

## **City of Placerville**

### Agency Profile

The City of Placerville (City), located in central El Dorado County, was incorporated in 1854 under the general laws of the State of California. The City is empowered to provide various municipal services, including the following:

- Maintenance of all public roadways within the City's boundaries
- Law enforcement
- Parks and recreation services
- Lighting and landscaping
- Drainage
- Water (*outsourced*)
- Wastewater
- Fire suppression (*outsourced*)

### *Land Use Character*

The City is located in the western portion of El Dorado County, centrally located between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe. It is intersected by US Highway 50 and State Highway 49 and has an average elevation of approximately 1,800 feet. The City serves a population of approximately 9,610 residents in an area of 5.86 square miles, with an additional 3.98 square miles included in the City's current sphere of influence. The predominant land uses within the City are residential (single- and multi-family properties) and commercial.

### *Level of Service*

### Road Maintenance

The City's current roadway infrastructure is comprised of approximately 53 miles of roadway within the City's boundaries. Several city streets connect to major traffic arteries, including State Highway 49 and U.S. Highway 50, as well as various County-maintained thoroughfares. Pedestrian facilities include sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian signals.

The City's Department of Public Works, through its "Streets and Roads Division," maintains the roadway infrastructure and necessary facilities. The Department services the roadway by providing pavement patching, street striping, sign installation and removal, street sweeping, snow removal and street sanding, storm drain maintenance, weed abatement, tree trimming and removal, graffiti removal, and the annual lawn and leaf pick up program. The Department's Engineering Division administers the majority of the City's Capital Improvement Program projects.

The Department has their own equipment, tools, and materials to maintain the streets and to construct additional streets as necessary. The Department also maintains the storm drains that remove water from the streets. The Department provides snow plow services to City streets and sands icy roads, when necessary.

The overall quality of the roadway infrastructure within the City is mixed, depending on location and frequency of maintenance. Portions of the current roadway infrastructure are considered by the City to be aging and deteriorated, due to inadequate funding available to maintain the street system. The City considers most of the existing street system to be generally adequate to accommodate existing uses. However, the City anticipates that the current levels of funding for roadways are insufficient to halt the continued deterioration of the City's street system. It has been unable to develop an effective road system improvement program because revenues from the state for transportation needs are population based and do not account for the regional traffic received by the City.

The City has worked with the El Dorado County Transportation Commission to evaluate the condition of the City's street system and develop an updated pavement management program to guide future maintenance and repair efforts. With this evaluation, the City should be able to determine the roadways that are in need of repair and maintenance, and identify the appropriate funding source.

#### Law Enforcement

All law enforcement services in the incorporated area are provided by the City of Placerville Police Department. The Police Department also provides SWAT team services outside the City, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Auburn and the County Sheriff. In addition, the City Police Department provides service to the unincorporated areas of Smith Flat and Cedar Ravine. The Police Department currently operates out of the City's Public Safety Building at 730 Main Street. The Police Department utilizes a 4,600 square foot area and additional space for storage.

The Department is currently undergoing a needs assessment to determine what facilities and equipment are required to serve the growing population. Three options are being explored; expansion of the current building, the use of an existing building within the City, or the construction of a new building within the City.

#### Drainage

Drainage services are performed through the Public Works Department, which maintains the extensive storm drainage system that covers all areas of the City. The storm drain system is separate from the sewer system, and is regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Urban runoff from areas located within the City limits is primarily discharged to Hangtown Creek, a tributary to Weber Creek and the South Fork of the American River. The City has prepared, in accordance with State and Federal Regulation, a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). The City's SWMP has been approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. The implementation of the SWMP requires actions to be carried out by the City on an ongoing basis.

#### Parks and Recreation

The Department of Community Services is responsible for planning and carrying out recreational opportunities for all segments of the community, maintenance, operation and development of parkland and open space and maintenance of City facilities. The

City maintains six parks, an improved 2.5-mile section of the El Dorado Trail within the City limits, an aquatic center and various adult and youth recreation programs.

The City's parks offer a variety of recreational uses for City residents. Facilities include various playground equipment, turf areas, tot lot areas, a meeting hall, basketball courts, a little league ball field, two softball fields, horseshoe pits, gold mine tours and gold panning, hiking trails, a museum and gift shop, a stamp mill, a small fishing pond, a rentable Gazebo, picnic facilities, and public restrooms.

The Placerville Aquatic Center is located at 3071 Benham Street in downtown Placerville. The facility includes a six-lane competitive swimming pool, diving board area, water slide, shallow wading pool and a separate activity pool with water play features. The Aquatic Center is open to the public June through August with a variety of programs for all ages. Lap-swimming and recreational swimming are offered at the Placerville Aquatic Center, with additional swim times at the Placerville High School.

The City offers a number of league sports including adult and youth basketball, adult softball and volleyball, and swim team. Classes offered include Arts and Crafts, Step Aerobics, Weights and Stretch, Pilates, Yoga, Tai Chi, Karate/Taekwondo Self Defense, and Dance, among others. Other youth sports camps for children include Mighty Mites Sports Camps, Junior Lifeguard Camp, Cougar Football, Junior Football, soccer, cheerleading and tennis.

#### Lighting and Landscaping

Lighting services are performed through the City's Public Works Department. The City provides lighting services along streets and City-owned parking lots within its commercial districts. In addition, the City administers two lighting and landscaping maintenance districts (LLMD) that are located within the City limits. The Orchard Hill LLMD provides maintenance to the Orchard Hill Park, on-site and off-site landscaping, and maintenance and operation of street lights within the Orchard Hill Subdivision. The Cottonwood Park LLMD provides street lighting services and maintenance to areas of open space and the future George F. Duffey Park. The City also provides some lighting services in residential districts within the City. The Public Works Department also conducts annual leaf pick-up services, visiting each street within the City on two dates every fall.

#### Water

The City of Placerville receives its water supply from the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) through an agreement entered into in 1999. Per the terms of the agreement, EID delivers and sells water to the City at historical use levels, including normal growth increases under normal operating conditions. EID conveys treated water to the periphery of the City's water service area via fourteen connections, and the City then distributes it through a system owned and operated by the City. Placerville's water system infrastructure includes a distribution system with three pumps, 37 miles of pipeline and one 40,000 gallon storage tank. The City's water service area encompasses a majority of its incorporated area and some parcels outside city boundaries. EID serves the remainder of the city and surrounding areas. The majority of Placerville's water demands are for residential use. In 2006, the City had 3,064 water

service accounts of which 85 percent are residential, 14 percent are commercial and multi-family residential, and one percent are City connections.

Wastewater

Placerville's wastewater service area encompasses most of the Hangtown Creek watershed, which includes areas that are outside city boundaries. The City's wastewater infrastructure system consists of 54 miles of wastewater collection pipelines, a treatment plant, three lift stations and discharge facilities. Wastewater is currently treated at the City's Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility located on Coolwater Creek Road. Treated wastewater is discharged into Hangtown Creek per the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

In 1999 however, the wastewater treatment plant was determined to be out of compliance with the discharge requirements under the NPDES permit. Consequently, the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Cease and Desist order with the requirement that the City upgrade the treatment plant to bring it into compliance with the discharge requirements. Construction on the upgrades is underway, and project completion is estimated for mid-2009. Upon completion, the Hangtown Creek Water Reclamation Facility will have a dry weather capacity of 2.3 million gallons per day.

Fire Suppression

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District (ECF) provides all fire protection and emergency services to the City of Placerville under an agreement with the City. The agreement automatically renews every year, unless notification of intent to withdraw is served by either party. Under the agreement, ECF provides fire prevention, fire training, inspections (including fire hydrants), plan checks, and weed abatement, in exchange for the property tax and 80% of the property tax increment generated within the City. The City's ISO rating is 6/9, which was last evaluated in September 2000.

Commission's Policies and Guidelines

LAFCO Policy 4.4 requires the Commission to review the following topics before making sphere of influence determinations. The Commission's review of fire suppression and emergency services, general government services, water and wastewater as well as road and road Maintenance addressed these requirements as noted below. All citations are from the *Final Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services Municipal Services Review* (Fire MSR), adopted by the Commission on August 23, 2006, the *Streets and Highways Municipal Services Review* (Road MSR), adopted by the Commission on December 5, 2007, the *Water, Wastewater and Power Municipal Services Review* (Water MSR), adopted by the Commission on January 30, 2008, and the *General Government Services / Municipal Services Review* (GGSI), adopted by the Commission on February 27, 2008.

**1. Service capacity, level and types of services currently provided by the agency, and areas where these services are provided**

- Fire Suppression – Refer to the Fire MSR, pages 110 to 112, “Services and Programs;”
- Road Maintenance – Refer to the Road MSR pages 2.4-3 to 2.4-4, “Section III – Infrastructure;” and page 2.4-10, “Section X – Infrastructure;”
- Water and Wastewater – Refer to the Water MSR, pages 2-1 to 2-2, “Section 2.1 – Overview;” and page 2-5, “Section 2.3 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies;”
- Law Enforcement, Drainage, Lighting and Landscaping, and Parks and Recreation – Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.4-7 to 2.4-10, “Section III – Infrastructure;” and page 2.4-10, “Section X – Infrastructure.”

**2. Financial capabilities and costs of service**

- Fire Suppression – Refer to the Fire MSR, pages 110 to 112, “Services and Programs;”
- Road Maintenance – Refer to the Road MSR pages 2.4-4 to 2.4-5, “Section IV – Financing and Rate Restructuring;” page 2.4-6, “Section V – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;” page 2.4-10, “Section X – Financing Constraints and Opportunities;” page 2.4-11, “Section – X – Rate Restructuring;” page 2.4-11, “Section X – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;”
- Water and Wastewater – Refer to the Water MSR pages 2-11 to 2-13, “Section 2.4 – Financing Constraints and Opportunities;” pages 2-13 to 2-14, “Section 2.5 – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;” pages 2-14 to 2-15, “Section 2.6 – Opportunities for Rate and Fee Restructuring;”
- Law Enforcement, Drainage, Lighting and Landscaping, and Parks and Recreation – Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.4-10 to 2.4-11, “Section IV – Financing and Rate Restructuring;” pages 2.4-11 to 2.4-12, “Section V – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;” page 2.4-18, “Section X – Financing Constraints and Opportunities;” and “Section X – Rate Restructuring;” and page 2.4-19, “Section X – Cost Avoidance Opportunities.”

**3. Topographic factors and areas of social and economic interdependencies**

- Fire Suppression – Refer to the Fire MSR pages 110 to 112, “Background;”
- Road Maintenance – Refer to the Road MSR pages 2.4-1, “Section I – Setting;”
- Water and Wastewater – Refer to the Water MSR page 2-1, “Section 2.1 – Overview;” pages 2-5 to 2-7, “Section 2.3.1 – Water Supply and Demand;” Law Enforcement and Parks and Recreation – Refer to the GGSI MSR page 2.5-1, “Section I – Setting.
- Law Enforcement, Drainage, Lighting and Landscaping, and Parks and Recreation – Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.4-1 to 2.4-3, “Section I – Setting.

**4. Existing and planned land uses, land use plans and policies, consistency with county and city general plans, and projected growth in the affected area**

- Fire Suppression – Refer to the Fire MSR pages 110 to 112, “Background;”
- Road Maintenance – Refer to the Road MSR page 2.4-1, “Section I – Setting;” pages 2.4-1 to 2.4-6, “Section II – Growth and Population;” page 2.4-10, “Section X – Growth and Population;”
- Water and Wastewater – Refer to the Water MSR page 2-1, “Section 2.1 – Overview;” page 2-4, “Section 2.2 – Growth and Population Projections;” pages 2-5 to 2-11, “Section 2.3 – Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies;”
- Law Enforcement, Drainage, Lighting and Landscaping, and Parks and Recreation – Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.4-1 to 2.4-3, “Section I – Setting;” pages 2.4-3 to 2.4-7, “Section II – Growth and Population;” and page 2.5-11, “Section X – Growth and Population.”

**5. Potential effects on agricultural and open space lands**

The City is primarily composed of residential, industrial and commercial areas. Most non-park areas in open space within the City are the result of ridge lines and topography. Its current boundaries include areas for infill and expansion development; however, they do not encompass any areas in active agricultural production. The City’s sphere of influence does contain some areas still in active agricultural production and parcels to the northwest that are either within or adjacent to the Gold Hill Agricultural District. The landowner has been pursuing a development project that, in its current form, could potentially lead to conflict of land use or growth-inducing effects onto that agricultural district.

**6. A description of the services that will be provided to any areas which may be added to the sphere and the timing and method for funding expansion of facilities or services**

- Road and Road Maintenance – Refer to the Road MSR page 2.4-3, “Section III – Infrastructure;” page 2.4-10, “Section X – Infrastructure;”
- Water and Wastewater – Refer to the Water MSR pages 2-5 to 2-11, “Section 2.3 – Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies;”
- Law Enforcement, Drainage, Lighting and Landscaping, and Parks and Recreation – Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.4-7 to 2.4-10, “Section III – Infrastructure;” and page 2.4-10, “Section X – Infrastructure.”

**7. An analysis of the effects of a proposed sphere of influence on other agencies and their service capabilities:**

Should the City expand its boundaries in the future, any area annexed into the City may also require detachment from County Service Area #9 to prevent overlapping services, most notably drainage and road maintenance services. In addition, due to the sensitive nature of the topic, the landowner, the County, the City and LAFCO

would have to meet and discuss any annexations that would include or be adjacent the Gold Hill Agricultural District.

## **DETERMINATIONS**

In determining the sphere of influence for each local agency, Government Code §56425(e) requires the Commission to consider and prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to four factors. Staff recommends the following determinations for updating the sphere for the City:

**1. *The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands.***

Present land uses within the City of Placerville include residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and open space. Planned land uses are anticipated to remain similar to current land uses and are defined in the City's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Except for the northwest areas, any potential expansion into the City's sphere of influence would be logical given the congruency between the City's rezoning and the current zoning under the County's General Plan.

**2. *The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.***

Present needs for police, parks, drainage, landscaping and lighting and wastewater services within the City of Placerville are currently being met; however, additional facilities and staffing may be required in the future. Municipal water and fire protection services are currently being met through agreements with El Dorado Irrigation District and El Dorado County Fire Protection District, respectively.

**3. *The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.***

The present capacity of the City of Placerville's Departments of Police, Community Services and Public Works appears to be sufficient to serve the existing community. The City appears to have sufficient personnel, infrastructure and equipment to provide a variety of services to its residents. For some services, the revenue streams may not be sufficient in the long term.

**4. *The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.***

There are no social or economic communities of interest in the area besides the City of Placerville. However, there are unincorporated areas surrounding the City which are receiving City services, and should be considered for annexation.

Based upon the information contained in this document, it is recommended that the City of Placerville Sphere of Influence be updated to affirm its current sphere, as shown in the map labeled "Exhibit A" and attached to Resolution L-2008-24.