

Orick Community Services District

Municipal Service Review



March 2008

Prepared by:



HUMBOLDT
Local Agency Formation Commission

For the District Sphere of Influence Report

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LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION AUTHORITY

Latent Powers, Enabling Legislation and Empowered Services

The fundamental role of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is to implement the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (The Act) consistent with local conditions and circumstances. The Act guides LAFCo's decisions. The major goals of LAFCo as established by The Act are to:

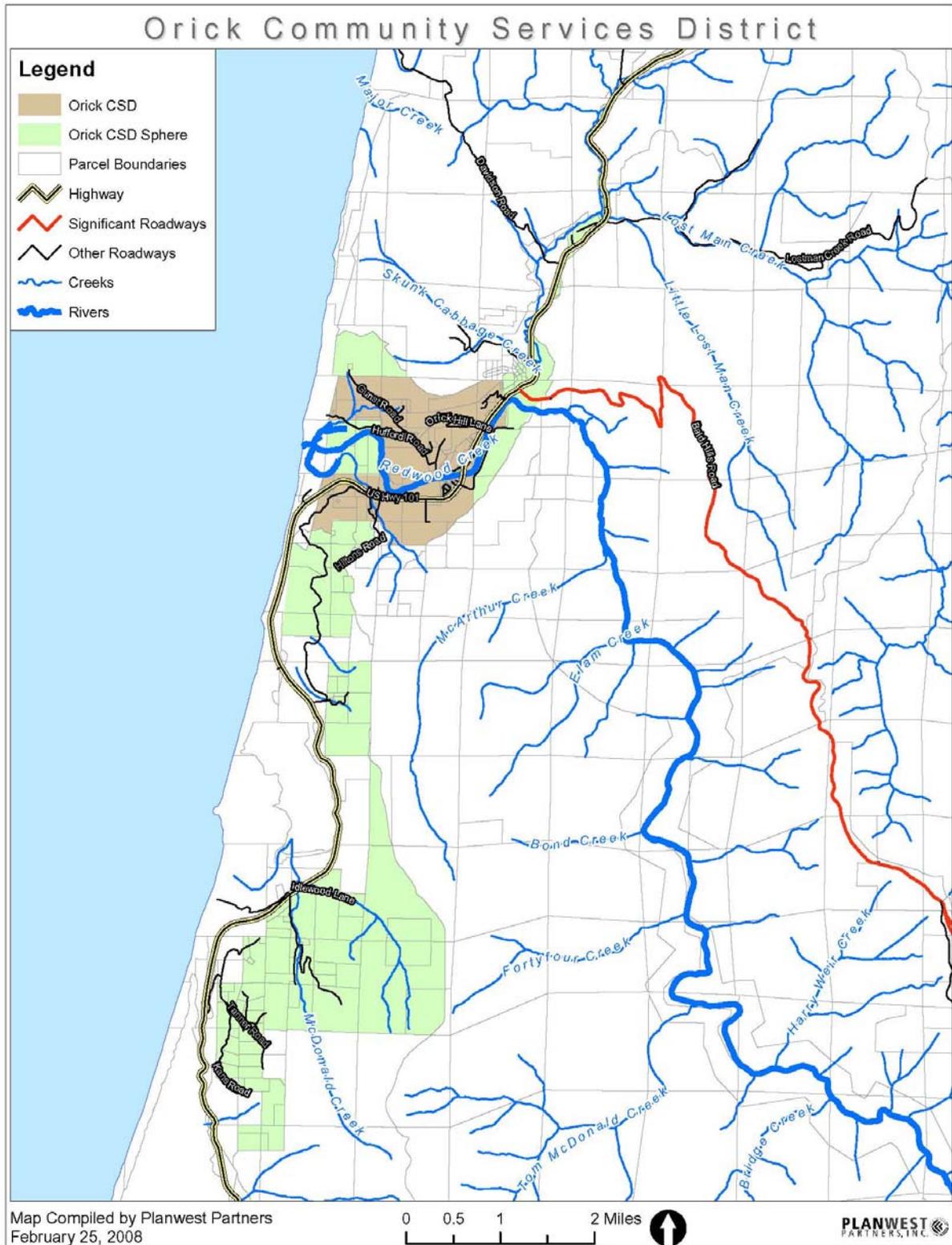
- Encourage orderly growth and development;
- Promote orderly development;
- Discourage urban sprawl;
- Preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands by guiding minimizing resource loss;
- Exercise its authority to ensure that affected populations receive efficient services;
- Promote logical formation and boundary modifications that direct the burdens and benefits of additional growth to those local agencies that are best suited to provide services;
- Make studies and obtain and furnish information which will contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies to provide for present and future needs;
- Establish priorities by assessing and balancing community service needs with financial resources available to secure and provide community services and to encourage government structures that reflect local circumstances, conditions and financial resources;
- Determine whether new or existing agencies can feasibly provide needed services in a more efficient or accountable manner and, where deemed necessary,

As set fourth in § 56425 (g) of The Act, on or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, Humboldt LAFCo shall review and update each Sphere of Influence (SOI). Additionally, an MSR shall be conducted with, or in conjunction with the action to establish or to update a SOI pursuant to The Act. Together, the SOI and MSR documents analyze the District's ability to serve existing and future residents.

In order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence in accordance with § 56425, Humboldt LAFCo shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the Orick Community Services District (CSD). The commission shall include in the designated for service review area any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to the following:

- (1) Infrastructure needs or 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;
- (8) Evaluation of management efficiencies; and
- (9) Local accountability and governance.

Figure 1. Orick CSD Map-District Boundary and Sphere of Influence



AGENCY PROFILE

The community of Orick is located in the northwestern corner of Humboldt County along U.S. Highway 101. It is a rural town surrounded by Redwood National and State Parks, private forests, and agricultural lands; Redwood Creek meanders through town. Orick Community Services District (CSD) currently provides water and fire services to an area of approximately 2.3 square miles.

Formation

The Orick CSD was formed in 1955 and was organized pursuant to Resolution No. 2130 adopted under the Community Services District Law, pursuant to California Government Code, Title 6, Division 2. The governing board of the District is the Board of Supervisors; however, a five member Board of Directors is elected by the citizens of the District to supervise the business of the District. The District was formed for the purpose of providing water and fire protection services.

Figure 1 (above) shows the district boundary, service boundary, and sphere of influence of the Orick CSD.

GROWTH AND POPULATION

County Population

According to the 2000 Census, the total population in Humboldt County was 126,518. California Department of Finance projections indicate an anticipated total compounded growth of 13.1 percent through the year 2025, which is lower than the 16.6 percent growth experienced in the past 20.¹ The Building Communities Report for the Humboldt County General Plan Update includes a complete discussion of County Population Trends.

District Population

The County population estimates for the Orick community are shown on the following page. Orick is one of the Communities the County of Humboldt has designated as an Urban Study Area (USA) as part of the General Plan Update. The Orick USA is defined in the Humboldt County General Plan Update and is comprised of Orick's commercial center and surrounding residential areas. A Water Study Area (WSA) was also defined for Orick and contains four separate areas surrounding the Orick USA. However, only one area of the WSA is located within the Orick CSD's sphere of influence.

Based on the County's housing growth projections of between 0.5% and 2.5%, the Orick USA could have between 115 and 170 total residential units by 2025. The high build-out estimates for total development potential within the USA, which takes into consideration physical and zoning constraints is 134. Therefore, the growth projections for the study area are in excess of what the land can bear. The high build-out estimates for total development potential of 134 in the USA represents 30 new housing units.² The following tables contain Orick demographics from the 2000 census.

General Demographic Characteristics of Orick Residents

| General Characteristics | Orick # | Orick % | Humboldt County % | U.S. |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|-------|
| Total population | 487 | | | |
| Male | 235 | 48.3% | 49.4% | 49.1% |
| Female | 252 | 51.7% | 50.6% | 50.9% |
| Median age (years) | 41.7 | N/A | N/A | 35.3 |
| Under 5 years | 35 | 7.2% | 5.6% | 6.8% |
| 18 years and over | 361 | 74.1% | 76.8% | 74.3% |
| 65 years and over | 72 | 14.8% | 12.5% | 12.4% |
| Average household size | 2.42 | N/A | N/A | 2.59 |
| Average family size | 2.93 | N/A | N/A | 3.14 |
| Total housing units | 247 | | | |
| Occupied housing units | 201 | 81.4% | 91.6% | 91.0% |
| Owner-occupied housing units | 106 | 52.7% | 57.6% | 66.2% |
| Renter-occupied housing units | 95 | 47.3% | 42.4% | 33.8% |
| Vacant housing units | 46 | 18.6% | 8.4% | 9.0% |

Source: US CENSUS data 2000

Facility/Services Plans or Similar Documents

Prior to the preparation of this Municipal Services Review, a Draft Master Service Element for the Orick CSD was prepared in March 2003 for the Sphere of Influence Report. In October 2007, a draft Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report was prepared for the Humboldt County General Plan Update.

SERVICES

Orick CSD provides water and fire service to District residents. The Orick CSD which was originally organized in 1955 pursuant to the Government Code. The governing board of the District is the Board of Directors, elected by the citizens of the District. The District was formed for the purpose of providing water and fire protection services.

WATER

The initial Orick CSD water system was built in 1977-1978 with funds obtained from the State of California under the Davis-Grunsky Program and the Farmers Home Administration at a cost of approximately \$400,000. The initial construction of the water system served most of the residents of the Orick Community. At the time of planning the existing system, the need for water to service the area south of Orick was recognized but funding availability forced the curtailment of the project. Funding for the extension of the system was granted with aid from Redwood National Park in 1983.

The original system consisted of two 60 foot wells with 10 hp submersible pumps, a 100,000 gallon redwood storage tank, and 8-inch, 6-inch, and 4-inch distribution lines. In 1978, an 8-inch line was extended southwest along the north side of U.S. 101 in anticipation of the 1987 expansion. The 8-inch line was extended west past Hilton Road to the National Park Service Visitors' Center in 1987.

Currently there are 140 active service connections including 120 residential and 20 commercial/industrial. The District also provides water services to the Redwood National Park Visitors' Center. The Orick CSD retailed approximately 17 million gallons of drinking water in 2003 according to the 2007 DHS annual inspection report. The District does not maintain average daily use and maximum daily use statistics. However, from the DHS annual production data, it is estimated that average daily use for the entire District was approximately 0.047 MGD, and the District estimates peak daily use is approximately 0.216 MGD. Approximately 73% of Orick households are serviced with water. Some homes in the northern area of the community are not served with water as they are outside the CSD boundaries.

Orick's water system is in good condition. An infrastructure deficiency associated with the existing system is lack of storage capacity. The storage tanks are constructed of redwood and will likely need either rehabilitation or replacement within the planning period. The Orick USA and WSA are expected to receive up to 66 new housing units before reaching build-out conditions. Orick will need to expand its water system infrastructure to serve this additional growth.

Orick's water system has limited source capacity from its wells with respect to availability of connections. Source capacity is limited by the existing pumps and is approximately 0.274 MGD if the pumps are operated 24 hours per day. Given existing maximum day demands are estimated at 0.216 MGD, the system is operating at approximately 79% of source capacity. Therefore, there are approximately 37 available connections under the existing infrastructure. Additional source capacity could be achieved through the installation of larger pumps at the existing well.

Infrastructure, Facilities and Services

Water Source and Treatment. The water system is a public water system, and as such must be operated to meet the requirements of the State of California. The District maintains two active wells. One well has a capacity of 80 gpm, and the other has a capacity of 110 gpm, according to DHS inspection records, for a total production capacity of 0.274 MGD. The wells are operated manually, as well as the chlorination system. Wells are rotated into production manually each week. Continuous disinfection is achieved through a LMI Company positive displacement diaphragm feeder that directly injects chlorine into the well casings. The District maintains one pressure zone in its distribution system, serviced by approximately 6 miles of 4-inch through 8-inch PVC and AC pipe. The District's storage capacity includes two 100,000 gallon redwood storage tanks built in 1977 and 1987. This represents less than one day of storage.

Water Demand. The pumping capacity of the District’s water system is approximately 274,000 gallons per day. The peak daily demand is approximately 216,000 gallons per day. Given existing maximum day demands, the system is operating at approximately 79% of source capacity.³

Water Storage and Distribution System. The District’s storage capacity includes two 100,000 gallon redwood storage tanks built in 1977 and 1987. This represents less than one day of storage. The District maintains one pressure zone in its distribution system, serviced by approximately 6 miles of 4-inch through 8-inch PVC and AC pipe.⁴

Infrastructure Deficiencies

The District’s water system is currently limited by the source capacity of its wells with respect to availability of connections; source capacity is limited by the existing pumps. Additional source capacity could be achieved through the installation of larger pumps within the existing wells. The current water system lacks storage – less than one day at maximum day demands. Having only 1 day (24 hours) of storage to meet the maximum daily demands is considered the minimum, and generally it is recommended that a District have at least two or three times that amount. Further, the storage tanks are constructed of redwood, are 20 and 30 years old and will likely need rehabilitation or replacement.

The system has also returned positive monitoring results for trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids in the recent past and efforts should be taken to minimize the presence of these disinfection byproducts. There is a leak present in the older of the two redwood storage tanks. The District is also in need of a cross connection control program to address actual and/or avoid potential connections between potable and non-potable water supplies.

Planned Improvements

The following table summarizes the infrastructure assessment for the Orick USA/WSA and addresses infrastructure needs for existing development and for build-out conditions. There are no planned developments within the USA/WSA, and therefore infrastructure for the next 10-year planning horizon was not assessed.

The following table is excerpted from the Humboldt County Community Infrastructure Services Technical Report for the General Plan Update.

Table 6-12. Water system infrastructure assessment for the Orick USA and WSA.

| WATER SYSTEM STATISTICS | |
|--|---------------------|
| # of Existing Connections | 140 |
| # of Available Connections ¹ | 37 |
| Source Capacity (MGD) | 0.274 |
| Storage Capacity (MG) | 0.2 |
| Treatment Capacity (MGD) | Not required |
| Peak Day Use (MGD) | 0.216 |
| Usage Rate (gpd/connection) | 1,543 |
| CORRECTION OF EXISTING DEFICIENCIES | |
| Proposed Infrastructure Upgrades | Estimated Cost (\$) |
| Additional storage – 0.136 MG ² | \$272,000 |
| Estimated Cost for Existing Deficiencies (\$) | \$272,000 |
| Estimated Cost per Existing Connection (\$) | \$1,943 |
| Estimated Financing Cost per Existing Connection (\$/Month) | \$10.39 |
| LOW BUILD-OUT ESTIMATE | |
| # of Projected New Connections | 55 |
| Proposed Infrastructure Upgrades | Estimated Cost (\$) |
| Additional storage – 0.085 MG ³ | \$170,000 |
| Additional source capacity – larger pump for well | \$20,000 |
| Estimated Cost for Build-Out Infrastructure (\$) | \$190,000 |
| Estimated Cost per New Connection (\$) | \$3,455 |
| Combined Cost for Build-Out and Existing Deficiencies (\$) | \$462,000 |
| Estimated Cost per Connection (\$) | \$2,369 |
| Estimated Financing Cost per Connection (\$/Month) | \$12.66 |
| HIGH BUILD-OUT ESTIMATE | |
| # of Projected New Connections | 66 |
| Proposed Infrastructure Upgrades | Estimated Cost (\$) |
| Additional storage – 0.102 MG ³ | \$204,000 |
| Additional source capacity – larger pump for well | \$20,000 |
| Estimated Cost for Build-Out Infrastructure (\$) | \$224,000 |
| Estimated Cost per New Connection (\$) | \$3,394 |
| Combined Cost for Build-Out and Existing Deficiencies (\$) | \$496,000 |
| Estimated Cost per Connection (\$) | \$2,408 |
| Estimated Financing Cost per Connection (\$/Month) | \$12.87 |

NOTES: ¹ The number of available connections in the Orick study areas was estimated based on the District currently being at 79% of its source capacity.

² Additional storage requirements are based on 1 day of existing maximum day use (0.216 MG) plus minimum fire storage of 120,000 gallons minus existing storage (0.2 MG).

³ Additional storage requirements are based on 1 day of estimated maximum day use for new connections (# of projected new connections x 1,543 gpd/connection).

The above estimated costs are based upon assumptions and the actual costs will be different. With a lack of reserves in place, funding for correcting existing deficiencies would likely come in the form of a low interest loan, like a State Revolving Fund loan which currently has loan terms of 20 years at 2.5% interest. At this rate, annual payments for a \$272,000 loan would amount to approximately \$17,500 per year. With 140 existing ratepayers, monthly bills would have to be increased to repay this loan. The District would hopefully obtain grant funding that would reduce the local cost. In addition, actual improvements would be sized to correct both existing can be done it will provide savings through economies of scale.

Future connections should buy into the existing infrastructure through connection fees. These should be determined by detailed rate studies and financial analyses. The unit costs shown under the low and high build-out estimates represent a minimum value for a connection fee, as these

numbers do not reflect new connections' cost for sharing of the existing infrastructure. District specific studies (master plans) or project specific studies (facility plans) should be used to appropriately distribute the costs between existing and new users.

Fire Protection & Emergency Services

The Orick Community Services District is responsible for providing fire protection services, through the Orick VFD, to the unincorporated community of Orick. The CSD owns the fire hall engines and telecommunications equipment. The CSD also maintains equipment. The Orick VFD provides all staffing and response for fire and medical calls.

The largest facilities within Orick are Redwood National Park Operation Center, its downtown commercial strip along U.S. 101, and the Simpson Timber Mill just north of town. The Orick CSD boundary is 2.3 square miles, with a total response area of 123.8 miles. The district has one 1971 fire engine, and one engine from the 1960's. The District maintains a pump truck, a tanker truck, a quick response vehicle with the Jaws of Life, and an emergency van which responds to accidents and other medical calls.

First responders in the Orick area are the Orick Volunteer Fire Department, State and National Park Service, Arcata/Mad River Ambulance, United States Forest Service, and the California Highway Patrol. Orick is one of only a few "Tsunami Ready" communities in Humboldt County.

Current methods and capabilities for emergency services communications in the Orick area include two-way radios, telephone, cellular phones, satellites, dial-up Internet and television. Radio contact through the fire station, regional Sheriffs office, and local forest management agencies is the primary form of emergency communications. Cellular phones are also used, but previous communication studies have shown northern Humboldt County has many dead zones.

Wastewater

The District has latent powers to provide wastewater services, and is proposing to provide wastewater service to the households and businesses currently served by its water system.

All existing development within the District currently relies on on-site septic systems for wastewater treatment and disposal. Pollution from failing septic tanks has been found to be widespread and contaminating local groundwater sources. A Feasibility Study – Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal report was completed in September 2004 by SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists, Inc. as part of a Housing and Community Development Block Grant.

The community has expressed interest in developing a community-wide system to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater. The community has received Proposition 50 funding for the system, and is in the process of identifying a preferred consultant to prepare studies and identify an

alternative best suited for the community. They are evaluating several alternatives, including a wetland system and a STEP system.⁵

The District will soon be completing a supplemental facilities plan and will be selecting a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system. Following completion of the facilities plan and a CEQA review, a Report of Waste Discharge will need to be filed with the RWQCB prior to permit approval. It is expected the process will take five to ten years.⁶

The following table is excerpted from the Humboldt County Community Infrastructure Services Technical Report for the General Plan Update.

Table 7-13. Wastewater system infrastructure assessment for the Orick USA.

| WASTEWATER SYSTEM STATISTICS | |
|---|---------------------|
| # of Existing Connections | 0 |
| # of Available Connections ¹ | According to design |
| LOW & HIGH BUILD-OUT ESTIMATES | |
| # of Projected Connections ¹ | 144 |
| Needed Infrastructure Upgrades | Estimated Cost (\$) |
| New Collection System | \$4,000,000 |
| New Treatment System | \$2,000,000 |
| New Disposal System | \$1,000,000 |
| Secured Grant Funding (\$) | \$2,500,000 |
| Estimated Cost for Build-Out Infrastructure (\$) | \$4,500,000 |
| Est. Cost per Total Future Connection (\$) | \$31,250 |
| Est. Financing Cost per Total Future Connection (\$/Month) | \$167.05 |

NOTES: ¹ The wastewater treatment plant is being designed to serve an estimated 144 connections.

Parks and Recreation

The District provides water services to Redwood National Park Visitors' Center. The Visitors' Center utilizes approximately 72,000 gallons of water per day.

Telecommunications

In 2007 a business plan was developed to extend telecommunications services to Orick, referred to as the Orick Net system. The town of Orick would be the center of the service area. The geographic area being considered for the Orick Net system would extend from the Big Lagoon causeway at the south end to Prairie Creek State Park campground and Visitor Center on the north end, roughly along Highway 101. Wolf Creek Education Center, Prairie Creek Campground, Redwood Trails RV Park, Redwood Park Lodge, Green Diamond, Freshwater Lagoon, Stone Lagoon, McDonald Creek. Residences and businesses along Kane Road, Bald Hills Road, and Lost Man Creek Road would also be within the service area.

The system outlined in the business plan is designed to elevate the current dial-up service offered in Orick to high speed Internet access. This will require new infrastructure, new service providers and a new local management entity.

The recommendation for Orick Net is to use a point to multi point access system. A 900MHz band should be used for the point to multi-point access point systems, to provide improved coverage, system reliability, and performance. For the backhaul links between sites, the recommended point to point systems should be a 5.8 GHz band, to provide increased bandwidth and high reliability.

For backhaul to an Internet connection, the Orick Net system should include construction of a point to point system connecting the network to a business that can provide an Internet connection in Eureka. This would increase the capital costs, but would greatly reduce the recurring costs, improving the network's potential long term success. A tower location near Arcata or Eureka should be used as a radio repeater site, with an additional link to an ISP, to keep recurring costs low.

Assuming the capital costs can be covered through loans or outside grant funding, the projected revenue would need to cover the loan repayment and recurring costs for leased services, Internet access, network operations, equipment maintenance, and the cost to lease tower space for the antennas. If grant funding is secured for capital costs, and some of the recurring costs are able to be shared, the proposed Orick wireless broadband network has a very good prospect of being self-sustaining. (Source: Orick Net Business Plan, Planwest Partners 2007).

OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

The County of Humboldt provides general governmental services and law enforcement services throughout the territory of the District. The District is/ within the State Responsibility area for fire protection service from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

FINANCING CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Revenues and Expenditures

The Orick CSD water system annual budget is shown below. The majority of this income is from service charges, but funding also comes from property taxes, interest revenue, connection fees, and other smaller sources.

Budget

Orick CSD Water Department Budget 2007/2008

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| REVENUES: | |
| WATER SALES | \$66,775.00 |
| MISC | \$50.00 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$66,825.00 |
| EXPENSES: | |
| SALARIES | \$21,096.00 |
| PAYROLL TAXES | \$3,872.00 |
| POSTAGE | \$550.00 |
| OFFICE SUPPLIES | \$2,500.00 |
| INSURANCE | \$1,850.00 |
| UTILITIES | \$6,600.00 |
| PHONE | \$1,100.00 |
| WATER TESTS | \$1,500.00 |
| TRAVEL | \$3,000.00 |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | \$6,500.00 |
| REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE | \$10,000.00 |
| DUES & MEMBERSHIPS | \$700.00 |
| EDUCATION | \$350.00 |
| WATER SYSTEM FEES | \$0.00 |
| UNCOLLECTABLE ACCTS | \$1,000.00 |
| SUBTOTAL EXPENSES | \$60,618.00 |
| DEPRECIATION EXPENSE | \$22,050.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$82,668.00 |
| NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS |)\$15,842(|
| NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSE): | |
| PROPERTY TAXES | \$4,200.00 |
| INTEREST INCOME | \$2,500.00 |
| INTEREST EXPENSE | \$5,700.00 |
| NET REVENUES (UNDER EXPENSES) |)14,842(|
| CASH FLOW: | |
| NET REVENUES (UNDER)EXPENSES |)14,842(|
| ADD BACK NON-CASH EXPENSE | |
| DEPRECIATION | \$22,050.00 |
| LESS LOAN PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS | \$7,208.00 |
| NET POSITIVE(NEGATIVE) CASH FLOW | \$7,208 |

SERVICE RATES

Service Rates

All water connections are metered. The Orick CSD currently charges a base monthly fee of \$18.00 per month for the first 300 cubic feet of water use. Additional water use above the baseline costs \$2.60 per 100 cubic feet. Fire service is extended to all water customers and the costs of fire service are included in this fee. The Orick CSD charges a water system connection fee of \$1,250.

Update Process

The Board periodically reviews and adjusts fees as necessary to cover operating and maintenance costs. The Orick CSD Board recently approved a 20% rate increase for water use. This fee increase becomes effective May 1, 2008. The water connection fee will also be increased as of May 1, 2008.

LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Contact Information

| Orick Community Services District | |
|--|---|
| Contact: | Karla Cummings |
| Mailing Address: | P.O. Box 224, Orick CA 95555 |
| Site Address: | 101 Swan Road |
| Phone Number: | (707) 488-5741 |
| Email/ Website: | ocsd@gmail.com & ocsdww@gmail.com |
| Types of Services: | Water, Fire |
| Population Served (estimate): | 290 |
| Size of Service Area (Acres): | 1,489 |
| Date of Formation: | 1955 |
| Staff and Facilities | |
| Number of Paid Staff | 2 plus a contract system maintenance person |

Board Meeting Times and Locations

The five member board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the CSD office, 101 Swan Road in Orick. Meeting agendas are posted at the CSD office and at the Orick Post Office.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

Growth and Population

Based on the County's housing growth projections of between 0.5% and 2.5%, the Orick CSD could have up to 170 residential units by 2025. There is also potential growth in commercial and recreational uses, that would result from Redwood Park Lodge Company (RPLC) proposals to build lodging facilities in the Orick area, and on land owned by RPLC north of town. The RPLC recently renovated six vacation rentals north of town. These units are not currently connected to the Orick CSD water system. The Orick CSD Sphere of Influence extends south to the Stone and Dry Lagoon areas. Water system extension to those areas is not planned, but could result in low density residential growth.

Infrastructure

The initial Orick CSD water system was built in 1977-1978 and was extended west to the Redwood National Park Visitor Center in 1987. Given existing maximum day demands, the system is operating at approximately 79% of source capacity. In order to serve projected growth, the District would need to expand its water system infrastructure. An infrastructure deficiency associated with the existing system is lack of proper storage capacity. The storage tanks are constructed of redwood and will likely need either rehabilitation or replacement. The system also needs a new chlorinator and an automated pump for the well.

The District is proposing to provide wastewater service to the Orick community. Several grants have been secured for the design and construction of a municipal system. This proposed system would address public health conditions that exist in the Community. The lack of a wastewater system was identified as the most limiting growth factor for the community. System completion is tentatively scheduled for 2010 or 2011.

The Orick CSD also sees the lack of high speed telecommunications as a limiting factor for the community. There is currently state legislation pending that would allow CSDs, under certain circumstances, to provide telecommunications services. Given its rural location and lack of service providers in the area, the Orick CSD could be a viable provider of this type of infrastructure.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The community has received Proposition 50 funding for pursuing a wastewater system, and is in the process of identifying a preferred consultant to prepare studies and identify an alternative best suited for the community. For further funding the District should investigate grants and/or low interest loans for the construction of the community wastewater system.

The Orick CSD has recently increased water service and connection fees, however even the new fees are low, compared to many comparable CSDs. The CSD has had to reduce office hours and cut staff benefits due to financial constraints.

Rate Restructuring

The water rates were recently reviewed and increased. The CSD Board has the ability to periodically review and adjust rates. Wastewater facility development will require that a new

wastewater rate be developed. Should legislation allow and the CSD decide to provide telecommunications services, appropriate rates would need to be set for that service.

Cost Avoidance Opportunities

Because of the District's small size and location away from other water service providers, there are no significant cost avoidance opportunities available to the District for water service.

Opportunities for Shared Facilities

There are currently no other water or wastewater service providers near the Orick CSD. The Redwood National and State Parks do not provide these services.

Government Structure Options

Orick CSD is currently pursuing providing wastewater services to District residents. They would exercise their latent powers to provide this services.

Evaluation of Management Efficiencies

The District has a management program in place and is providing services to the District.

Local Accountability

The governing board of the District is the five member Board of Directors elected by District residents. District staff is available to the public via phone and email and Board meetings are open to the public.

SOURCES

¹ DYET T & BHATIA. 2002. Humboldt 2025 General Plan Update. Building Communities Report.

² Humboldt County General Plan Update. Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report, Preliminary Draft, October 2007. <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/gp/gpdemo/GPU-TOC-Demo3.htm#ch7>

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid