

# 6.0 MIRANDA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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## 6.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

### Agency Overview

The Miranda Community Services District (CSD) provides water, wastewater, and fire services to the community of Miranda located east of Highway 101 and the South Fork Eel River, between Phillipsville and Myers Flat. The community is located along the Avenue of the Giants scenic highway which meanders through giant redwood forests. There is an abundance of outdoor recreation within and surrounding the District including hiking, camping, fishing, and swimming.

**Table 6-1: Agency Summary**

<b>Primary Contact</b>	Barbara Ristow, Office Manager
<b>E-mail</b>	mirandacsd@gmail.com
<b>Address</b>	P.O. Box 160 Miranda, CA 95553
<b>Phone</b>	(707) 943-3073
<b>Website</b>	N/A

### District Principal Act

The District's principal act is the Community Services District Law (Government Code §61000, et seq.) which authorizes CSDs to provide up to 31 types of governmental services within their boundaries. Miranda CSD is authorized to provide water, wastewater, and fire protection services. Other services, facilities, functions, or powers enumerated in the District's principal act but not identified in the formation resolution or later activated are "latent," meaning that they are authorized by the principal act under which the District is formed but are not being exercised. Latent powers and services activation require LAFCo authorization as indicated in Government Code §56824.10-14.

### Formation and Development

Miranda CSD was declared formed on January 17, 1964, by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 1941) after a special election was held. The District was formed to provide water services to the community. Fire services were authorized by the voters of the District in an election in November 1973 and wastewater services were authorized sometime thereafter by the election process. Other powers authorized by CSD Law are considered latent and must be activated by LAFCo before provision of service begins.

### Boundary and Sphere of Influence

The District's boundary encompasses a total of 309 acres (0.48 square miles). Within the District boundary, the majority of parcels are developed with single family homes with some commercial development. The northern and western boundaries of the District are surrounded by Humboldt Redwoods State Park, on its southwestern boundary is the South Fork Eel River, and in the east are steep slopes and lands in Timber Production (TPZ) zones.

The District has two service-specific spheres of influence (SOIs), one for all services that includes water, wastewater and fire protection that is coterminous with the current District boundary and one for fire-only services that corresponds with the fire department's goodwill response area, which includes an additional 11,262.5 acres that extends south to Redway and north towards Fruitland Ridge. A portion of the District's fire services SOI, approximately 941 acres, is proposed to be removed so as not to overlap with the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District boundary as shown in Figure 6-2.

There are several parcels located outside the District boundary that currently receive water and/or wastewater services by Miranda CSD, as shown in Table 6-2. The parcel that receives water and wastewater services is designated Commercial Services (CS); the remaining parcels located to the south of the District boundary along the South Fork Eel River receive water only services and are split designated Conservation Floodway and Residential Agriculture (CF,RA5-20), which limits additional residential development. Based on these pre-existing out of agency services, the District's SOI for all services is proposed to be expanded as shown in Figure 6-1.

**Table 6-2: Outside Agency Services<sup>1</sup>**

APN	Services Provided (water/wastewater)	Starting Date	General Plan Land Use
212-151-006	Water and wastewater	Before 1990	CS
212-281-023	Water only	1995/96	CF,RA5-20
212-281-024	Water only	1995/96	CF,RA5-20
212-281-027	Water only	1995/96	CF,RA5-20

## Land Use and Zoning

The District's land uses are subject to the Humboldt County General Plan and the Avenue of the Giants Community Plan and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The land uses for the District under the Humboldt County General Plan are Public Facility (PF), Residential Low Density (RL), Commercial Services (CS), and Residential Agriculture (RA).

Under Humboldt County Zoning Regulations, the District's zoning is Residential One-Family (R-1), Public Facility (PF), Highway Service Commercial (CH) with combining zones Design Control (D) and Qualified (Q), Flood Plain (FP), and Agriculture General (AG) with combining zone Special Building Site of five acres (B-5(5)).

## Growth and Population

According to the 2020 decennial census, the population of the Miranda CDP was 441. However, the boundary of the CDP is larger than that of the District. Therefore, based on 2020 Census data and the District's boundary, GIS analysis estimates the current population to be approximately 400<sup>2</sup>. According to the District's 2022 Public Water System Inspection Report, the approximate population served was estimated at 492. Based on the historical and estimated population growth for the area, it is unlikely the District will grow substantially over the next five to ten years. It is recommended that the District look into conducting a District specific population and income survey in order to provide more accurate estimates for the area. This would likely help the District qualify for more financial assistance from both state and federal levels.

## Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

While the community of Miranda is a census designated place (CDP), there is no MHI data available for the CDP or block group on the DWR DAC mapping tool. Therefore, the census tract that includes Miranda will be used instead which DWR does consider a severely disadvantaged community. The estimated MHI for the larger area is \$35,884<sup>3</sup> which is 46 percent of the 2020 California MHI of \$78,672.

<sup>1</sup> LAFCo Outside Agency Services Inventory, 2013 (as provided by Miranda CSD)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 5-year estimates for Census Tract 011600. Accessed December 4, 2022 from <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>.

Figure 6-1: Miranda CSD Boundary

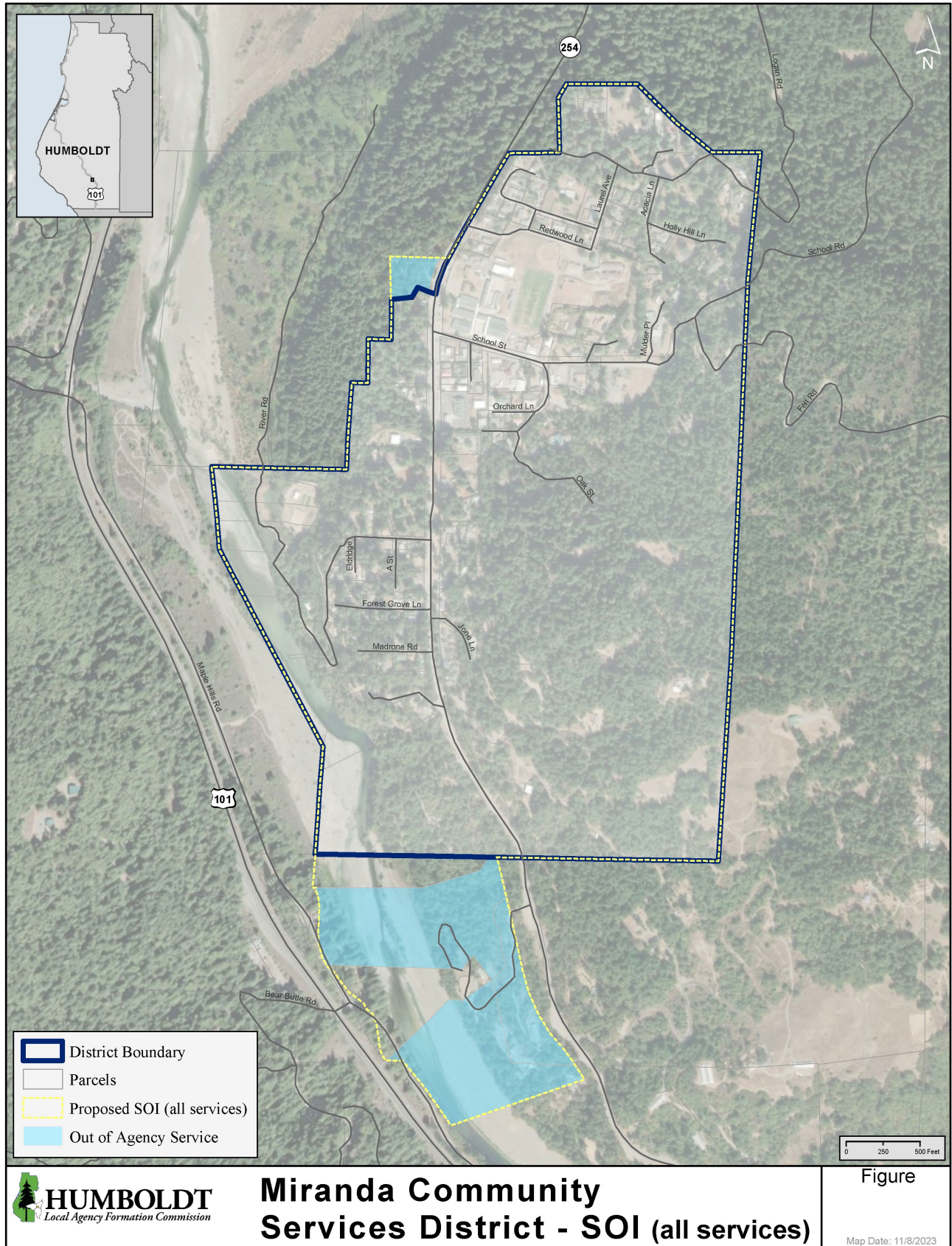
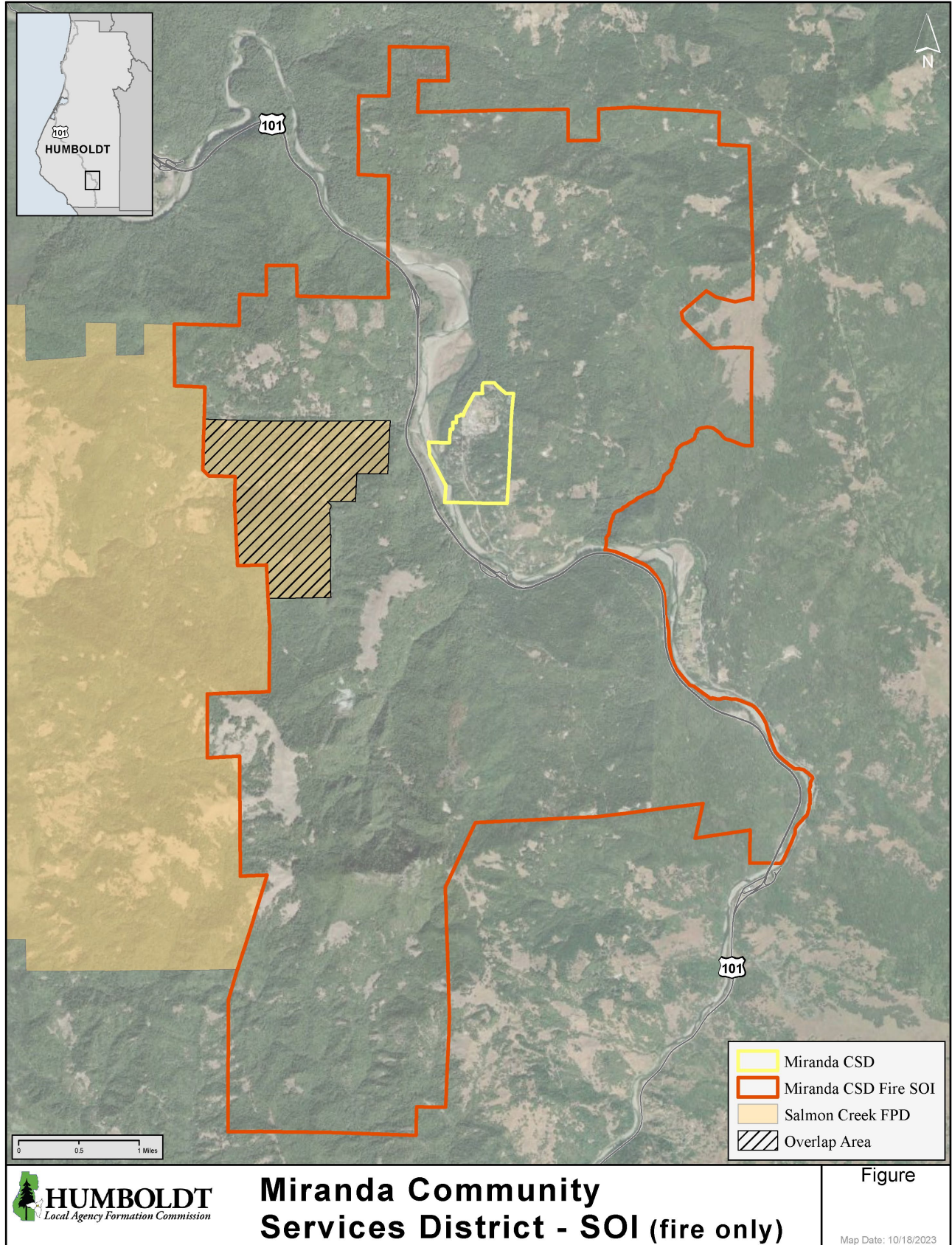
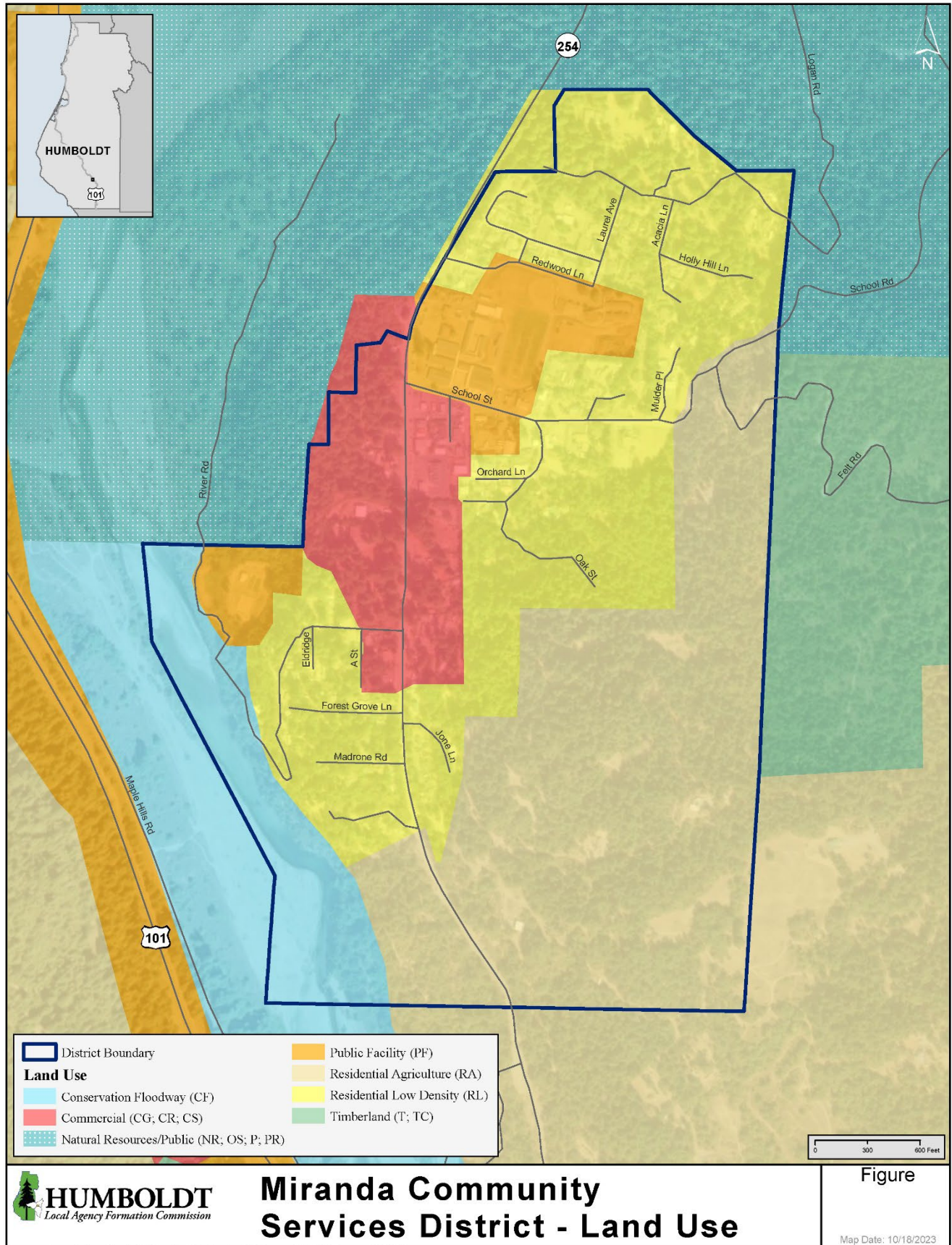


Figure 6-2: Miranda CSD Fire SOI



Sources: Boundaries - Humboldt County GIS, Roads - US Census TIGER, Rivers - CA FRAP

Figure 6-3: Miranda CSD Land Use Map



As noted previously, DUCs are assessed for three primary services: water, wastewater, and fire/emergency response. Miranda CSD provides water, wastewater, and fire and emergency response services to the area. These services will be discussed in detail under Municipal Services.

## Hazards

As noted previously, the community of Miranda is located in a densely forested area adjacent to the South Fork Eel River. Due to this setting, the area may experience several different types of hazards including flooding, wildfire, landslides, and earthquakes.

The South Fork Eel River has experienced major flooding in the past. The historic flood of 1964 devastated several communities in the county and threatened Miranda. At its highest, the water rose to 46 feet which is 13 feet higher than the flood stage of 33 feet<sup>4</sup>. Fortunately, the majority of the community remained above the high-water line and only suffered minor damage. Currently, a small portion of the District located along River Road is within the FEMA 100-year flood plain. The District's wastewater treatment facility is located directly adjacent to the flood plain and within the historic flood area. Should the South Fork Eel River experience another major flood, it could potentially impact the treatment facility.

Since Miranda is located in a densely forested area, there is a higher risk for wildfire. The entire area is located within the State Responsibility Area (SRA – where the state of California is responsible for wildfire protection) and the District is split between moderate and high severity fire hazard zones. The Canoe fire occurred in 2003 and burned a total of 11,044 acres in Humboldt Redwoods State Park northwest of the District. This fire, along with over 270 others from San Francisco to Oregon, was started by lightning on September 3, 2003. The canoe fire can be considered one of the most significant fires to have burned in coast redwood forests because of its extent and the diversity of vegetation types that were burned<sup>5</sup>.

Several unnamed faults are located near Miranda to the north, southeast, and west. Numerous small earthquakes have occurred in the area over the last 10 years including a magnitude 2.9 event on December 6, 2019, approximately 1.8 miles northwest of the District and a magnitude 2.5 event on March 9, 2016, approximately 1.75 miles to the northeast<sup>6</sup>. The soil within the District has low to moderate soil instability which indicates there is a low potential for liquefaction and landslides caused by ground shaking. On December 20, 2021, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake took place near Petrolia. According to response received from the Miranda area, the community likely felt light to moderate shaking with no to very light damage<sup>7</sup>.

Other potential hazards in the District include landslides. While there are no known historic landslides within the District boundary, slides are common along the South Fork Eel River and have the potential to disrupt transportation and increase sediment loads in the river.

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<sup>4</sup> California State Parks, The Eel River Floods of 1955 and 1964. Accessed from [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25896](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25896) on December 4, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Coast Redwood Ecology and Management, Canoe Fire Case Study – Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Accessed from <https://redwood.forestthreats.org/canoe.htm> on December 6 2022.

<sup>6</sup> USGS, Earthquake Hazards Program. M 2.9 – 16km N of Redway, CA 2019-12-07 and

<sup>7</sup> USGS, M 6.2 – 7km N of Petrolia, CA. Accessed April 19, 2022 from <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/nc73666231/executive>

## 6.2 MUNICIPAL SERVICES

### Water Services

The information contained in this section is largely taken from the Miranda CSD Public Water System – Routine Inspection Summary which was conducted in July 2019 and most recently in June 2022, as provided by the SWRCB.<sup>8</sup>

The District obtains water from two shallow wells (40 foot depth) located within approximately 200 feet of the South Fork Eel River. Both wells are equipped with 20 horsepower (HP) submersible pumps that were installed in 2019. This allows each well to produce up to 150 gallons per minute (133 gallons per minute is the average). Only one of the wells is used at a time and they are switched every two months or as necessary. The pumps typically run from 6:00 pm to 11:00 am. A float switch in the tanks will shut off the pumping if necessary. There is also a manual switch in the pumphouse that can bypass the timer if needed. When the water levels in the wells are low, the District restricts its water usage to prevent the total depletion of the water.

Water is pumped from the wells to the treatment facility where it is injected with calcium hypochlorite (chlorine). Soda ash is also added into the water to raise the pH level which has helped limit copper pipe corrosion in the system. Water then runs through a totalizing meter before entering the distribution system. The District conducts sampling of the water to ensure its quality and that the system is functioning correctly. Recent samples have not indicated any issues and overall, the water system is operating adequately.

The District currently has two storage tanks. Tank 1 is a redwood 100,000 gallon tank located in the main zone. This tank was constructed in 1964 and is in need of replacement due to significant leaking. The District requested funding through the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for a replacement and was granted \$225,000 in 2022. The replacement project is estimated to be completed in October of 2026. Tank 2 is a bolted steel 100,000 gallon tank that was constructed in 1978 and is in good condition. As part of the tank replacement project, the District will be further evaluating operational storage capacity and fire storage capacity needs.

Water mains are made from five different types of materials. Approximately 55% of the mains are made from Asbestos Cement (AC) that range from 4 to 8 inches in diameter. These pipes are in fair to poor condition as some of the piping is beginning to crack due to age. Approximately 30% of the mains are made from plastic PVC that range from 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Approximately 10 percent of the mains are made from 2-inch steel pipes. Approximately five percent of the mains are made from ductile iron that is 6 inches in diameter. At the high school, the mains are plastic HDPE pipeline.

Many of the water mains are very old and are nearing the end of their useful life, especially the Asbestos cement mains which the District has the highest proportion of. In the near future, patches and other repairs will no longer successfully extend the life of these mains. Additionally, segments of the distribution system piping are undersized for adequate fire flows. The District is in need of funding to support the replacement of the mains and hydrants in the community. In prior years, a water test did not reveal any leaks in the system, which put the District behind on

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<sup>8</sup> SWRCB, Miranda CSD Public Water System; PWS# 1200707 – Routine Inspection of Water System conducted on July 24, 2019. Letter dated January 3, 2020.

sourcing funding. Aging water mains and associated appurtenances should be evaluated for future replacement through a planned CIP or other program.

As of 2022, the District had 149 connections (137 homes, 12 commercial/industrial). The annual water production reported in 2021 was 25.5 MG. The maximum monthly production in 2021 was in July at 3.73 MG and the maximum day was 241,000 gallons. Using the typical pumping cycle of 17 hours per day at 133 gpm, the District could produce up to 49.5 MG of water in a year. Based on this, the District is utilizing approximately 52% of its capacity. However, there is currently not sufficient storage to keep up with demand during summer months. The District should continue investigating additional groundwater well locations or other supply source and storage options as existing supplies are potentially vulnerable to extended dry-weather/drought conditions.

### **State Water Resource Control Board**

During the last routine inspection conducted by the SWRCB on June 22, 2022, there were a number of items listed as deficiencies which included the following:

1. 0.1 MG Redwood Storage Tank – Please provide the following:
  - a. A plan and estimated project schedule to repair the roof and leaks by March 1, 2023.
  - b. A plan and estimated project schedule for future replacement of this tank by June 1, 2023.
2. WQENP – Update the Water Quality Emergency Notification Plan (WQENP) by February 10, 2023.
3. BSSP – Update the Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan (BSSP) by February 10, 2023.
4. Raw Water Sample Taps Required – Install dedicated, downturned, and threadless sample taps at the wellheads of Well 01 and Well 02 by March 1, 2023.
5. Storage Tank Finished Water Sample Taps – Install dedicated, downturned, and threadless sample taps at the 0.1 MG Redwood Storage Tank and 0.1 MG Bolted Steel Tank by July 1, 2023.
6. 0.1 MG Bolted Steel Tank – Provide verification that this tank has a drain pipe, drain isolation valve, and properly screened discharge outlet by March 1, 2023.
7. Evaluation of Hazard Survey Needed – Complete an evaluation of hazard survey by December 31, 2023.
8. Water Main Dead-Ends – Inventory and document all dead ends in the distribution system by July 1, 2023. Flushing valves, blowoffs, or fire hydrants should be installed at all water main dead ends per CCR, Section 64575.
9. Water Main Isolation Valves – Inventory and document all distribution main isolation valves, valve types, valve box types, and locations by July 1, 2023.
10. Distribution Asbestos Sampling – Collect at least one sample at a tap served by asbestos cement pipe under conditions where asbestos contamination is most likely to occur during July, August, or September 2023.
11. Cross-connection Control Program Ordinance – Update the existing ordinance to ensure that proper authorities are in place to comply with all regulatory requirements for “responsibility and scope of program” per CCR, Section 7584 by December 31, 2023.

## Recommendations

- a. Permanent Well Enclosure – It is highly recommended that permanent well houses be constructed on concrete pads to protect each well from animal activity and vandalism. It should have a standard lockable door for inspection and maintenance purposes.
- b. Wellhead Protection Zone & PCA – Significant piles of refuse, debris, scrap metal, etc. remain on the property immediately adjacent to the well field area posing as a potential contaminating active (PCA) to soil and underlying groundwater. This area should be cleaned up with all refuse piles removed to protect this water system's underlying groundwater supply source.
- c. Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Plan – Consider drafting, adopting, and implementing an O&M plan. The plan should include a comprehensive description of the utility's operations and maintenance requirements and other information necessary to reliably produce optimal drinking water quality.
- d. Aging Water Mains, High Pressure Zones, and Water Loss – Consider distribution improvement projects (e.g., new/additional water mains, pressure reducing stations, etc.) necessary to reduce high pressures (>90 psi), frequency of main breaks, and water loss in the system.
- e. Free Chlorine Residual Monitoring – Consider measuring and recording the free chlorine residual during the week immediately after the well control building, at the finished water storage tanks, and at a location on the north end of the distribution (e.g., Logan Road) in addition to Stevens Hall.

## Wastewater Services

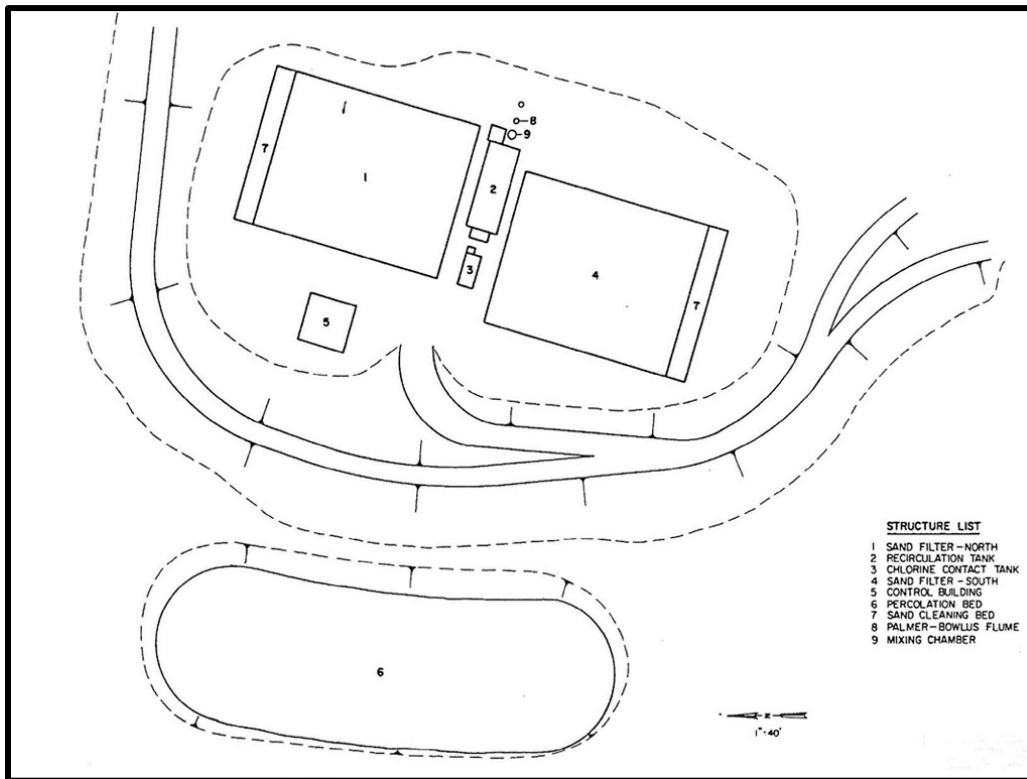
Miranda CSD owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system. The existing wastewater facilities are within the District's boundaries, located at 595 River Road in Miranda, CA 95553, and are in Hydrologic Unit 111.00, Weott Hydrologic Subarea 111.31. The system includes individual septic tanks, a gravity collection system, a mixing chamber, a recirculation tank, two gravel filter beds, a chlorination system, and a percolation pond. The percolation pond is located approximately 75 feet away from the east bank of the South Fork Eel River. Figure 6-4 below shows the layout of the facility.

The District currently serves approximately 115 wastewater service connections, both residential and commercial. Approximately 34 residences within the District are served by individual septic tank and leach field systems but otherwise receive water service from the District. The wastewater facility has a 0.046 million gallons per day (mgd) design capacity for average dry weather flows and 0.090 mgd design capacity for peak wet weather flows. Existing beneficial uses of the facility include groundwater recharge, municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, wildlife habitat, and more. Three potential beneficial uses are industrial process supply, hydropower generation, and aquaculture<sup>9</sup>. Provisions including discharge prohibitions, effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and assessments of groundwater quality after discharges are in place to protect the existing beneficial uses of water within the Weott Hydrologic Subarea.

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<sup>9</sup> North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, *Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region*, 2018.

**Figure 6-4: Layout of Miranda CSD Wastewater Facility**

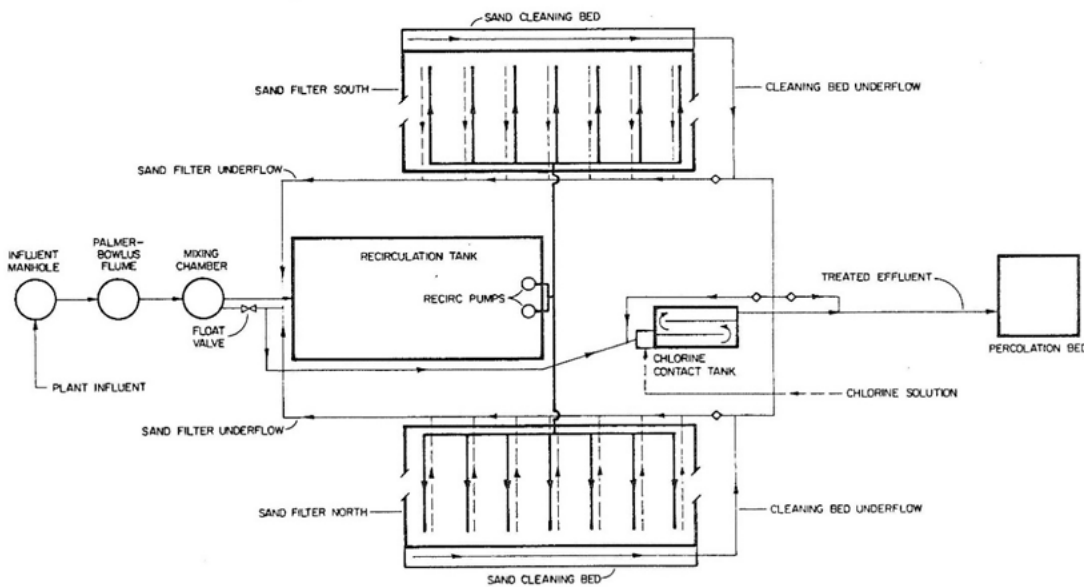


The District's wastewater treatment facility currently operates under Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. R1-2019-0002) that were adopted on April 18, 2019. Upon the effective date of these requirements, previous Waste Discharge Requirements (Order R1-2001-008) were rescinded. Additionally, the District is subject to monitoring and reporting requirements by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) as authorized by California Water Code section 13267. The facility has four monitoring station locations to comply with these requirements. A monthly self-monitoring report, annual report, and annual source control activity report must also be routinely submitted to the Regional Board to comply with the reporting requirements of the order.

The District takes water samples of the South Fork Eel River to monitor any potential effluent seepage issues. There have not been any observed seepage issues in recent years since the District rebuilt/relocated their percolation pond after a breach occurred around 10-15 years ago due to extreme flooding in the area. The facility is mainly at risk of inundation only during extreme flood events as the new percolation pond is placed far enough away from the river to avoid risk from minor flooding.

Currently, effluent from community septic tanks is collected by gravity sewer mains and is then filtered through a recirculating sand filter. From there, the effluent is disinfected and disposed to the percolation pond. The flow schematics of the wastewater treatment and disposal process are shown in Figure 6-5 below. Consulting engineers in 2008 identified large amounts of infiltration and inflow (I&I) in the collection system and recommended that it be upgraded in the future.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Winzler & Kelly Consulting Engineers, *Community Infrastructure & Services Technical Report for Humboldt County General Plan*, 2008.

**Figure 6-5: Flow Schematics of Miranda CSD Wastewater Facility**

Current flow limits are designed to effectively manage the wastewater treatment process during various weather conditions with no outflow or discharge between May through October 1. This indicates that the existing infrastructure has ample capacity to handle the wastewater demands of the district. The facility is operating well but is aging and will likely need retrofitting or upgrades in the future to ensure adequate operation and provision of service.

## Fire Protection and Emergency Response

According to the South County Regional Fire Services MSR (July 2016), the Miranda Volunteer Fire Department of the Miranda CSD, hereinafter referred to as Department, provides fire protection services within the District boundary, as well as providing goodwill services to areas outside of the boundary. Miranda operates with 12 volunteer firefighters and has been successful in recruiting and maintaining an adequate level of volunteer personnel<sup>11</sup>. When the Department has an adequate quantity of available volunteers, equipment, and other resources, CAL FIRE occasionally hires them out for wildfire related incidents. The Department works with CAL FIRE and other local volunteer fire departments for mutual response inside and outside the Miranda CSD boundaries.

Based on the 2020 Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Annual Report<sup>12</sup>, the Department responded to a total of 110 incidents in 2020, including 17 vegetation fires, 10 structure fires, 21 other fires, 17 vehicle incidents, 35 medical, 4 hazmat/menace, and 6 other services. The engine fleet includes two Type-3 Engines, one Type-1, one Type-6 and one Water Tender. The Department's needs for the future include an addition to the main hall so all trucks can be housed in one location indoors. There is always a need for more volunteers and additional funding to support the Department's ability to meet increased call volumes.

As mentioned above, the Department regularly responds to requests for service from Redway to Pepperwood, approximately 11 miles south and 23 miles north, respectively. The Department responds to calls for highway crashes along US Highway 101, as they have adequate apparatus with hydraulic rescue tools. Properties within the District subsidize much of the fire protection

<sup>11</sup> Personal communication with Barbara Ristow, Miranda CSD office manager

<sup>12</sup> 2020 Annual Report: <https://humboldt.gov.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1537>

services to the out of district response area that consists of approximately 5,441 acres, or 8.5 square miles. Neighboring fire related districts include Myers Flat Fire Protection District (FPD), Fruitland Ridge FPD, Salmon Creek FPD, and Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company (VFC). It is important to note that Weott Volunteer Fire Department of the Weott CSD disbanded in 2017 due to lack of volunteers, financial constraints, and the loss of the department's fire station. In addition, Myers Flat FPD and Phillipsville VFC both struggle to respond due to lack of volunteer capacity. As such, the Department is relied upon to respond to incidents along the Avenues and US Highway 101. There is a continued need to address the mismatch in fire service boundaries and funding compared to where services are being provided on a goodwill basis.

## Other Service Providers

### Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste disposal and recycling services are provided by Recology Eel River. They serve residential, commercial, and industrial customers along the Eel River Valley including Ferndale, Fortuna, Loleta, Myers Flat, Rio Dell, Scotia, Stafford, Weott, and other parts of southern Humboldt County including Miranda. There is also a transfer station located in Redway approximately 20 miles south of Weott on Highway 101.

## 6.3 GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

### Governance

The District is an independent special district served by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected to four-year staggered terms. Board meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Meetings are held at the Stevens Hall in Miranda. Stevens Hall is a District owned community hall that was previously donated by the Grange. The District rents out the hall for private parties and community events.

**Table 6-3: Board of Directors**

Board Member	Title	Term
<b>Lonnie Witlow</b>	Director	12/4/2020 -12/6/2024
<b>Martin Eldridge</b>	Director	12/4/2020 -12/6/2024
<b>Samuel Wilbur</b>	Director	12/4/2020 -12/6/2024
<b>Brandon Savio</b>	Director	12/2/2022 -12/4/2026
<b>Robert Harris</b>	Chairman	12/2/2022 -12/4/2026

## Staffing

The District currently employs a part-time office manager in addition to three water and wastewater operator/monitoring staff (two part time and one receives monthly stipend).

## Accountability and Transparency

The District does not maintain a website but does keep the community informed via a community facebook group (Miranda community information<sup>13</sup>). To increase ease of access, it would be beneficial to create a website where District information can be posted including board minutes, board agendas, adopted annual budgets, and District audits. However, with limited staff resources this is currently a burden for the District. As such, the District Board annually adopts resolutions filing for hardship in compliance with SB929 until they have the resources to develop and maintain a website successfully.

Board agendas and notices are posted on a bulletin board in front of Stevens Hall at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings. Meeting minutes are available at Board meetings and upon request. Meetings of the Board of Directors are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act which requires agendas must be posted at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public.

## Financial Overview

The District uses separate funds for each of its distinct functions; a government fund accounts for fire services and proprietary funds account for the District's water and sewer services.

In 2022, the District received a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to fund the replacement of Tank 1, a 100,000-gallon redwood tank, and to assist the District with conducting a rate study. This tank was constructed in 1964 and significant leakage issues have been identified. Maintenance and repairs are no longer remedying leakage issues or contamination risks. Thus, the useful life of the tank has been exceeded. The SWRCB grant is for \$225,000 and the final reimbursement request date is in April 2027.

**Table 6-4: Miranda CSD State Controller Summary**

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenues					
Governmental	\$315,386	\$162,950	\$411,996	-	\$182,327
Water Enterprise	\$118,249	\$135,650	\$142,575	-	\$147,407
Sewer Enterprise	\$58,573	\$59,537	\$78,094	-	\$85,539
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$492,208</i>	<i>\$358,137</i>	<i>\$632,665</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$415,273</i>
Expenses					
Governmental	\$220,236	\$133,190	\$215,019	-	\$109,481
Water Enterprise	\$120,383	\$131,706	\$126,515	-	\$115,571
Sewer Enterprise	\$91,753	\$120,621	\$84,417	-	\$71,192
<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>\$432,372</i>	<i>\$385,517</i>	<i>\$425,951</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>\$296,244</i>
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$59,836</b>	<b>(\$27,380)</b>	<b>\$206,714</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$119,029</b>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1375326089555239/>

**Table 6-5: Miranda CSD Audit Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY 19-20</b>	<b>FY 20-21</b>
Revenues		
Fire Services	\$60,819	\$176,077
Water Services	\$64,700	\$68,212
Sewer Services	\$76,530	\$76,440
Operating Grants and Contributions	\$1,300	\$2,625
Capital Grants and Contributions	--	--
Property Taxes and Assessments	\$69,326	\$72,729
Hall Rental	\$1,125	--
Interest Income	\$12,928	\$12,493
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$286,728</i>	<i>\$408,576</i>
Expenses		
Fire Services	\$119,060	\$141,441
Water Services	\$101,004	\$114,369
Sewer Services	\$89,825	\$71,192
Loss on Disposal of Assets	--	\$1,202
<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>\$309,889</i>	<i>\$328,204</i>
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$23,161)</b>	<b>\$80,372</b>

The District operated at a net gain in FY 20-21, an improvement from its net loss operations in FY 19-20. This progress is largely the result of the large increase in revenue from fire services. This revenue increased by over \$115,000 from FY 19-20 to 20-21 and is largely from fire coverage fees. As shown in Table 6-6, the District's net position increased from FY 19-20 to FY 20-21. Out of the services the District provides, fire services contributed the largest amount of capital assets in both FY 19-20 and FY 20-21, largely stemming from equipment.

**Table 6-6: Miranda CSD Net Position Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY 19-20</b>	<b>FY 20-21</b>
Total Assets	\$1,576,506	\$1,653,783
Total Liabilities	\$24,099	\$14,306
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$1,552,407</b>	<b>\$1,639,476</b>

## 6.4 MIRANDA CSD MSR DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

### **(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area**

- a) The current District population is estimated to be approximately 400 based on GIS analysis of the 2020 decennial census data and the District's boundary. Due to the community's limited potential for development and estimated population growth, it is unlikely that the District will grow substantially over the next five to ten years.

### **(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence**

- a) There is no community specific income data available for Miranda. Thus, income data for the census tract that contains Miranda CSD was used to determine DUC status. The estimated MHI for Miranda CSD is \$35,884, which is 46% of California's 2020 MHI, classifying the District as a severely disadvantaged community by the DWR.
- b) It is recommended that the District conduct a District-specific population and income survey to provide more accurate estimates.

### **(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies**

- a) Miranda CSD is a retail water service provider that provides potable water to 149 connections as of 2022. Water is obtained from two wells and the annual water produced in 2021 was 25.5 MG in 2021. The District should continue investigating additional groundwater well locations or other supply source and storage options as existing supplies are potentially vulnerable to extended dry-weather/drought conditions.
- b) The District has 200,000 gallons of water storage across two storage tanks. One of the storage tanks is being replaced through a grant from the SWRCB and is estimated to be completed in 2026. Approximately 55% of the District's water mains, made from asbestos cement, are very old and future repairs will no longer be adequate to ensure continued reliable service. Some segments of the distribution system piping are undersized for adequate fire flows.
- c) Miranda CSD owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system within its boundary. The District serves approximately 115 connections and has a 0.046 mgd average dry weather flow capacity and 0.090 mgd peak wet weather flow capacity. While the facility is operating well and has no significant deficiencies, it is aging and will likely need retrofitting in the future.
- d) Regulations governing the disposal of effluent to percolation ponds along the South Fork Eel River have become more stringent in recent years; the District will likely need to establish alternate disposal methods in the coming years in order to maintain compliance with the SWRCB.

- e) The District provides fire protection services within its boundary and offers goodwill services to an additional 5,441 acres from Redway to Pepperwood. The District regularly and consistently responds to calls, responding to 110 calls in 2020 ranging from fires, medical incidents, and other services. Volunteer firefighters are occasionally hired out by CAL FIRE when the District has adequate resource capacity, further affirming the capacity of the District to meet current and future fire protection and emergency demands.

**(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services**

- a) Based on the financial data available from the State Controller's Office, the District's revenues and expenses are not consistent and vary greatly from year to year. During FY 2017, 2019, and 2021, the District operated at a net gain largely resulting from governmental revenues. In FY 2018, the governmental revenues declined greatly and resulted in the District operating at a loss.
- b) The District received a \$225,000 grant from the SWRCB and is in need of additional funding to finance other infrastructure improvement projects. Continued compliance with the adoption of annual budgets and audits would likely help the District qualify for additional financial assistance from state and federal sources.

**(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities**

- a) Neighboring fire related districts include Myers Flat Fire Protection District (FPD), Fruitland Ridge FPD, Salmon Creek FPD, and Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company (VFC). It is important to note that Weott Volunteer Fire Department of the Weott CSD disbanded in 2017 due to lack of volunteers, financial constraints, and the loss of the department's fire station. In addition, Myers Flat FPD and Phillipsville VFC both struggle to respond due to lack of volunteer capacity. As such, the Department is relied upon to respond to incidents along the Avenues and US Highway 101. There is a continued need to address the mismatch in fire service boundaries and funding compared to where services are being provided on a goodwill basis.
- b) Miranda is located near the community of Phillipsville and as such, there may be opportunities for shared staffing such as operators or administrative staff.

**(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies**

- a) The District is governed by a five-member board of directors that are elected to staggered four-year terms. Board meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Meetings are held at the Stevens Hall in Miranda.
- b) Board agendas and notices are posted on a bulletin board in front of Stevens Hall at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings.
- c) The District does not have a website and annually adopts resolutions filing for hardship in compliance with SB929.

**(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery**

- a) It is recommended that a portion of the District's fire services SOI, approximately 941 acres, be removed so as not to overlap with the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District boundary.
- b) It is recommended that the District's SOI for all services be expanded to include several parcels located outside the District boundary that currently receive water and/or wastewater services by Miranda CSD.

**6.5 MIRANDA CSD SOI DETERMINATIONS**

In order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development of local governmental agencies to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the county and its communities, the commission shall develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local agency, as defined by G.C. Section 56036, and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere. In determining the sphere of influence of each local agency, the commission shall consider and prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to the following:

**(1) Present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.**

- a) Land uses within the District include Residential Low Density, Public Facility, Commercial, and Residential Agriculture. The land use within the proposed SOI for all services includes one parcel designed Commercial Services (CS) and several parcels located to the south of the District boundary along the South Fork Eel River that are split designated Conservation Floodway and Residential Agriculture (CF,RA5-20), which limits additional residential development. The land surrounding the District boundary and within the SOI for fire only services is a mix of Timberland, Natural Resources/Public, Conservation Floodway, and Residential Agriculture. These designations indicate that the surrounding land is largely meant to be preserved for natural resources with limited residential development.

**(2) Present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.**

- a) The District's area largely consists of low-density residential and commercial development and residential agricultural lands. These uses will require water, wastewater, and fire protection services for the foreseeable future.

**(3) Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.**

- a) As part of the tank replacement project, the District will be further evaluating operational storage capacity and fire storage capacity needs. The District should continue investigating additional groundwater well locations or other supply source and storage options as existing supplies are potentially vulnerable to extended dry-weather/drought conditions.
- b) Miranda CSD's wastewater flow limits are designed to effectively manage the wastewater treatment process during various weather conditions with no outflow or discharge between May through October 1. This indicates that the existing infrastructure has ample capacity to handle the wastewater demands of the district. The facility is

operating well but is aging and will likely need retrofitting or upgrades in the future to ensure adequate operation and provision of service.

**(4) Existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.**

- a) Phillipsville is located approximately five miles southeast of Miranda along Highway 254. This community is home to many recreational opportunities for tourists, including Chimney Tree, multiple river access points, and some of the largest redwood trees in the State.
- b) The Myers Flat community is approximately six miles northwest of Miranda along Highway 254. Myers Flat offers a few small businesses, lodging opportunities, and the Shrine Drive Thru Tree, a popular tourist activity that attracts many tourists to the area.
- c) Approximately 12 miles south, the community of Garberville offers a majority of the services available for southern Humboldt County including a library, hospital, pharmacy, and numerous restaurants, groceries, and other services.

**(5) For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere.**

- a) The Miranda CSD provides water, wastewater, and fire protection services to the Miranda community, which is considered a disadvantaged community.
- b) It is recommended that a portion of the District's fire services SOI, approximately 941 acres, be removed so as not to overlap with the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District boundary.
- c) It is recommended that the District's SOI for all services be expanded to include several parcels located outside the District boundary that currently receive water and/or wastewater services by Miranda CSD.