

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN FOR RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT



ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 11 2008/09 ON MARCH 5, 2009

PREPARED FOR:
BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION



APRIL 2009

PREPARED BY



**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE
AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN
FOR
RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**

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PREPARED BY:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	LAFCO	1
1.2	BUTTE LAFCO POLICIES AND CRITERIA FOR ANNEXATION.....	1
1.3	MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS	2
1.4	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE PROCESS.....	3
1.5	CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.....	4
2.0	DISTRICT PROFILE	5
2.1	DESCRIPTION AND EXISTING SETTING	5
2.2	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.....	5
2.3	POPULATION	7
2.3.1	METHODOLOGY	7
2.3.2	POPULATION PROJECTIONS	8
3.0	UPDATE TO THE 2005 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW OF RECREATION AND PARK SERVICE PROVIDERS.....	9
3.1	MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE: RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT.....	10
3.1.1	DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS	10
3.1.2	REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF SERVICE.....	12
4.0	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE ANALYSIS	18
4.1	PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE	18
4.2	PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES.....	22
4.3	PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES	26
4.4	SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST	26
4.5	SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS FOR RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT SOI PLAN.....	27
5.0	FINAL SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN ACTIONS.....	28
5.1	BUTTE LAFCO RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION	29
5.2	SUMMARY OF ADOPTED MSR DETERMINATIONS FOR THE RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT.....	32
5.3	SUMMARY OF ADOPTED SOI DETERMINATIONS FOR THE RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT.....	33
5.4	ADOPTED CEQA DOCUMENT	35
6.0	ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS.....	36
7.0	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	38

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APRIL 2009

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1: RRPD Current SOI and Jurisdictional Boundaries	6
Figure 3-1: Corrected Boundary for RRPD	11
Figure 4-1: RRPD Zoning.....	20
Figure 4-2: RRPD Williamson Act Parcels	21
Figure 4-3: Map of South County Recreation Service Providers	23
Figure 5-1: Adopted SOI for RRPD	34

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: BCAG Estimated Annual Growth Rates 2006–2030.....	8
Table 2-2: Population Projections for Richvale Recreation and Park District.....	8
Table 3-1: RRPD Population Projections, 2005–2025	12
Table 3-2: Distance to Facilities.....	13
Table 3-3: Summary of Revenues and Expenditures	14
Table 4-1: Butte County Land Use Designations and Zoning Within RRPD.....	19
Table 4-2: Future Parkland Needs Based on Population Growth Projections.....	25

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 LAFCO

Established in 1963, Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO) are responsible for administering California Government Code Section 56000 *et. seq.*, which is known as the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH). CKH charges LAFCOs with encouraging the orderly formation and development of all local governmental agencies in their respective counties in a manner that preserves agricultural and open-space lands, promotes the efficient extension of municipal services, and prevents urban sprawl. Principle duties include regulating boundary changes through annexations or detachments, approving or disapproving city incorporations; and forming, consolidating, or dissolving special districts. There is a LAFCO located in each of the 58 counties in California.

1.2 BUTTE LAFCO POLICIES AND CRITERIA FOR ANNEXATION

Under the CKH Act, LAFCOs are required to “develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the county and enact policies designed to promote logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere” (Section 56425, CKH). A Sphere of Influence (SOI) is generally considered a 20-year, long-range planning tool, and is defined by Government Code Section 56425 as “. . . a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency or municipality” According to the CKH Act, LAFCOs are required to review and update SOIs as necessary, but no less than once every five years.

Pursuant to Butte LAFCO’s Operations Manual Policies and Procedures (Revised December 2, 2004), the Sphere of Influence Plans for all government agencies within LAFCO’s jurisdiction shall contain the following:

1. A map defining the probable 20-year boundary of its service area delineated by near-term (<10 years) and long-term (>10 years) increments and coordinated with the Municipal Service Review.
2. Maps and explanatory text delineating the present land uses in the area, including, without limitation, improved and unimproved parcels; actual commercial, industrial, and residential uses; agricultural and open space lands; and the proposed future land uses in the area.

3. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the sphere area. The discussion should include consideration of the need for all types of major facilities, not just those provided by the agency.
4. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services which the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
5. Identification of any relevant social or economic communities of interest in the area.
6. Existing population and projected population at build-out of the near- and long-term spheres of the agency.
7. A Municipal Service Review.

1.3 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act requires that a Municipal Service Review (MSR) be conducted prior to, or in conjunction with, the update of an SOI. An MSR is a comprehensive analysis of service provision by each of the special districts, cities, and the unincorporated county service areas within the legislative authority of the LAFCO. It essentially evaluates the capability of a jurisdiction to serve its existing residents and future development in its SOI. The legislative authority for conducting MSRs is provided in Section 56430 of the CKH Act, which states “. . . in order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence in accordance with Section 56425, LAFCOs are required to conduct a MSR of the municipal services provided in the County or other appropriate designated area”

To assist in conducting an MSR, the State Office of Planning and Research developed guidelines that advise on information gathering, analysis, and organization of the study. In order to update an SOI, the associated MSR must have written determinations that address the following legislative factors:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area.
2. Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.
3. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
4. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
5. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.

6. Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

These determinations, which range from infrastructure needs or deficiencies to government structure options, must be adopted by the Commission before, or concurrently with, the sphere review of the subject agency.

An MSR for the Butte County Recreation and Park Districts was initiated in 2004 and adopted by Butte LAFCO in 2005 (Resolution No. 13 2005/06). The MSR examines the public services provided by the District and the information in the MSR provides baseline information for the SOI study. However, because of the rapidly increasing population within the County and the changing status of impacted agencies, some of the information in the 2005 MSR is already dated. Thus, additional information from the recreation service providers has been collected and various other land planning documents have been reviewed, including land use zoning maps, the current Butte County General Plan, and documents and studies associated with the County's General Plan 2030 update, in order to provide the most current and accurate information available. Interviews with District staff were also performed to gain further insight into recreation service issues. To provide for a cleaner process, the MSR Chapter for Richvale Recreation and Park District has been updated and included as Section 3.1 of this document, and will be re-adopted as a part of this SOI Plan process.

1.4 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE PROCESS

Butte LAFCO is now in the process of updating the current SOIs for each of the seven recreation service providers in Butte County¹. This document addresses the SOI update for the Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD or District). RRPD encompasses approximately 57 square miles and includes the unincorporated community of Richvale. Although this SOI study analysis addresses the needs of RRPD, there is also discussion of options for re-organization of the south County recreation service providers including RRPD and County Service Areas (CSAs) No. 31 and No. 34. Separate SOI updates for the remaining six recreation service providers have also been developed under separate cover.

¹ The seven park and recreation service providers within Butte County whose SOIs are being updated include the following special districts/county service areas: (1) Chico Area Recreation and Park District, (2) Durham Recreation and Park District, (3) Feather River Recreation and Park District, (4) Paradise Recreation and Park District, (5) Richvale Recreation and Park District, (6) County Service Area No. 31 – Schohr's Pool, and (7) County Service Area No. 34 – Gridley Swimming Pool.

There are numerous factors to consider in reviewing an SOI, including current and anticipated land uses, facilities, and services, as well as any relevant communities of interest. Updates generally involve a comprehensive review of the entire SOI Plan, including boundary and SOI maps and the District's MSR. In reviewing an agency's sphere, the Commission is required to consider and prepare written statements addressing four factors enumerated under California Government Code Section 56425(e). These factors are identified below.

- The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.
- The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

In addition, when reviewing a sphere for an existing special district, the Commission must also do the following:

- Require the existing district to file a written statement with the Commission specifying the functions or classes of services it provides.
- Establish the nature, location, and extent of any functions or classes of services provided by the existing district.

1.5 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Sphere of Influence Studies are subject to Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a Negative Declaration has been prepared for the RRPD SOI and included as Appendix A. As indicated above, an SOI is a long-range planning tool that analyzes the physical boundary of a local agency or jurisdiction, and the present and probable need for services within that area. As such, it does not give property inside the sphere boundary any more development rights than already exist. Ultimately, an SOI study assists LAFCO in making decisions about a jurisdiction's future boundary. The sphere indicates the logical area in which the District anticipates services will be utilized.

2.0 DISTRICT PROFILE

2.1 DESCRIPTION AND EXISTING SETTING

Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD) is generally located in southwestern Butte County, west of State Highway 99, and between the City of Biggs to the south and the unincorporated community of Durham to the north (Figure 2-1). The western boundary line is Butte Creek, which also forms the Butte County line. The District consists of approximately 36,480 acres (approximately 57 square miles) and includes the unincorporated community of Richvale. Serving an approximate population of 640², the District provides recreational programming in coordination with the Richvale Elementary School, which is part of the Biggs Unified School District (BUSD).

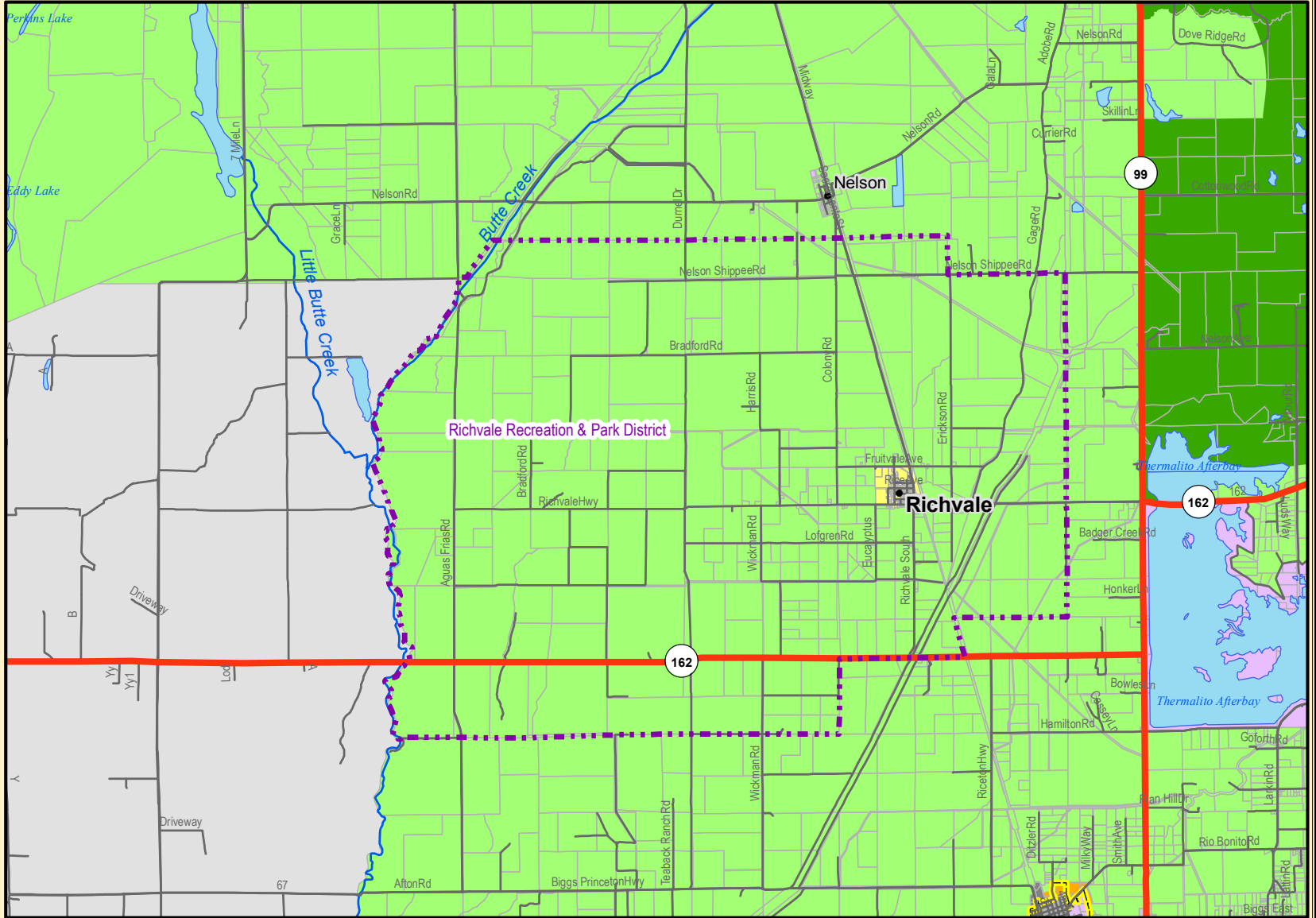
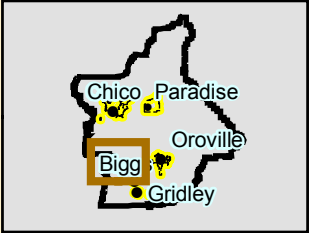
2.2 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

The original, and only, sphere of influence (SOI) studies prepared for Butte County special districts were completed in 1985.³ District boundaries were delineated on the Recreation and Park District maps included in those studies and, although the RRPD is not identified by name or discussed in the text of the studies, its boundaries are discernable. The maps do not provide enough detail to be certain, but the current District boundaries appear unchanged from the 1980s. Further, there do not appear to have been any amendments to the District boundaries in the interim. However, District Board members noted that the currently mapped District boundaries/SOI are not consistent with what they believed them to be. This is discussed in further detail in the following sections.

RRPD's SOI is coterminous with its District boundaries. The SOI is also contiguous with the Durham Recreation and Park District to the north and with Community Service Area (CSA) No. 31 – Schohr's Swimming Pool to the south. The SOI extends west to the County line, which is concurrent with Butte Creek. Current GIS mapping of the District indicates that the eastern SOI boundary is located approximately one mile west of State Highway 99.

² Estimated population is based on a weighted calculation of the 2007 population estimates prepared by the U.S. Census.

³ Gridley-Biggs Area Sphere of Influence Study – Butte County Local Agency Commission. March 1985.



Legend

- Richvale Recreation & Park District
- City Spheres of Influence
- Waterbodies
- Highways
- Secondary Roads
- City Limits
- General Plan Designations**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Grazing Land
- High Density Residential (20 du/acre)
- Industrial
- Low Density Residential (6 du/acre)
- Medium Density Residential (13 du/acre)
- Public

Richvale Recreation and Park District
Current Sphere of Influence and Jurisdictional Boundaries
BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

0 1 2 4
Miles

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Rec. & Park Districts (2004), Parcels (2007), General Plan (2007), School Districts (2004), City Limits (2006) courtesy of Butte LAFCO

Service area boundaries and sphere of influence boundaries are based on best available data, are provided for general representational purpose only, and should not be considered final LAFCO approved boundaries

2.3 POPULATION

Typically, population projections from MSRs are used to develop SOI plans. Since the preparation of the 2005 MSR, California's growth continued to increase dramatically for a time. However, in recent years a nationwide economic downturn has resulted in a slowing of development and growth in California. Butte County has experienced the effects of the slowing economy and, as a result, the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) has since revised the population growth rate estimates estimates, which were used in the 2005 MSR, to better reflect the current growth rate in Butte County. For this reason, population projections were re-estimated for this SOI, using the BCAG's revised growth rates for the years 2006–2030, and were also amended in the MSR (Section 3.1).

2.3.1 METHODOLOGY

The population estimates for RRPD provided in the 2005 MSR included three methodologies for projecting future population between 2000 and 2025. One scenario used the annual growth rate of Butte County (without the Chico Area) between 1990 and 2000, applied to the 2000 U.S. Census population figures for the District. The second scenario, and the one identified in the MSR as most accurate for RRPD, used the growth rate for Butte County (without Chico) developed by the BCAG in 2004, and applied to the 2000 U.S. Census data for the District. The third scenario assumed a static share of estimated Butte County population growth during the 20-year planning period. The MSR population estimates and projections using the preferred methodology are shown in Table 2-2.

The methodology used to calculate the growth rates and population projections in this document uses the most current BCAG annual growth rates (Table 2-1) and a weighted calculation of the estimated 2007 U.S. Census Bureau population data. This approach was used in order to maintain consistency with the 2005 MSR methodology, as well with as other planning documents within the County that guide future growth and development. From a starting point of the year 2007 (U.S. Census estimated populations for the County), the population projections were recalculated using the BCAG's most recent growth rates. Since there are no incorporated cities within the District, the growth rate used for the entirety of the District was 1.1 percent. The results of those projections are included in Table 2-2.

TABLE 2-1: BCAG ESTIMATED ANNUAL GROWTH RATES 2006–2030

BUTTE COUNTY JURISDICTION	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
Unincorporated	1.1%

Source: Butte Regional Growth Projections 2006–2030, Butte County Association of Governments

2.3.2 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Updated population projections are provided in Table 2-2, below. The MSR identified one of the three methods used in that document as being the most accurate projection: the second scenario that assumed BCAG’s estimated growth rate for the County area. Table 2-2 compares the 2005 MSR population projections with more recent projections prepared for this SOI Study and as described in the Methodology section above. The revised population projections are slightly higher than those estimated in the 2005 MSR as most accurately reflecting the growth rates at the time, varying by 181 residents by the year 2025.

TABLE 2-2: POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

POPULATION GROWTH ESTIMATE	2000 (CENSUS)	2005	2007	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Updated Projections ⁴	–	–	640	661	699	738	779	823
2005 MSR Projection ⁵	434	463	–	493	526	561	598	–
Difference	–	–	–	135	173	177	181	–

⁴ Estimate based on growth rates from Butte County Association of Governments Butte Regional Population Growth Projections 2006–2030; and U.S. Census population estimate for 2007.

⁵ The population projection scenario that was identified in the 2005 MSR as the most accurate reflection of the District’s population used the growth rate for Butte County (without Chico) developed by the BCAG in 2004, and applied to the 2000 U.S. Census data for the District.

3.0 UPDATE TO THE 2005 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW OF RECREATION AND PARK SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Municipal Service Review prepared by Cotton/Bridges/Associates and adopted by Butte LAFCO in 2005 provides the background and general analysis upon which this SOI Plan is based. Because a number of years have passed since the MSR was prepared, some of the information has become outdated. As part of the SOI study process, the MSR Chapter for Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD) has been updated as follows in Section 3.1 to ensure that the Commission has the most current information for considerations regarding the appropriate SOI for the District.

During interviews with District Board members, they expressed some concern that the currently mapped eastern boundary line of RRPD did not extend as far east as they had previously thought. The currently mapped boundary/SOI lies approximately one mile west of Highway 99, which forms the western boundary/SOI for CSA No. 31. Current GIS mapping indicates this area is a gap in service provision and is currently not included within any recreation district or CSA. District Board members had believed the eastern boundary/SOI followed the now defunct Richvale Unified School District boundaries, which they understood to extend to Wilbur Road, an area well within CSA No. 31's current boundaries. LAFCO's 1985 Special District Sphere of Influence Studies also indicate a boundary/SOI consistent with current mapping. Further discussion on this issue is included in the following sections.

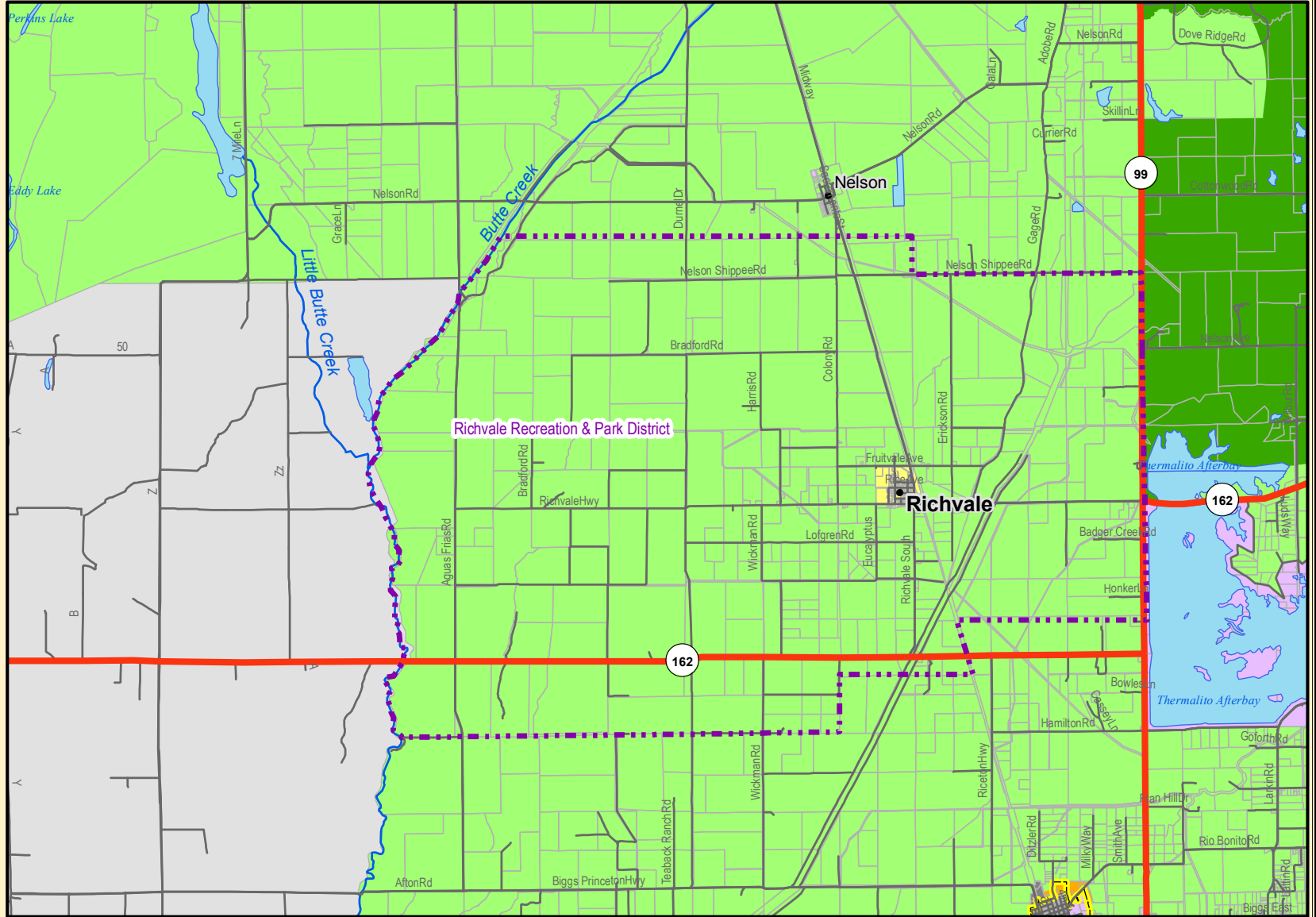
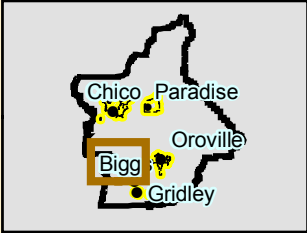
3.1 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE: RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

3.1.1 DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

Encompassing approximately 57 square miles, the Richvale Recreation and Park District (the District) is bordered by the Durham area and Nelson on the north, the Gridley area on the south, Glenn County to the west, and State Highway 99 on the east (Figure 3-1). The District includes the unincorporated community of Richvale, and surrounding unincorporated rural areas of Butte County.

DISTRICT SIZE:	36,480 acres (57 square miles)
LOCATION:	West central portion of Butte County, surrounding the unincorporated community of Richvale
OFFICE LOCATION:	No physical address (mailing address: P.O. Box 346, Richvale, CA 95974)
EMPLOYEES:	None (volunteers or contractors perform needed work)
SERVICES:	District maintains two acres of developed parkland.
POPULATION SERVED:	640 as of 2007
DATE OF FORMATION:	February 18, 1953
ENABLING LEGISLATION:	Public Resources Code Section 5780 <i>et seq.</i>

The District coordinates with Biggs Unified School District (BUSD) to provide two acres of parkland on grounds shared with the Richvale Elementary School. The park contains a picnic area, basketball courts, tennis courts, softball field, and recreation room.



Legend

- Richvale Recreation & Park District
- City Spheres of Influence
- Highways
- Secondary Roads
- Waterbodies
- City Limits
- General Plan Designations**
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Grazing Land
- High Density Residential (20 du/acre)
- Industrial
- Low Density Residential (6 du/acre)
- Medium Density Residential (13 du/acre)
- Public

**Corrected Boundary for
Richvale Recreation and Park District
BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

0 1 2 4
Miles

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3.1.2 REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF SERVICE

A. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This section analyzes the infrastructure needs and deficiencies of the District. Information is derived from a survey questionnaire distributed for the Municipal Service Review and interviews with the District Board of Director’s president. A follow-up interview was held with District Board members on August 12, 2008.

ISSUE #1: POPULATION GROWTH

The Richvale Recreation and Park District served 640 residents as of 2007. The District is primarily rural in nature and is not anticipated to have substantial population growth. Assuming that the population within the Richvale Recreation and Park District would grow at the same rate as population growth within Butte County (not including the growth rate occurring in the Chico area) as estimated by the Butte County Association of Governments, Richvale’s population would increase to 779 residents as of 2025 (Table 3-1).

TABLE 3-1: RRPD POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 2005–2025

FUTURE POPULATION SCENARIO	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Assuming Butte County population growth rate (w/o Chico) per estimates from Butte County Association of Governments	463	661	699	738	779

Source: Butte County Association of Governments, 2006–2030 Estimated Growth Rates; 2007 estimated Census; Analysis by Kleinschmidt Associates, 2009.

DETERMINATION 3-1: GROWTH AND POPULATION FOR THE AFFECTED AREA	
	<i>The population in the District is expected to grow at a rate of 1.1 percent.</i>

ISSUE #2: PARKLAND NEEDS

Population growth is used to determine the needs for parkland and recreation services. Historically, the National Park and Recreation Association suggested that communities have 6 to 10 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 people to meet the needs for active recreation. This standard could be met by the local recreational service provider, national and state park areas, and various local agencies such as schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations. In recent

years, NPRA has advocated a more community-based approach to defining local park and recreation needs. The District does not have a recreation standard, but works with the school district to determine the need for parks and recreational facility needs. The District currently collaborates with BUSD to provide two acres of developed parkland, translating into approximately 3 acres for every 1,000 people. To continue providing three acres per thousand population, an additional 0.4 acre of developed parkland is needed by 2020 and an additional 0.9 acre is needed by 2030.

**TABLE 3-2
DISTANCE TO FACILITIES**

Richvale, with its one park centrally located relative to the population of the District, has excellent coverage of residential properties: 70 percent of residential properties are located within ½ mile of a District park and 84 percent of residential properties are located within 1 mile of a park (Table 3-2).

DISTANCE	PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
½ Mile	70
1 Mile	84
2 Miles	94
5 Miles	97
10 Miles	100

*Source: 2005 Municipal Service Review.
Cotton/Bridges/Associates.*

ISSUE #3: RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

National Park and Recreation Association guidelines also provide a baseline for planning for recreational facilities. Recognizing that churches, community groups, schools, and other organizations help meet locals needs, local recreation providers adjust the national standards to fit local needs and preferences. Most of the national standards are expressed in ratios with a denominator of 10,000 or more (representing population). Since the District’s population is less than 1,000, these standards are not appropriate.

According to the president of the Board of Directors, recreation facilities and services will need to be expanded to address existing and future needs as population growth occurs. Though plans to improve and expand facilities are not available, the Board recently has discussed the purchase of new soccer goals, property for development of a soccer/softball field or fields, and purchase and installation of new lighting for the tennis/basketball courts.

Recreational facility improvements approved by the Board of Directors for the 2004/05 Fiscal Year include the following items: new tennis court nets, basketball nets, soccer goals, repainting

of tennis court lines, restroom improvements (tentative), and general maintenance of the fence around the tennis courts/basketball courts.

ISSUE #4: OPERATIONAL NEEDS

No office space is necessary and operational needs are minimal currently, since the District does not have a staff and has a private contractor for maintenance.

DETERMINATION 3-2: PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES	
	<i>The District should adopt a standard for the amount of parkland to be provided per population. The District should establish general goals for recreation facility provision based on locally available facilities that exists and local preferences, using NPRA standards as a guideline, as appropriate.</i>

B. FINANCING, RATE RESTRUCTURING, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

District finances and financial practices were reviewed as part of this service review. Sources of information include the District’s annual budget, financial statements and auditor’s report, and discussions with District staff.

The District operates on a 12-month fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The District submits to the County Auditor a budget of estimated revenues and expenses approved by the Board of Directors each year prior to June 30 that address the forthcoming fiscal year. The final budget is legally enacted by the Board of Directors prior to August 10 after any changes, if necessary, are made.

**TABLE 3-3
SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

REVENUES	2005–2006
Interest Income	\$2,783
Other Revenue (Donations)	\$3,000
Expenditures	
Salaries and benefits	\$0
Services, Supplies, Contributions	\$70
Debt Service	\$0
Net Change in Assets	\$5,713

Source: RRPD Financial Statements/Auditor’s Report, 2000 through 2006.

The District indicates that it is financially solvent. Monetary gifts and interest comprise the majority of revenues received by the District on an annual basis. Expenses are primarily related to contract services for the park. Grant funding is available for the District if it had the

administrative capacity to administer certain state grants. However, without any employees, the District is not in a position to take advantage of grant funding that might otherwise be available.

The District had approximately \$79,000 in the County Treasury as of the August 2006 Board of Directors meeting. The District does not have any long-term debt, such as bond repayment obligations. The District had \$5,783 in undesignated unreserved funding as of June 30, 2006. The total approved budget for 2004/05 includes reserve fund spending on approximately \$43,000 worth of improvements. Capital improvements would be financed through issuance of bonds and reserve fund spending in the future.

DETERMINATION 3-3: FINANCIAL ABILITY OF AGENCY TO PROVIDE SERVICES	
	<i>The District should hire a staff member to obtain and administer grants.</i>

C. MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES/COST AVOIDANCE, AND FACILITY SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

A Board of Directors oversees District operations. Contract employees maintain the park. The District does not have a master plan or capital improvements plan. Opportunities for cost avoidance are minimal since the District has no employees and all services are contracted out. The District's bidding process requires three formal bids for all contracts in excess of \$5,000, thus ensuring reasonable costs. The District does not have any employees, so any work required that could not be accomplished through volunteer labor would have to be accomplished by a contractor. The District Board of Directors President conducts business, such as accepting bids.

The District has historically held shared-use agreements with the Biggs Unified School District for use of the Richvale Elementary School facilities.

DETERMINATION 3-4: MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES/COST AVOIDANCE, AND FACILITY SHARING OPPORTUNITIES	
	<i>The District does not have an adequate management structure or staffing. The District may be able to reduce costs through use of volunteers to maintain the park. The District also should explore sharing of facilities, equipment, staff, and knowledge with nearby recreation and park districts until it can hire its own staff.</i>

D. LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by the community. The two newest members, however, were appointed by the Butte County Board of Supervisors in the absence of interested candidates. The Board of Directors must approve all issues of District policy, including any contracts or leases entered into by the District. Agendas are posted on local bulletin boards and at the Richvale Elementary School Recreation Room, where the meetings are held quarterly, as required by Public Resources Code section 5784.11. Each meeting has a public comment period for members of the public. The District occasionally mails out questionnaires to determine the satisfaction of the community with the level of service provided by the District.

DETERMINATION 3-5: LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	
	<i>The District must have a staff that is available by telephone during business hours to address concerns. Also, it is not clear what methods the District is using to promote its facilities and activities. Members of the Board of Directors should be elected, rather than appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.</i>

E. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The District includes the unincorporated community of Richvale and surrounding rural lands. The District’s boundaries and Sphere of Influence (SOI) are coterminous, and there is no planned expansion of the District.

DETERMINATION 3-6: GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE	
	<i>The District appears to have boundaries that are appropriate both politically and given the services provided.</i>

**F. SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS FOR THE RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
MSR UPDATE**

DETERMINATION 3-1: GROWTH AND POPULATION FOR THE AFFECTED AREA	
	<i>The population within the District is expected to grow at a rate of 1.1 percent.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-2: PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES	
	<i>The District should adopt a standard for the amount of parkland to be provided per population. The District should establish general goals for recreation facility provision based on locally available facilities that exists and local preferences, using NPRA standards as a guideline, as appropriate.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-3: FINANCIAL ABILITY OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES	
	<i>The District should hire a staff member to obtain and administer grants.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-4: MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES/COST AVOIDANCE, AND FACILITY SHARING OPPORTUNITIES	
	<i>The District does not have an adequate management structure or staffing. The District may be able to reduce costs through use of volunteers to maintain the park. The District also should explore sharing of facilities, equipment, staff, and knowledge with nearby recreation and park districts until it can hire its own staff.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-5: LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	
	<i>The District must have a staff that is available by telephone during business hours to address concerns. Also, it is not clear what methods the District is using to promote its facilities and activities. Members of the Board of Directors should be elected, rather than appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-6: GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE	
	<i>The District appears to have boundaries that are appropriate both politically and given the services provided.</i>

4.0 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE ANALYSIS

As described in Section 1.4, LAFCO is required to consider and prepare written statements addressing the four factors enumerated under California Government Code Section 56425(e), including present and probable land uses in the area, present and probable need for public facilities and services, the present capacity of facilities and adequacy of services, and the existence of social or economic communities of interest. An analysis of each of these factors is provided in the following sections.

4.1 PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE

In order to achieve an accurate overview of the growth and development potential within the District, a number of factors need to be considered. The following factors, when considered together, reflect the existing development within the District, as well as provide a picture of existing development potential:

- Land use designations, including existing and any proposed changes
- Special land use limitations, including Williamson Act and designated open spaces
- Improved and unimproved parcels

State law requires every city and county in California to adopt and maintain a comprehensive and long-term General Plan that is to serve as a “blueprint” for land use and development. As the entirety of the District’s lands fall within the unincorporated areas of Butte County, these lands are under the County’s jurisdiction. Therefore, development is guided by the Butte County General Plan, which establishes the growth patterns and guides the future development of the area. More specifically, the County’s Zoning Code provides regulatory oversight and establishes future land uses. It should be noted that Butte County is currently in the process of updating its 1995 General Plan. However, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes in the land use designations and zoning within the District boundaries (General Plan 2030b). The current General Plan designation and zoning is identified in Figure 4-1 and listed in Table 4-1.

Land Use Designations

The existing land uses within the District are predominantly agricultural, with a small cluster of residential development within the unincorporated community of Richvale (Figure 4-1). All but a very limited number of parcels within the District are designated Agriculture with at least a 40-acre minimum density by the Butte County General Plan (Table 4-1). Less than 1 percent of the District is designated for residential development, totaling approximately 159 acres, all of which are within the community of Richvale. There are also 22 acres of commercially designated land within the community of Richvale.

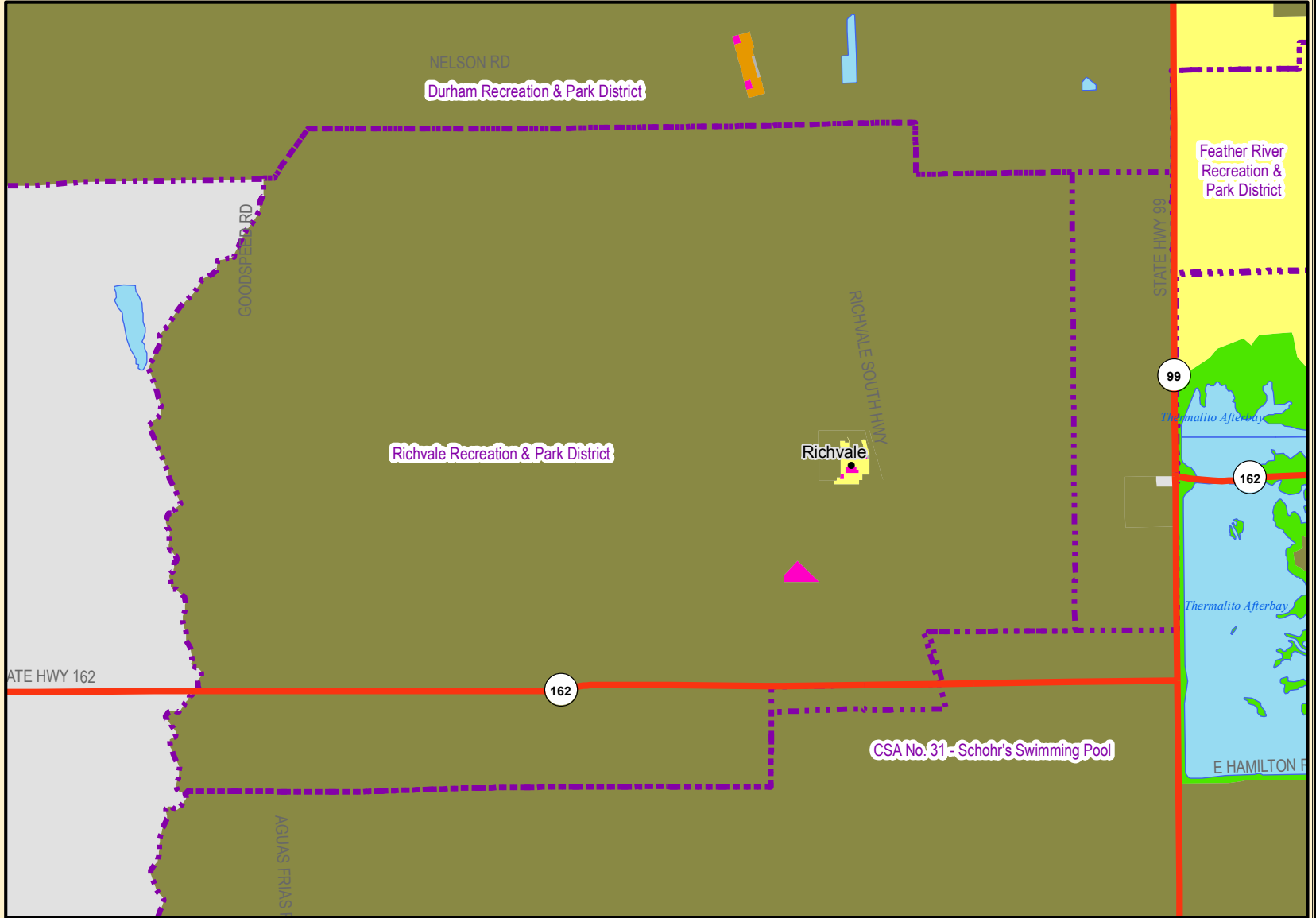
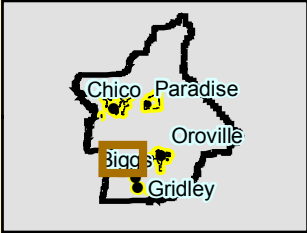
TABLE 4-1: BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND ZONING WITHIN RRPD

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION	ACREAGE	ZONING	ACREAGE
Orchard and Field Crops (OFC)	36,298.8	Agricultural	36,387.6
Low Density Residential (LDR)	158.7	Agricultural-Residential (A-R)	61.0
Commercial (C)	22.5	Commercial	0.4
		Public/Quasi-Public (P-Q)	31.3
Total	36,480.0	Total	36,480.3

Source: Butte LAFCO GIS.

Williamson Act

The Williamson Act, or the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, enables local governments, in this case Butte County, to enter into contracts with private landowners to preserve specific parcels of land for agricultural or related open space use. The District contains 44 parcels totaling approximately 12,756 acres that are currently under Williamson Act contract with the County (Figure 4-2). Williamson Act contracts are a type of tax incentive that limits the uses of the lands to agriculture, although single-family residences remain an allowed use. Once the Williamson Act contract has been established, land remains under contract for a minimum of 10 years, and in perpetuity thereafter unless application for cancellation is made and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. Butte LAFCO Policy 3.1.11 provides guidance relative to the inclusion of lands that are subject to Williamson Act contract in SOIs. The Policy states that LAFCO shall not approve changes to SOIs to include Williamson Act lands if the annexing



Legend

- Richvale Recreation & Park District
- Waterbodies
- Unclassified or Unknown
- Agricultural
- Light Commercial
- Residential
- Public, Quasi-Public
- Resource Conservation
- Timber Mountain
- Highways

Richvale Recreation and Park District Zoning
BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

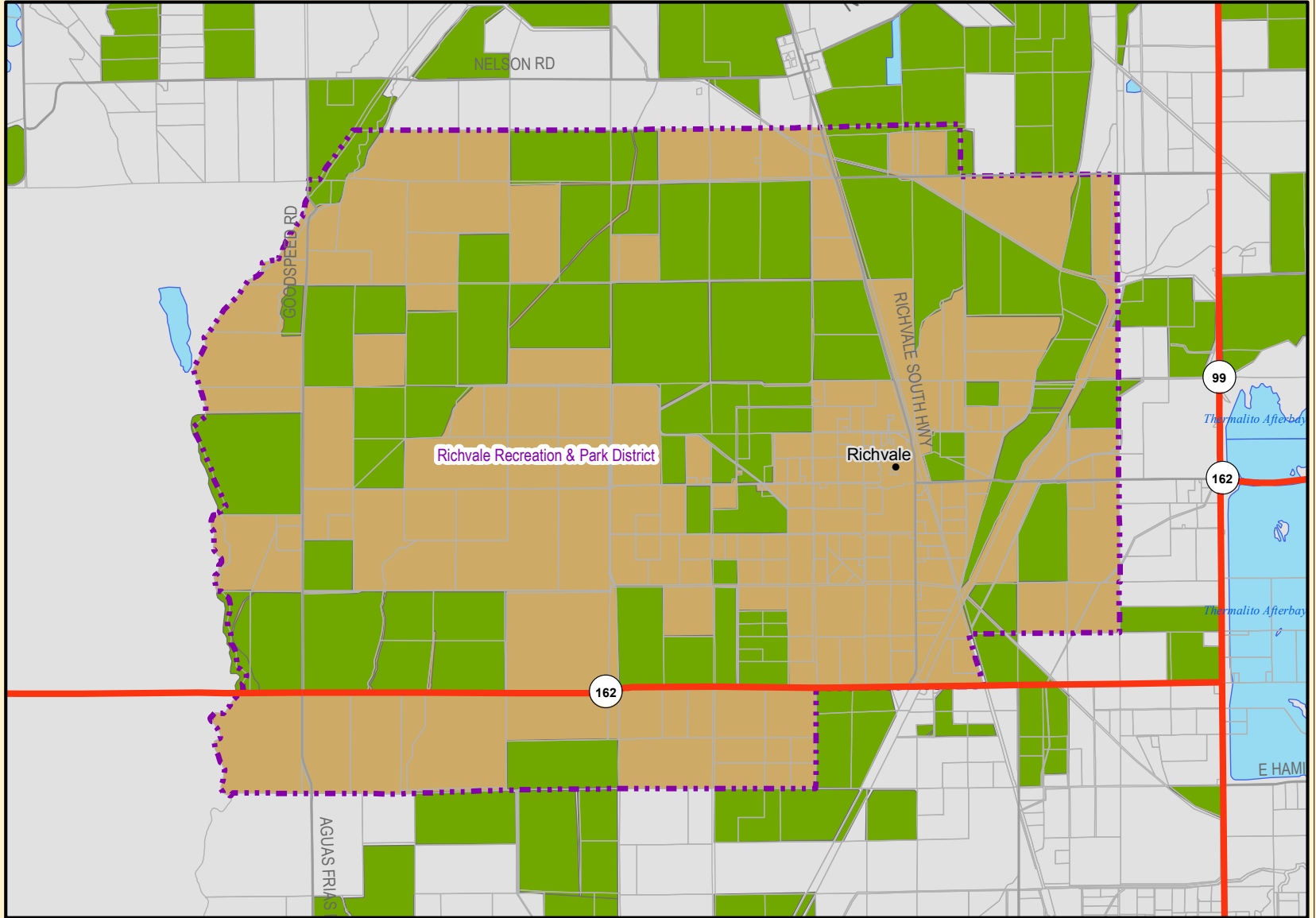
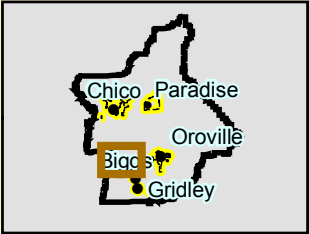
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 Miles

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 Grass Valley, CA 95945
 Telephone: (530) 852-4837
 Fax: (530) 852-4837
 www.KleinschmidtUSA.com

Rec. & Park Districts (2004), City Limits (2007), Zoning Designations (2007)
 courtesy of Butte LAFCO

Service area boundaries and sphere of influence boundaries are based on best available data, are provided for general
 representational purpose only, and should not be considered final LAFCO approved boundaries



Legend

- Highways
- Secondary Roads
- Recreation & Park Districts
- Parcel Boundaries
- Waterbodies
- Williamson Act

Richvale Recreation and Park District
Williamson Act Parcels
BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Miles

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Rec. & Parl Districts (2004), City Limits (2007),
Parcels (2007) courtesy of Butte LAFCO
Williamson Act Parcels (2006) courtesy of CADOC

Service area boundaries and sphere of influence boundaries are based on best available data, are provided for general representational purpose only, and should not be considered final LAFCO approved boundaries

agency has the ability to provide infrastructure sufficient to promote development of those properties. However, as a recreation and park service provider, the District services do not influence new growth.

Improved and Unimproved Parcels

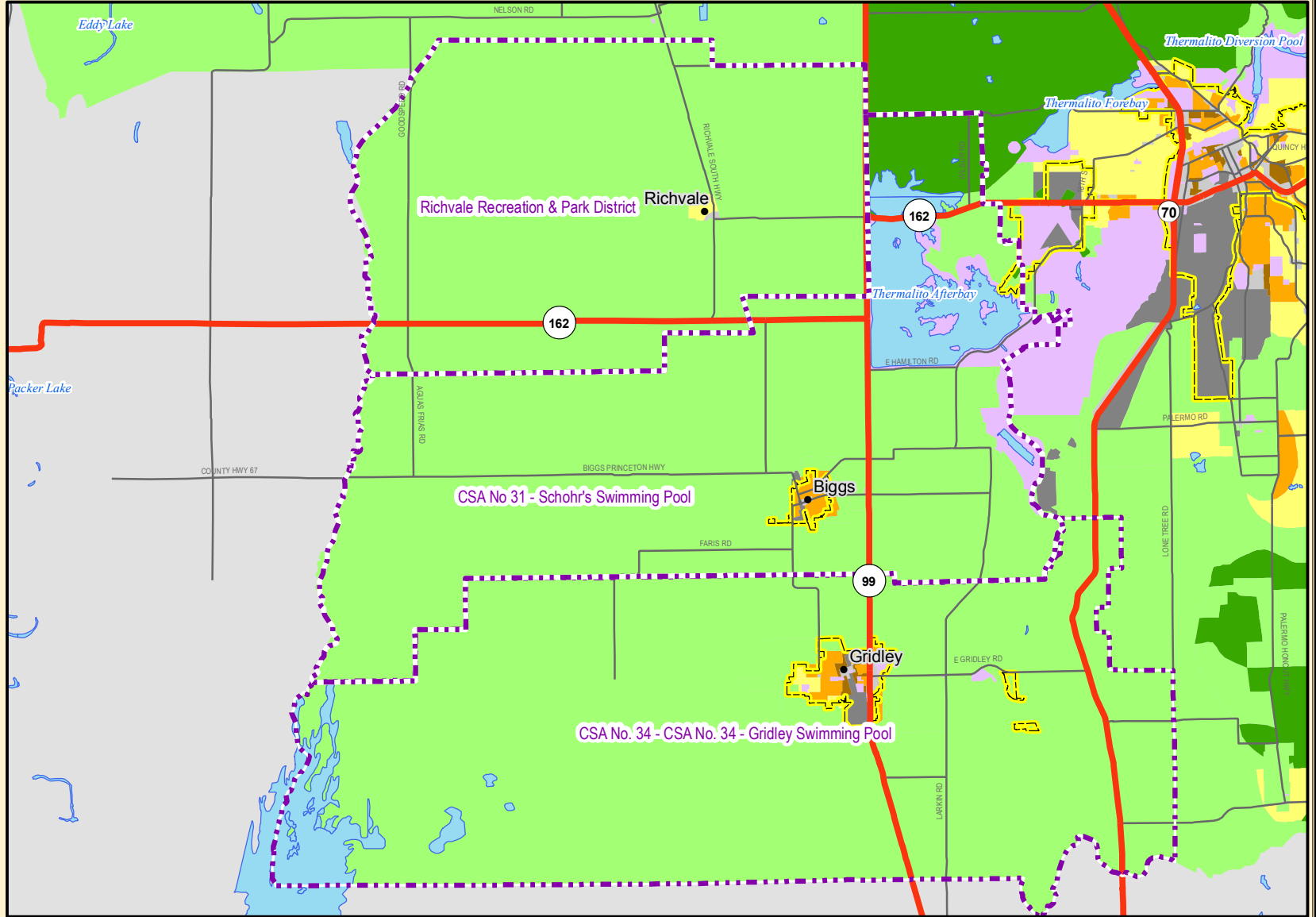
Approximately 351 of the District’s 578 parcels are unimproved, the vast majority of which are being utilized strictly for agricultural operations. Approximately 159 acres of the District are designated for low-density residential, making up approximately 0.4 percent of the District’s lands. There are approximately 22 acres located within the community of Richvale that are designated for commercial uses. Most of the commercial area is developed with rice processing and storage facilities and is located at the junction of the Richvale Highway and Midway Road. There is a small area of commercial use in the northern area of the community that contains the Post Office and Richvale Café.

DETERMINATION 4-1: PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE	
	<i>Little change in land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years.</i>

4.2 PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The Richvale Recreation and Park District’s population is largely rural in nature, and population and land use projections indicate it will remain so. The District Board estimated that there has been a small increase in population since the preparation of the 2005 MSR, which is reflected in the revised population projections in Section 2.3.2. The majority of the District’s recreation and sports programs are family-oriented, and there are no teams or league programs offered. District residents wishing to participate in such programs travel either to the City of Biggs to the south or the community of Durham to the north.

In the course of researching the issues identified in the 2005 MSR for the RRPD and surrounding service providers (Figure 4-3), specifically CSAs No. 31 and No. 34, it became evident that there may be opportunities for shared governance that could provide a more efficient and comprehensive delivery of recreation services. The 2005 MSR evaluated RRPD and CSAs No. 31 and No. 34, and provided determinations and recommendations regarding their boundaries

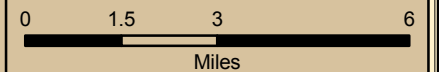


Legend

- Recreation & Park Districts
- Highways
- Secondary Roads
- Waterbodies
- City Limits
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Grazing Land
- High Density Residential
- Industrial
- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- Public
- Timberland Preserve Zone

Map of South County Recreation Service Providers

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and spheres of influence. In summary, it was found that RRPD's boundaries/SOI were sufficient, but that the two CSAs might benefit from some re-evaluation. The two CSAs are discussed in detail under separate cover.

Parkland

The District has not yet adopted a standard for the development of parkland. However, the District works with the Biggs Unified School District (BUSD), which operates a school in the community of Richvale, to determine community needs for parks and recreational facilities. Although the District has no facilities of its own, it has historically held a long-term lease and shared-use agreement with BUSD to provide recreational facilities on two acres owned by the School District. The Agreement did not include the exchange of funds, but consisted of the District's providing maintenance, specialty projects, and improvements to the facility. In recent years the lease and agreement have lapsed and, due to staffing changes at BUSD, have not yet been renewed. While the District is working towards renewing the lease, any plans to offer more services or facilities are on hold.

District attempts to use surveys to solicit community input as to recreational programming or facilities have been largely unsuccessful due to inadequate response. However, Richvale is a very close-knit community whose residents regularly provide verbal feedback and requests to District Board members. Additionally, RRPD program information is made available to the community through its agendas and minutes, the local paper that is published during the school year, and on announcements and/or flyers.

The 2005 MSR used the District's current provision of developed parkland (through BUSD) as a "standard" for calculating parkland needs. The basis for establishing parkland needs made in the MSR was that, at the time, this "standard" equated to a little less than five acres per 1,000 people. However, using the revised population estimates in Section 2.3.2—again, with the District's current facilities serving as a baseline—equates to parkland provision of approximately just under 3 acres per 1,000 people. Although National Park and Recreation Association standards suggest 6 to 10 acres per 1,000 people in a community, these are based on more developed areas with more concentrated populations and are not considered appropriate standards for RRPD. The current provision of parkland appears to be adequate for the services

and programming provided and is likely sufficient at this time. However, in the future, the District should consider developing a Master Plan and establishing parkland standards through that process. The following table provides approximate needs for parkland acquisition in order for the District to maintain its current provision of 3 acres per 1,000 people.

TABLE 4-2: FUTURE PARKLAND NEEDS BASED ON POPULATION PROJECTIONS

YEAR	TOTAL PARKLAND NEEDS (ACRES)	DEFICIT*
2007	1.9	0.1
2010	2.0	–
2015	2.2	–0.2
2020	2.4	–0.4
2025	2.6	–0.6
2030	2.9	–0.9

* Based on the District’s current parkland provision, through the BUSD, of two acres.

There are also a number of opportunities for recreation in areas adjacent to the District’s boundaries/SOI. Nearby recreational opportunities include the State Thermalito Recreation Area, which offers a full range of boating and water recreation activities, and a number of other parks and recreational programming along the Feather River near Oroville (provided primarily by Feather River Recreation and Park District). There are also many public and privately maintained hunting areas available in the immediate area.

The District expressed an interest in acquiring some parkland of its own, outside of its relationship with BUSD. There have been informal discussions with a number of landowners adjacent to the community, but no formal decisions have been made as of yet. Because the District does not receive assessments or impact fees, funds for parkland acquisition are limited to gifting or grant opportunities.

DETERMINATION 4-2: PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Although there appears to be adequate parkland for the existing population, the lease agreement with BUSD should be renegotiated to ensure that public access for recreational services is continued. Alternatively, the District should purchase or otherwise obtain in-kind parkland to ensure that recreational opportunities are

	<p><i>guaranteed for District residents into the future. Additionally, more parkland should be acquired as growth occurs.</i></p> <p><i>Staff should be added to provide regular programming and recreational services.</i></p> <p><i>Assessments or grants should be obtained to provide adequate funding for the acquisition and development of recreational facilities.</i></p>
--	--

4.3 PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES

The District currently coordinates with BUSD to provide recreational facilities and programming for District residents. Due to the recent change in superintendents, the lease and agreements between the districts have lapsed. The RRPD currently provides some programs through program-specific special use permits from the School District. Programs are chosen based on interest from the community. As was noted above, should a more comprehensive provision of recreation services in the south County area be favored, there may be an opportunity for cooperative governance that would benefit the residents in southwestern Butte County. However, the RRPD appears to provide sufficient services for the District’s residents at this time.

DETERMINATION 4-3: PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES	
	<p><i>The present capacity of facilities utilized by the District appears to be sufficient for the current population. As the population increases over the next 20 years, additional facilities will be needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services.</i></p>

4.4 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

The sole community center in the District is Richvale, a farming community of approximately 250 people. The remainder of the District is agricultural with a very low density residential component. The Richvale community consists of residential areas, a café, an elementary school, church, fire department, and post office. There are no other social or economic communities of interest within the District. The nearest commercial centers to the community of Richvale are Oroville, approximately 10 miles to the east; Biggs and Gridley, approximately 10 miles and 12 miles to the south, respectively; and Durham, approximately 11 miles to the north. Each of these commercial centers is located outside of the District in adjoining recreation service areas. In the

future, should more comprehensive recreation opportunities in the south County area be favored, there appear to be opportunities for a cooperative governance that may benefit area residents.

DETERMINATION 4-4: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST	
	<i>The only social and economic community within the District is unincorporated Richvale, which is not expected to change substantially within the next 20 years.</i>

4.5 SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS FOR RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT SOI PLAN

DETERMINATION 4-1: PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE	
	<i>Little change in land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years.</i>

DETERMINATION 4-2: PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES	
	<p><i>Although there appears to be adequate parkland for the existing population, the lease agreement with BUSD should be renegotiated to ensure that public access for recreational services is continued. Alternatively, the District should purchase or otherwise obtain in-kind parkland to ensure that recreational opportunities are guaranteed for District residents into the future. Additionally, more parkland should be acquired as growth occurs.</i></p> <p><i>Staff should be added to provide regular programming and recreational services.</i></p> <p><i>Assessments or grants should be obtained to provide adequate funding for the acquisition and development of recreational facilities.</i></p>

DETERMINATION 4-3: PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES	
	<i>The present capacity of facilities utilized by the District appears to be sufficient for the current population. As the population grows over the next 20 years, additional facilities will be needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services.</i>

DETERMINATION 4-4: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST	
	<i>The only social and economic community within the District is unincorporated Richvale, which is not expected to change substantially within the next 20 years.</i>

5.0 FINAL SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN ACTIONS

This Section includes the results of Butte LAFCO's final actions on this SOI Plan for the Richvale Recreation and Park District.

ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE AND WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS, AND ADOPTION OF A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN/UPDATE FOR THE RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

WHEREAS, a service review mandated by Government Code 56430 and a sphere of influence update mandated by Government Code Section 56425 have been conducted by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") for the Richvale Recreation and Park District in accordance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Sections 56000 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, at the times and in the form and manner provided by law, the Executive Officer has given notice of the public hearing by the Commission on this matter; and,

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56428, has reviewed this proposal and prepared a report, including his recommendations thereon, and has furnished a copy of this report to each person entitled to a copy; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing by this Commission was called for March 5, 2009 and at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing; and,

WHEREAS, at the hearing, this Commission heard and received all oral and written protests; the Commission considered all plans and proposed changes of organization, objections and evidence which were made, presented, or filed; and all persons present were given an opportunity to hear and be heard in respect to any matter relating to the proposal, in evidence presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, a statutory exemption has been issued pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) indicating that this service review update and sphere of influence plan/update are statutorily exempt from CEQA and such exemption was adopted by this Commission on March 5, 2009. The Commission Clerk was directed to file a Notice of Exemption within five working days of its adoption;

WHEREAS, the following determinations are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56430 and local Commission policy:

1. Determination 3-1: Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District should adopt a standard for the amount of parkland to be provided per population. The District should establish general goals for recreation facility provision based on locally available facilities that exists and local preferences, using NPRA standards as a guideline, as appropriate.

2. Determination 3-2: Financing, Rate Restructuring Constraints and Opportunities

The District should hire a staff member to obtain and administer grants.

3. Determination 3-3: Management Efficiencies/Cost Avoidance, and Facility Sharing Opportunities

The District does not have an adequate management structure or staffing. The District may be able to reduce costs through use of volunteers to maintain the park. The District also should explore sharing of facilities, equipment, staff, and knowledge with nearby recreation and park districts until it can hire its own staff.

4. Determination 3-4: Local Accountability

The District must have a staff that is available by telephone during business hours to address concerns. Also, it is not clear what methods the District is using to promote its facilities and activities. Members of the Board of Directors should be elected, rather than appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

5. Determination 3-5: Government Structure

The District appears to have boundaries that are politically appropriate and appropriate given the services provided.

WHEREAS, the following determinations are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

1. Determination 4.1: Present and Planned Land Use

Little change in land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years.

2. Determination 4.2: Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services

Although there appears to be adequate parkland for the existing population, the lease agreement with BUSD should be renegotiated to ensure that public access for recreational services is continued. Alternatively, the District should purchase or otherwise obtain in-kind parkland to ensure that recreational opportunities are guaranteed for District residents into the future. Additionally, more parkland should be acquired as growth occurs.

Staff should be added to provide regular programming and recreational services.

Assessments or grants should be obtained to provide adequate funding for the acquisition and development of recreational facilities.

3. Determination 4.3: Present Capacity of Facilities

The present capacity of facilities utilized by the District appear to be sufficient for the current population. As the population grows over the next 20 years, additional facilities will be needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services.

4. Determination 4.4: Social and Economic Communities of Interest

The only social and economic community within the District is unincorporated Richvale, which is not expected to change substantially within the next 20 years.

WHEREAS, based on presently existing evidence, facts, and circumstances considered by this Commission, including the findings as outlined above, the Commission adopts written determinations as set forth. The Commission affirms the existing sphere of influence for the Richvale Recreation and Park District, which is conterminous with the service boundary, as depicted on Figure 5-1 of the Municipal Service Review Update and SOI Plan for the Richvale Recreation and Park District, adopted by the Commission on March 5, 2009, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to powers provided in §56430 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte adopts written determinations as set forth in the Municipal Service Review Update for the Richvale Recreation and Park District dated March 5, 2009, and adopts the Municipal Service Review Update for the Richvale Recreation and Park District. Furthermore, pursuant to powers provided in §56425, the Commission affirms the existing sphere of influence for the Richvale Recreation and Park District, which is conterminous with the District's service boundary, as depicted on Figure 5-1 of the Municipal Service Review Update and SOI Plan for the Richvale Recreation and Park District, adopted by the Commission on March 5, 2009

PASSED AND ADOPTED by this Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte, on the 5th day of March 2009 by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Lotter, Duncan, Connelly, Beck, Holcombe, Dolan and Chair Leverenz

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINS: None

ATTEST: None



Clerk of the Commission



CARL LEVERENZ, Chair
Butte Local Agency Formation Commission

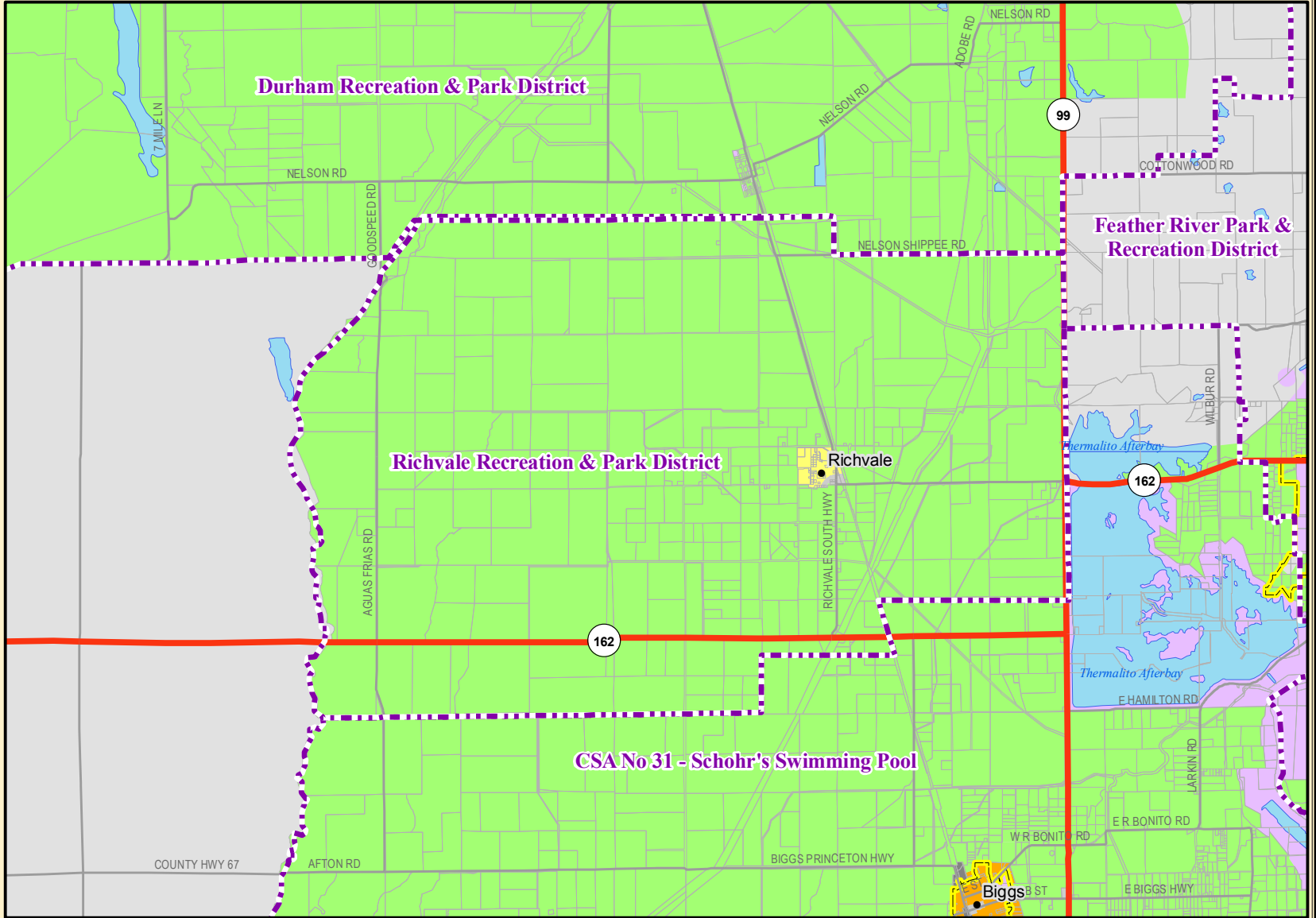
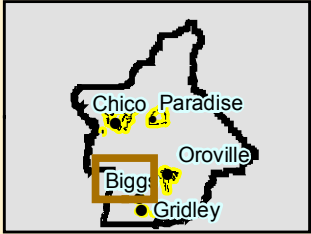
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5.2 SUMMARY OF ADOPTED MSR DETERMINATIONS FOR THE RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

DETERMINATION 3-1: GROWTH AND POPULATION FOR THE AFFECTED AREA	
	<i>The population within the District is expected to grow at a rate of 1.1 percent.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-2: PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES	
	<i>The District should adopt a standard for the amount of parkland to be provided per population. The District should establish general goals for recreation facility provision based on locally available facilities that exists and local preferences, using NPRA standards as a guideline, as appropriate.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-3: FINANCIAL ABILITY OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES	
	<i>The District should hire a staff member to obtain and administer grants.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-4: MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES/COST AVOIDANCE, AND FACILITY SHARING OPPORTUNITIES	
	<i>The District does not have an adequate management structure or staffing. The District may be able to reduce costs through use of volunteers to maintain the park. The District also should explore sharing of facilities, equipment, staff, and knowledge with nearby recreation and park districts until it can hire its own staff.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-5: LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY	
	<i>The District must have a staff that is available by telephone during business hours to address concerns. Also, it is not clear what methods the District is using to promote its facilities and activities. Members of the Board of Directors should be elected, rather than appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.</i>
DETERMINATION 3-6: GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE	
	<i>The District appears to have boundaries that are politically appropriate and appropriate given the services provided.</i>

5.3 SUMMARY OF ADOPTED SOI DETERMINATIONS FOR THE RICHVALE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

DETERMINATION 4-1: PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE	
	<i>Little change in land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years.</i>
DETERMINATION 4-2: PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES	
	<p><i>Although there appears to be adequate parkland for the existing population, the lease agreement with BUSD should be renegotiated to ensure that public access for recreational services is continued. Alternatively, the District should purchase or otherwise obtain in-kind parkland to ensure that recreational opportunities are guaranteed for District residents into the future. Additionally, more parkland should be acquired as growth occurs.</i></p> <p><i>Staff should be added to provide regular programming and recreational services.</i></p> <p><i>Assessments or grants should be obtained to provide adequate funding for the acquisition and development of recreational facilities.</i></p>
DETERMINATION 4-3: PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES	
	<i>The present capacity of facilities utilized by the District appear to be sufficient for the current population. As the population grows over the next 20 years, additional facilities will be needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services.</i>
DETERMINATION 4-4: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST	
	<i>The only social and economic community within the District is unincorporated Richvale, which is not expected to change substantially within the next 20 years.</i>



Legend

- Richvale R&PD
- Highways
- Secondary Roads
- City Limits
- Parcel Boundaries
- Waterbodies
- General Plan Designations**
- Agriculture
- Commercial
- High Density Residential (20 du/acre)
- Industrial
- Low Density Residential (6 du/acre)
- Medium Density Residential (13 du/acre)
- Public

Adopted Sphere of Influence
Richvale Recreation & Park District
 Adopted March 5, 2009 by Resolution No. 10 2008/09
BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

0 1 2 4
 Miles

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Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Butte LAFCo
1453 Downer Street, Suite C
Oroville, CA 95965
(Address)

County Clerk
County of Butte

Project Title: Municipal Service Review Update and Sphere of Influence Study for the Richvale Recreation and Park District

Project Location - Specific:

Richvale Recreation and Park District, located in west-central Butte County. Communities located within the District include the unincorporated community of Richvale.

Project Location - City: Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Act requires LAFCO to update the SOIs for all applicable jurisdictions in the County by January 1, 2008. This project includes a MSR Update and a SOI Study for the Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD). Changes resulting from the SOI Study consists of the correction of mapping errors. No changes to the service boundaries or SOI are recommended for the RRPD, and the SOI will be reaffirmed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Butte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Butte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: SOI Plan: General Rule-Section 15061 (b)(3) & MSR Update: Section 15306, "Information Collection
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

There is no possibility that the MSR Update or SOI Plan will have an effect on the environment because there are no land use changes associated or anticipated with either project

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Steve Betts, Deputy Executive Officer Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530 538-7151

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: March 11, 2009 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR:
Signed by Applicant

Revised 2005

6.0 ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

BCAG	Butte County Association of Governments
BUSD	Biggs Unified School District
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CKH	Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000
CSA	County Service Area
DRPD	Durham Recreation and Park District
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
MSR	Municipal Service Review
RRPD	Richvale Recreation and Park District
SOI	Sphere of Influence

ANNEXATION	The inclusion, attachment, or addition of a territory to a city or district.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	The legislative body or governing board of a district.
CEQA	The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is intended to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about potential environmental effects of a project, identify ways to reduce adverse impacts, offer alternatives to the project, and disclose to the public why a project was approved. CEQA applied to projects undertaken, funded, or requiring issuance of a permit by a public agency.
GENERAL PLAN	A document containing a statement of development policies including a diagram and text setting forth the objectives of the plan. The general plan must include certain state mandated elements related to land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open-space, noise, and safety.
LAFCO	A state mandated local agency that oversees boundary changes to cities and special districts, the formation of new agencies including incorporation of new cities, and the consolidation of existing

agencies. The broad goals of the agency are to ensure the orderly formation of local government agencies, to preserve agricultural and open space lands, and to discourage urban sprawl.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE
REVIEW (MSR)**

A study designed to determine the adequacy of governmental services being provided in the region or sub-region. Performing service reviews for each city and special district within the county may be used by LAFCO, other governmental agencies, and the public to better understand and improve service conditions.

**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
(SOI)**

A plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the LAFCO.

**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
DETERMINATIONS**

In establishing a sphere of influence, the Commission must consider and prepare written determinations related to present and planned land uses, need and capacity of public facilities, and existence of social and economic communities of interest.

ZONING

The primary instrument for implementing the general plan. Zoning divides a community into districts or “zones” that specify the permitted/prohibited land uses.

7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Butte County. 2000. Butte County General Plan. (Land Use Element, 2000; Recreation Element, 1971.) Adopted March 15, 1977.
- _____. 2000. Butte County Zoning Ordinance.
- _____. 2007. Butte County General Plan 2030 (General Plan 2030a). 2007. Setting and Trends Report – Public Draft. August 2, 2007. Available at www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/SettingandTrends/default.asp
- _____. 2008. Butte County General Plan 2030 (General Plan 2030b). 2008 Butte County Board of Supervisors South County Preferred Land Use Alternative map with Land Mixes. July 30, 2008; updated September 10, 2008. Available at www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/4pa/default.asp
- Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG). 2006. Butte Regional Growth Projections 2006–2030. Available at www.bcag.org/documents/demographics/pop_emp_projections/Final_Regional_Growth_Projections.pdf
- Butte LAFCO. 1985. Gridley-Biggs Area Sphere of Influence Study. Prepared by J. Laurence Mintier, Planning Consultant, and David Wade, David Wade and Associates. March 1985.
- _____. 2004. Operations Manual, Policies and Procedures. Revised December 2, 2004.
- _____. 2005. Municipal Service Review: Recreation & Park Services. Prepared by Cotton/Bridges/Associates. September 1, 2005.
- Matson and Isom. 2007. Richvale Recreation and Park District Financial Statements with Independent Auditors’ Reports – June 30, 2000 through 2006. July 31, 2007.
- State of California. 2003. Local Agency Formation Commission Municipal Service Review Guidelines. Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. August 2003.
- Personal Communication with Christie Akin, Secretary; Eric Lundberg, Director; Audrey Stephens, Director; Greg Stephens, Director. Richvale Recreation and Park District. August 12, 2008.