

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**Sierra Resource Conservation District**  
**Sphere of Influence Update Determinations**  
**(LAFCo USOI No. 193)**

In determining the sphere of influence of each local agency, the commission shall consider and prepare written statements of its determinations with respect to each of the following categories pursuant to Government Code Section 56425 (e). (LAFCO Policy Section 330)

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

- Majority of the District's service area encompasses unincorporated land. Land in the valley floor consists of active agricultural operations and sparse rural residential. While land along the Sierra Nevada foothills and mountain areas consists of grazing land, rural residential, public lands and open space.
- The County of Fresno is the land use authority for unincorporated territory inside the District. While the cities of Clovis, Fresno, Sanger, Reedley, and Orange Cove are the land use authorities for their respective portions of territory also inside the District.
- The largest population concentration in the District occurs in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area and neighboring cities.
- Within the affected territory, the city of Parlier would be included in the District SOI update, and only the eastern portions of the cities of Fresno, Fowler, Selma, and Kingsburg would be added into the District SOI.
- The District does not have land use authority and as a result, the proposed District SOI update will not affect the present or planned land uses in the affected territory.

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

- The District has an adopted "Long Range Plan for years 2020 to 2025" that presents the District's mission to address critical local concerns including but not limited to: 1) Water use management, 2) Land use planning 3) Fuels reduction management, 4) Invasive species control and management 5) Air quality effects on agriculture and human health.
- The District's mission and functions are to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, and coordinate them at the local level to promote the conservation of natural soil, water, agriculture, wildlife, rangelands, oak and forest lands, and air resources within its service area.
- The District anticipates that annexation of the affected territory would enable landowners to benefit from the District's technical assistance programs, funds for services related to education, and investigative studies that support the protection and enhancement of natural resources within rural areas and disadvantaged communities on a voluntary and non-regulatory basis.

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

- The District does not own or operate any public facilities, capital infrastructure, or equipment necessary to provide a direct service to its continuance.
- California's Resource Conservation District Law empowers the District to conduct surveys, investigations, research items relating to the conservation of resources, the preventative, the control measures, and works for improvement when needed, and to publish the results of such surveys and disseminate the information. A list of all the powers and duties granted to RCDs can be found under section 9401 of the PRC.
- California's Resource Conservation District Law authorizes the District's directors to seek the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies in order to avoid duplication of surveys, investigations, and research activities. The District has executed several Memoranda of Understanding with various agencies and organizations for cooperation in the conservation of natural resources.
- The District's primary source of revenue is government grants and contributions for the purpose of facilitating water and land conservation programs. The District states that grant revenues to maintain its various programs are at adequate levels; however, loss of existing grants could be detrimental to certain programs.
- The District's ability to expand its service capacity is contingent upon its ability to secure grant funding, contributions, and expand critical partnerships.

**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**

- Being that the affected territory encompasses census block groups that meet the Water Code definition of Disadvantaged Communities, the affected territory includes various communities that are relevant to the agency's service provisions.
- According to the District Manager, the District started coordinating efforts to pursue grants to engage and assist local growers and disadvantaged communities in the affected territory.

**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, that occurs pursuant to subdivision (g) on or after July 1, 2012, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.**

- Based on LAFCo's 2020 DUC database, this MSR and SOI update report identified twelve (12) locations that meet LAFCo's DUC criteria.
- The District does not provide public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection.