



RUNNING SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT
RUNNING SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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May 18, 2021

DRAFT Plan for Service and Fiscal Impact Analysis

LAFCO _____

Reorganization to include Annexation to the Running Springs Water District and Detachment from San Bernardino County Service Area 79

In 2019, the Running Springs Water District (District) entered into an Agreement between County Service Area 79 (CSA 79) and Running Springs Water District for Wastewater Transportation, Treatment and Disposal Services. CSA 79 is located within the sphere of influence of the District. The Residents of Green Valley Lake have requested that the District annex the Green Valley Lake CSA 79 service area into the District's jurisdictional boundary in order to save on their outside sewer service costs and to provide for a more logical, efficient and effective delivery of the services provided by the District.

Description of Services:

Water

Water service to CSA 79 is currently provided by Green Valley Mutual Water Company. There is also a wholesale water connection to the Crestline Lake Arrowhead Water Agency (CLAWA).

Wastewater

Wastewater collection service is currently provided to the Green Valley Lake community by CSA 79. Wastewater Transportation, Treatment and Disposal Services are currently provided under an agreement with Running Springs Water District. If the proposed annexation is approved, the Running Springs Water District will be responsible for all of the wastewater services.

The existing Running Springs Water District Wastewater Department has one Operations Manager and six wastewater operators. Equipment includes one 2020 Ford Transit Van with Ques Video Inspection equipment, one trailer mounted hydro-jetter, backhoe, wheel loader, utility trucks, compressors, jack hammers, etc. The District is currently renting a Vactor iMPACT combination sewer cleaner and evaluating its performance for a potential future purchase. The Running Springs Water District Wastewater Collections building is located at 2536 Hunsaker Blvd. in Running Springs which is 6 miles from Green Valley Lake.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection Service is currently under the Jurisdiction of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and its Mountain Service Zone. If requested, the Running Springs Water District and Running Springs Fire Department (RSFD) is able to provide fire protection services.

The RSFD infrastructure and apparatus includes two Fire Stations, two Type 1 Fire Engines, one Brush Engine, one Squad, three Ambulances and two snow cats. Fulltime RSFD personnel includes two Chief Officers, one Firefighter Captain/Paramedics, three Firefighter Engineer/Paramedic, two Firefighter Paramedics and several part time Paid Call Firefighters which respond to emergencies to supplement the fulltime 4-0 staffing. RSFD staffing is always 4-0 with four personnel 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. RSFD also has a Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) which staffs out of the Running Springs Fire Station No. 51.

Currently, the RSFD is typically first on scene for fire, rescue and medical emergencies in the Green Valley Lake community due to the proximity of its fire service infrastructure and apparatus being within a 6 mile distance from the Green Valley Lake community. The nearest full time San Bernardino County Fire Station is located in Lake Arrowhead which is more than 14 miles away and in extreme weather conditions travel across Highway 18 from Lake Arrowhead can be significantly delayed.

RSFD is able to provide the necessary response for any fire emergency involving structure fires, rescues and wildland fires with Automatic Mutual Aid Response from CalFire, San Bernardino County Fire, Big Bear Fire Authority and the United States Forest Service (USFS) if necessary. Additionally, all wildland fires that occur within the area and surrounding wildland area of the Green Valley Lake community are the primary responsibility of CalFire and the USFS who would respond with any necessary aircraft and/or equipment for suppression. RSFD would then fall into an assisting role for both Agencies.

All plan check services are able to be handled by Running Springs Fire Prevention Staff. The hazard abatement services are also able to be handled through the RSFD's current Defensible Space Program which follows all applicable State and County Codes.

Ambulance Emergency Medical Service (EMS)

RSFD currently does and will continue to provide Advance Life Support (ALS) Ambulance EMS to the Green Valley Lake community, which is already within the RSFD Exclusive Operating Area (EOA 19). Ambulance EMS is provided by one or more of three ambulance units, and if necessary, a Squad that is equipped with an additional Paramedic and rescue gear and a local CalFire Unit that is stationed at the Running Springs Fire Station No. 51 to assist with EMS services or rescue.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

This annexation is for the CSA 79 in the Green Valley Lake community which is within the District's sphere of influence. There will be no additional financial burden placed on the District to annex and provide wastewater services to the Green Valley Lake community. The wastewater revenues anticipated to be collected from the customers would be sufficient to cover the expenses for wastewater services.

There is not anticipated to be any significant fiscal impact due to the fact that the Running Springs Water District already provides wastewater and emergency medical services to the Green Valley Lake Community. The existing revenue from the Green Valley Lake community would fund the operations and maintenance of the wastewater collections system.

All costs of operating and maintaining the District owned wastewater facilities downstream of the existing point of connection will be recovered through rates and fees charged monthly to the property owners per District resolution. The annexing territory will be included within the existing jurisdictional service boundaries of the District.

Running Springs Water District desires that the proposed reorganization be subject to the standard terms and conditions imposed by the Local Agency Formation Commission ("LAFCO") and to the following terms and conditions:

- 1) Running Springs Water District would fix the Green Valley Lake community wastewater rates at their current level for the first five years and account for the area as a separate enterprise fund barring any unforeseen circumstances that would require additional revenue;
- 2) Depending on the timing of the LAFCO process, the Green Valley Lake community wastewater rates may be placed on the San Bernardino County property tax roll;
- 3) After the initial 5 years, a rate study would be conducted and the Green Valley Lake community would be merged with the Running Springs Water District existing wastewater enterprise and it is anticipated there would be a uniform wastewater rate for all wastewater customers at that time;
- 4) Running Springs Water District will not accept taking on any of the County of San Bernardino County Service Area No. 79 ("CSA 79") pension liability;
- 5) No additional Board of Director seats will be added to the Running Springs Water District, however, any registered voters in the District would be eligible to run for a seat on the Running Springs Water District Board;
- 6) All application fees and any other costs associated with the LAFCO reorganization would be paid for by the Second District Supervisors Office;
- 7) The existing CSA 79 reserve funds will be transferred to Running Springs Water District and placed in a separate enterprise fund for the initial five year period;
- 8) All hard copy and electronic administration, customer billing, engineering, operations and maintenance files etc. will be transferred to Running Springs Water District.

Prepared by:

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