



San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
 Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

MEMORANDUM

Supplement to Agenda Item No. 7a

October 4, 2021

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Priscilla Allen, Analyst I

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Municipal Service Review on the Ramona Region

Agenda Item No. 7a involves the final report prepared by San Diego LAFCO staff as part of the Commission’s scheduled municipal service review (MSR) on the Ramona region. On September 14th staff attended the Ramona Municipal Water District Board meeting and presented the draft report ahead of preparing the final MSR for the October 4th Commission meeting. The Board meeting generated verbal comments and subsequently led to revisions to the draft report. Specific changes made to the final MSR – not including editorial – follow.

Revisions to the Final MSR on the Ramona Region

[Chapter 1 | Section 2.3 – Contact Information](#)

Revision No. 1 | Page No. 9

Specific Revision: Revision to office address and corresponding details as well as the addition of social media links and associated images

[Chapter 2 | Section 4.1 – Central Themes and Conclusions](#)

Revision No. 2 | Page No. 16

Specific Revision: Addition of the word “permitted” to conclusion No. 3

No. 3 | Adequate Service Capacities at MWD with One Notable Exception

As the principal municipal service provider in the region, Ramona MWD has developed adequate infrastructure capacities and related administrative controls to meet

<p>Administration Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619-321-3380 www.sdlafco.org</p>	<p>Vice Chair Jim Desmond County of San Diego</p>	<p>Mary Casillas Salas City of Chula Vista</p>	<p>Chris Cate City of San Diego</p>	<p>Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation</p>	<p>Chair Andy Vanderlaan General Public</p>
	<p>Nora Vargas County of San Diego</p>	<p>Paul McNamara City of Escondido</p>	<p>Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego</p>	<p>Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection</p>	<p>Harry Mathis, Alt. General Public</p>
	<p>Joel Anderson, Alt. County of San Diego</p>	<p>Kristi Becker, Alt. City of Solana Beach</p>		<p>David A. Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo</p>	

current and projected demands in the timeframe of this report with one exception. This exception involves meeting wastewater demands within the Santa Maria service area, which covers central Ramona and now regularly exceeds **permitted** capacities during high-rain periods due to excessive inflow (surface) and/or infiltration (groundwater) intrusion.

Revision No. 3 | Page No. 16

Specific Revision: Addition of the following to conclusion No. 4 “to help advise its contract provider (Ramona Parks and Recreation Association).”

No. 4 | Need for Capital Improvement Investments within MWD

Notwithstanding the overall adequacy of current municipal service capacities, Ramona MWD would benefit from additional investment into its capital assets with specific focus on remedying the increasing and varying pipeline ages involving both its water and wastewater systems. Capital planning and investment in parks and recreation is also merited **to help advise its contract provider (Ramona Parks and Recreation Association)** and includes addressing improvements to the Wellfield Park and its Community Center and Rodeo Arena.

[Chapter 2 | Section 4.2 – Recommendations](#)

Revision No. 4 | Page No. 18

Specific Revision: Recommendation No. 1 was revised to include the last sentence.

The Commission should coordinate with SANDAG to identify current buildout estimates relative to existing zoning standards by the County of San Diego for the Ramona region and incorporate the information into the next municipal service review. ***This should include assessing potential impacts tied to the recent passage of Senate Bill 9 (Weiner) and the allowance for additional lot splitting to accommodate more housing throughout California.***

Revision No. 5 | Page No. 18

Specific Revision: Recommendation No. 6 was revised as detailed below.

Original:

Ramona MWD should revisit and update its potable water service rates accordingly to remedy a sizeable structural deficit of nearly nine-fold generated during the five-year report period.

Revised for Final Report:

Ramona MWD should revisit and realign its water service operating costs and user rates to remedy a sizeable structural deficit of nearly nine-fold during the five-year report period.

[Chapter 2 | Section 5.0 – Written Determinations](#)

Revision No. 6 | Page No. 20

Specific Revision: Addition of the word “relative” to Section (5.1.3)

The estimated population growth rate in Ramona MWD is more than one-fourth higher than the corresponding rate for all of San Diego County during the five-year report period and substantiates the **relative** growth orientation of the region’s urban core.

Revision No. 7 | Page No. 21

Specific Revision: Addition of last sentence to Section (5.1.8)

San Diego LAFCO should coordinate with SANDAG to develop current buildout estimates relative to existing zoning specific to the Ramona MWD jurisdictional boundary and incorporate the information into the next municipal service review. **This includes addressing the added density provisions established by the recent passage of Senate Bill 9.**

Revision No. 8 | Page No. 24

Specific Revision: Addition of word “permitted” to Section (5.3.4.e and f) and the addition of “with corresponding permit allowances” to (5.3.4.g)

e) Specific to the Santa Maria system, it is presently operating at 60% **permitted** capacity under normal conditions based on average day demands during the five-year report period. Capacity usage increases to 155% during peak wet periods and shows excessive inflow and infiltration is entering the collection system.

f) Specific to the San Vicente system, it is presently operating at 61% **permitted** capacity under normal conditions based on average day demands during the five-year report period. Capacity usage increases to 95% during peak wet periods and suggest excessive inflow and infiltration is entering the collection system.

g) Capital improvements are needed to both Ramona MWD’s wastewater systems to expand the daily treatment capacities **with corresponding permit allowances** to avoid untreated sewage overflows and/or spills during peak wet periods given current capacity deficiencies.

Revision No. 9 | Page No. 25

Specific Revision: Addition of “as well as commute traffic along State Route 67” to final sentence in Section (5.3.5.c).

Average annual demands for fire protection and emergency medical services by Ramona MWD – both inside and outside the jurisdictional boundary – have increased in four of the five years in the report period with an overall change of 10% and attributed to an increase in population **as well as commute traffic along State Route 67**.

Revision No. 10 | Page No. 26

Specific Revision: Addition of “and its contractor’s” to the final sentence in Section (5.3.6.d).

Infrastructure and facility improvements are budgeted as needed; Ramona MWD has not established a formal capital improvement program. The absence of this type of document hinders the District **and its contractor’s** ability to strategically plan and allocate resources while diminishing the opportunity to engage constituents on long-term service goals.

Revision No. 11 | Page No. 26

Specific Revision: Addition of (Section 5.3.7) – Recycled Water Services analysis

Revision No. 12 | Page No. 27

Specific Revision: Addition of “This imbalance suggests changes to rates and/or operating expenses are needed” and deletion of “~~Rate increases appear appropriate~~” in Section (5.4.6.a).

Ramona MWD’s potable water services operate as an enterprise and intended to be self-supporting through user fees and related charges. Actual expenses during the five-year report period have increased by 17% while actual revenues have increased by 2% and produces nearly a nine-fold structural deficit. **This imbalance suggests changes to rates and/or operating expenses are needed** ~~Rate increases appear appropriate~~ to ensure an appropriate level of cost-recovery.

Revision No. 13 | Page No. 29

Specific Revision: Addition of footnote for Section (5.6.3): “On record with the Registrar of Voters, Ramona MWD has had 10 divisions contested in elections since 2010.”

[Chapter 3 | Agency Profile](#)

Revision No. 14 | Page No. 32

Specific Revision: Ramona Mainstreet Parade photo with watermark was replaced with the purchased copyright version through the San Diego History Center.

Revision No. 15 | Page No. 42

Specific Revision: The Ramona MWD Board roster was updated to reflect the following and correct order: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Director.

Revision No. 16 | Page No. 63

Specific Revision: Addition of Section 6.5 Recycled Water Service analysis with an accompanying footnote.

Revision No. 17 | Page No. 64 & 65

Specific Revision: Tables 7.1(a) and 7.1(b) were updated to include per capita amounts relative to operating expenses and revenues.

[Appendices](#)

Revision No. 18 | Page No. 72 - 77

Specific Revision: Addition of Appendices A, B, and C involving a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUC) Map, Document Sources, and Written Comments Received on the Draft Report.