

## **Kelsey Cemetery District Sphere of Influence Update**

### District Profile

The Kelsey Cemetery District (KCD) was formed by the Board of Supervisors as a public cemetery district in 1938, although the cemetery itself was in use for many decades prior to that. KCD operates one public cemetery in the town of Kelsey, which is located at the southern edge of the Georgetown Divide. The district reaches from Chili Bar Reservoir at the South Fork of the American River, north along Highway 193 into the communities of Kelsey, Spanish Flat and parts of Garden Valley. The Kelsey Cemetery is located on just over one acre of land which currently has approximately 800 occupied plots and could potentially accommodate an additional 300.

### *Land Use Character*

Land use in the district largely consists of rural residential, open space and agriculture lands, with some areas of medium- and low-density housing along the primary roadways. Most of the residential areas are clustered around Highway 193 and several other main arteries. There are no major commercial land uses within KCD. Portions of the district, primarily in the east and south, are federally owned by either the U.S. Forest Service or the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. These areas are primarily designated as Natural Resources lands.

### *Level of Service*

Although there are several financial issues that need to be addressed, the board members seem to be doing an acceptable job of managing the district with minimal resources. The cemetery is maintained to an adequate level throughout the year and the district appears to be suitably managed, despite the apparent lack of adequate funding and deficient management in the past.

### 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 recent review of public cemetery services addressed these requirements as noted below. All citations are from the Final Public Cemetery Services Municipal Service Review, which is scheduled to be considered and adopted by the Commission September 26, 2007.

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

Refer to page 60, "Background;" page 61, "Interment Operations;" page 61, "Maintenance Operations;" page 62, "Land and Infrastructure;" page 62, "Personnel and Staffing;" page 68, "Map 6: Kelsey Cemetery District;" pages 79-80 and 102, "Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies;" and pages 86-87 and 109, "Evaluation of Management Efficiencies & Local Accountability and Governance."

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

Refer to page 64, "Fee Schedule; pages 64-67, "Funding and Budget;" pages 81-82 and 103-106, "Financing Constraints and Opportunities;" pages 82-83 and 106, "Cost Avoidance Opportunities;" and pages 83-85 and 106-107, "Opportunities for Rate Restructuring."

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

Refer to page 60, "Background;" page 60, "Population and Growth;" pages 77-78, "Environmental Justice;" page 78, "Table 23: Study Area Population by Race;" and page 62, "Land and Infrastructure."

**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***

Refer to page 60, "Population and Growth;" page 61, "Interment Operations;" page 62, "Land and Infrastructure;" pages 79-80 and 102, "Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies;" and pages 80-81 and 102, "Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area."

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

Public cemetery services do not induce urban growth or the premature conversion of agricultural, open space or forest land to urban uses. In addition, KCD does not currently have any plans to purchase additional land for cemetery use and it is unlikely that the land use within the district will change significantly. The overwhelming majority of the district is composed of either agricultural lands or rural residential. Portions of the district, primarily in the east and south, are federally owned by either the U.S. Forest Service or the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Although the 2004 General Plan directs unincorporated growth to already existing population centers, or "community regions," such Garden Valley, this would encompass only a small portion of the 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***

No additional areas are proposed to be added to the KCD sphere of influence at this time. For information relating to the timing and method for funding expansion of facilities or services, refer to page 61, "Interment Operations;" page 67, "Endowment Care Fund;" page 67, "Additional Budgetary Considerations;" pages 79-80 and 102, "Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies;" pages 81-82 and 103-106, "Financing Constraints and Opportunities;" pages 82-83 and 106, "Cost Avoidance Opportunities;" and pages 85-86 and 108-109, "Government Structure Options."

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

Refer to pages 85 and 107-108, "Opportunities for Shared Facilities; and pages 85-87 and 108-109, Government Structure Options, Evaluation of Management Efficiencies & Local Accountability and Governance."

## **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 amending the sphere for DSP:

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

The majority of present land use in the KCD area includes rural residential and agricultural uses. Primarily residential areas within KCD are spread throughout the district; however, residential patterns loosely follow major road arteries, including Highway 193, Garden Valley Road, Garden Park Drive, Shoo Fly Road, Stewart Mine Road and Traverse Creek Road. Future land uses are expected to remain relatively unchanged, with population growth likely lower than the projections for other unincorporated portions of the Western Slope. The 2004 General Plan encourages future development to remain within the community regions such as Garden Valley. There are no known development proposals expected to occur outside of the cemetery district boundary within the immediate vicinity that may require a future amendment to the KCD sphere of influence.

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

The current population of the area within the KCD is approximately 2,000. Given the 2004 County General Plan population projections and the historically slower growth pattern in the Kelsey area, KCD can expect to serve fewer than 3,300 residents in the next 20 years. With this modest population increase, the estimated average mortality rate and estimated 300 ground plots still available, the district should have adequate capacity to serve the given area for at least the next 50 years.

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

The KCD Board has been very conservative with operational expenditures; only budgeting enough funds to cover the minimal operational costs. Despite the district's lack of employed staff and current fiscal challenges, it appears to be providing an acceptable level of service to its residents. KCD is adequately preparing for future cemetery maintenance with an established endowment care fund, which, if managed properly, should be sufficient to sustain the current level of maintenance once the cemetery reaches full capacity and is no longer able to generate funds through the sale of plots.

**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.***

Garden Valley is the only social or economic community of interest that is partially included within the KCD boundaries, which amounts to a relatively small portion of the district area.

Based upon the information contained in this document, it is recommended that the Kelsey Cemetery District sphere of influence be updated to affirm the original sphere (as shown in Attachment B2), which is coterminous with its current boundaries.