

# SOLANO LAFCO SEWER MSR

## MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW



**PREPARED BY**

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DAVIS, CA 95618

**November 2006**



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NOVEMBER 2006



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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LAFCO

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (Government Code Section 56000 et seq.) requires all Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs), including the Solano LAFCo, to conduct a municipal service review (MSR) prior to updating the spheres of influence (SOI) of the various cities and special districts in the County (Government Code Section 56430). The fundamental role of a LAFCo is to implement to CKH Act, providing for the logical, efficient, and most appropriate formation of local municipalities, service areas, and special district. The focus of this MSR is to provide LAFCo with all necessary and relevant information related to the sanitary and storm sewer services provided by the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District (FSSD) and the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District (VSFCD).

### PURPOSE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

This MSR is intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of sewer service provision by the FSSD and VSFCD within Solano County. This MSR will provide Solano LAFCo with an informational document and make determinations in different areas of evaluation. This service review evaluates the ability of the Districts to provide sewer services within the County. The FSSD's boundary is shown in **Figure 1**. The VSFCD's boundary is shown in **Figure 2**.

This MSR evaluates the structure and operation of the Districts and discuss possible areas for improvement or coordination. Key sources for this study were agency-specific information gathered through research and surveys, as well as the Municipal Service Review Guidelines published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

This report is divided up into six sections Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies, Growth, Cost Avoidance and Facilities Sharing, Financing and Rate Restructuring, Government Structure and Management Efficiencies, and Local Accountability. These sections represent the analysis and determinations required in the nine topic areas set forth in the CKH act.

### INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This section analyzes whether sufficient infrastructure and capital are in place, and reviews capabilities for accommodating future growth in service demands.

### GROWTH

This section reviews projected growth within the existing service boundaries of the Districts and analyzes the Districts' plans to accommodate future growth.

### COST AVOIDANCE AND FACILITIES SHARING

This section evaluates factors affecting the financing of needed improvements, as well as opportunities for the Districts to share facilities.

### FINANCING AND RATE RESTRUCTURING

The fiscal history of each district is evaluated to determine viability and ability to meet service demands. Rate structure is also examined as a means to eliminate unnecessary cost.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES

This section evaluates the ability of the Districts to meet its demands under its existing government structure, and considers the overall managerial practices.

### LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This section examines how well the Districts makes their processes transparent to the public and invites and encourages public participation.

### OVERVIEW

#### THE FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT

The FSSD is a special district originally organized under the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District Act Chapter 303, Statutes of 1951. This act of the California Legislature enabled the District to perform wastewater collection and treatment activities and water recycling services for all properties within the boundaries of Fairfield, Suisun City, and Travis Air Force Base. The District also operates a drainage maintenance utility that performs specified storm water management services in conjunction with the cities it serves.

The District currently serves more than 130,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers and government agencies. A system of District-operated sanitary sewers and pumping stations collects wastewater from within the service area and transfers it to a tertiary waste treatment plant. The District is also responsible for storm water management within its service area, which includes capturing and controlling pollutants that can be carried by rainfall runoff. The District drainage system includes seven pump stations that maintain a flow of storm water to the Suisun Marsh.

The mission of the District is to efficiently, responsibly, and sustainably protect public health and the environment for the communities that the District services.

#### THE VALLEJO SANITATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

The VSFCD was created in 1952, as an independent special district under Enabling Act 8934 to provide sanitation and flood services within the District's boundary.

The District currently provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services and storm water transmission services to all customer connections within its 28-square mile boundary. The District also provides services by contractual agreement to customers outside its boundary in American Canyon, Napa County, and wastewater and storm water services to Mare Island, a former naval shipyard. The District is an enterprise special district that relies mostly on user fees to fund its approximately \$13 million/year operating budget.

The VSFCD's mission is to provide quality and cost-effective wastewater and flood control services to the community to protect the public's health, safety and environment.

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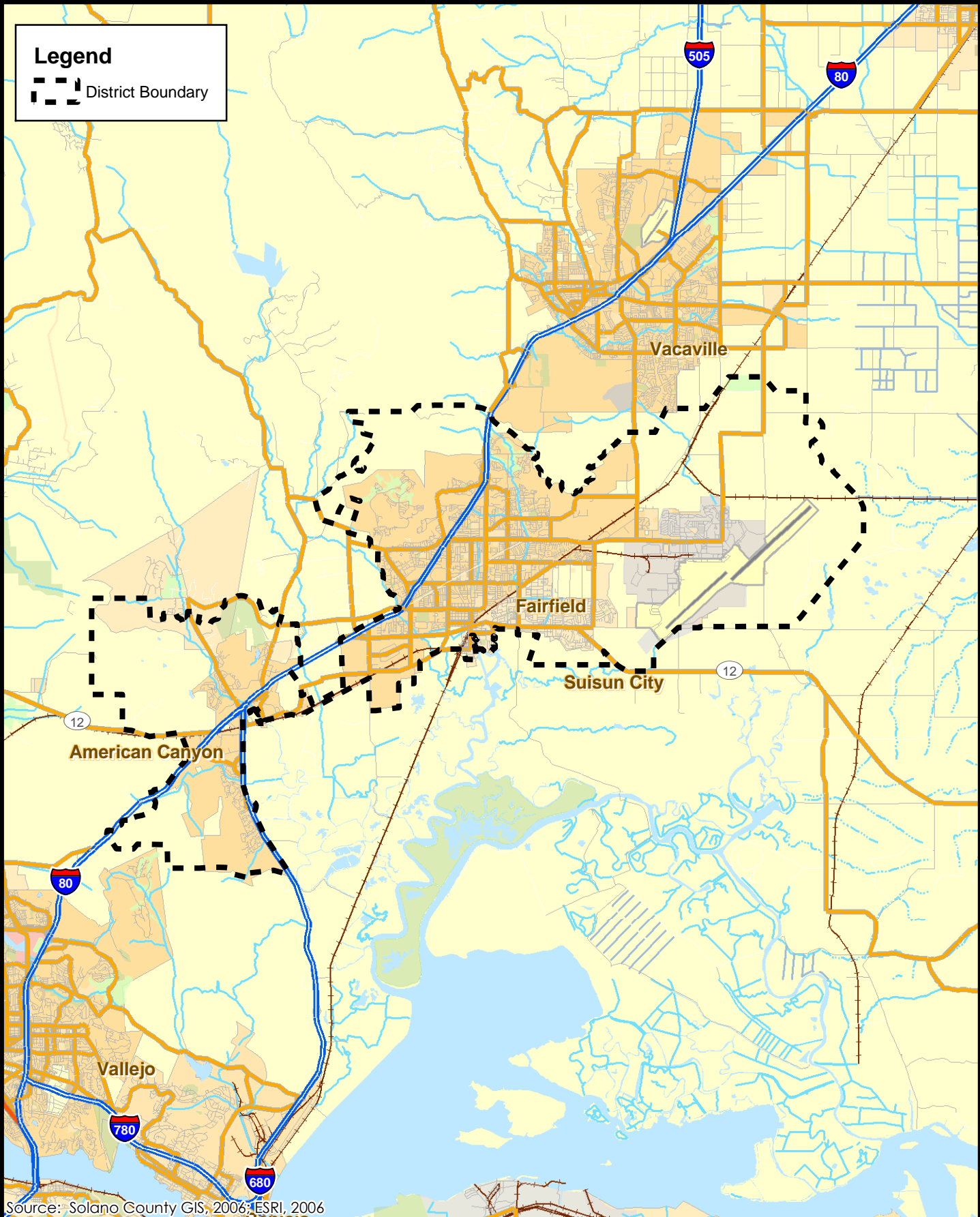


FIGURE 1

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT  
PMC









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## 2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## 2.1 FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT

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## 2.2 VALLEJO SANITATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

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