evaluation of Management Efficiencies**

**Purpose:** To consider the management structure of the jurisdiction.

1. Having two agencies provide the same service within the same geographical area may not be the most efficient method of service provision. This MSR process may be the correct time to amend one or both of these water storage districts' boundaries and SOI to eliminate the overlap and have one agency serve the area.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

**Purpose:** To evaluate the accessibility and levels of public participation associated with the agency's decision-making and management processes.

1. Public participation is encouraged in District activities. Likewise, Board of Directors meetings are held pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.
2. The Board of Directors is elected by the landowners. Each landowner's assessed property valuation determines the number of votes held by each landowner.

## 9.0 ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONTACTED

Arvin Community Services District, Raymond Kincy, Manager

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, Dave Nixon, Assistant Manager

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, Steven Collup, Manager

Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District, Stuart Lawson, District Manager

City of Arvin, Cecilia Vela, City Clerk

City of Arvin, Enrique Medina Ochoa, City Manager

City of Arvin, Max Baccra, Contract Planner

Helt Engineering, Jerry Helt

South Kern Cemetery District, Risto Rubio, Manager

Veolia Water Systems, Michael Popichak

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, Mark Gardner, Controller

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, Robert Kunde, Assistant Engineer-Manager

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, William Taube, District Manager

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