

# *Alderpoint County Water District*

## Municipal Service Review

*DRAFT*

January 2009

Prepared by:



For Updating the Sphere of Influence Report

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Local Agency Formation Commission Authority .....	1
Agency Profile .....	2
Growth and Population .....	2
Services.....	4
Budget.....	5
Municipal Service Review Determinations.....	6

### List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1: District Map.....	3
Table 1: Agency Profile.....	2
Table 2: Growth and Population Summary Table.....	4

This Municipal Service Review (MSR) was prepared as part of a mandated review of the spheres of influence (SOI) of all government entities in the County by the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo or the Commission). This report focuses on the Alderpoint County Water District (CWD). The SOI for the Alderpoint CWD was reviewed in 2007; this MSR serves to update the relevant data on services provided within the district's SOI. At this time, the SOI will not be amended. All information gathered for this report is stored in Humboldt LAFCo's files for future reference.

# **LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION AUTHORITY**

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## **Latent Powers, Enabling Legislation and Empowered Services**

The fundamental role of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is to implement the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (The Act) consistent with local conditions and circumstances. The Act guides LAFCo's decisions. The major goals of LAFCo as established by The Act are to:

- Encourage orderly growth and development;
- Promote orderly development;
- Discourage urban sprawl;
- Preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands by guiding minimizing resource loss;
- Exercise its authority to ensure that affected populations receive efficient services;
- Promote logical formation and boundary modifications that direct the burdens and benefits of additional growth to those local agencies that are best suited to provide services;
- Make studies and obtain and furnish information which will contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies to provide for present and future needs;
- Establish priorities by assessing and balancing community service needs with financial resources available to secure and provide community services and to encourage government structures that reflect local circumstances, conditions and financial resources;
- Determine whether new or existing agencies can feasibly provide needed services in a more efficient or accountable manner and, where deemed necessary,

As set fourth in § 56425 (g) of The Act, on or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, Humboldt LAFCo shall review and update each Sphere of Influence (SOI).

Additionally, an MSR shall be conducted with, or in conjunction with the action to establish or to update a SOI pursuant to The Act. Together, the SOI and MSR documents analyze the District's ability to serve existing and future residents.

In order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence in accordance with § 56425, Humboldt LAFCo shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the McKinleyville Community Services District (CSD). The commission shall include in the designated for service review area any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to the following:

- (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; and
- (6) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

## AGENCY PROFILE

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The Alderpoint County Water District (CWD) is located approximately 17 miles northeast of Garberville on Alderpoint Road, in the southeastern corner of Humboldt County. The District is approximately 75 miles southeast of the City of Eureka and three miles west of the Humboldt/Trinity County border. The Eel River forms the District's northern boundary. The District covers approximately 370 acres (0.6 square miles). Figure 1 (on page 4) shows the District boundary.

### Governance Structure and Administration

The Alderpoint CWD was formed by the Board of Supervisors in 1965. The District's five-member Board of Directors is selected by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and is responsible for the District's management. The term of office for board members is left to the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. The District was formed for the purpose of providing water services.

Table 1 Agency Profile

Agency Name	Date of Formation	Enabling Legislation
Alderpoint County Water District	1965	CWS 30000
Contact Person	Contact Title	Email/Website
Dolores Heil	District Secretary	None Provided
Mailing Address	Physical Address	Phone/Fax
P.O. Box 117 Alderpoint, CA 95511	None Provided	Phone: 707-926-5161 Fax: None Provided

## GROWTH AND POPULATION

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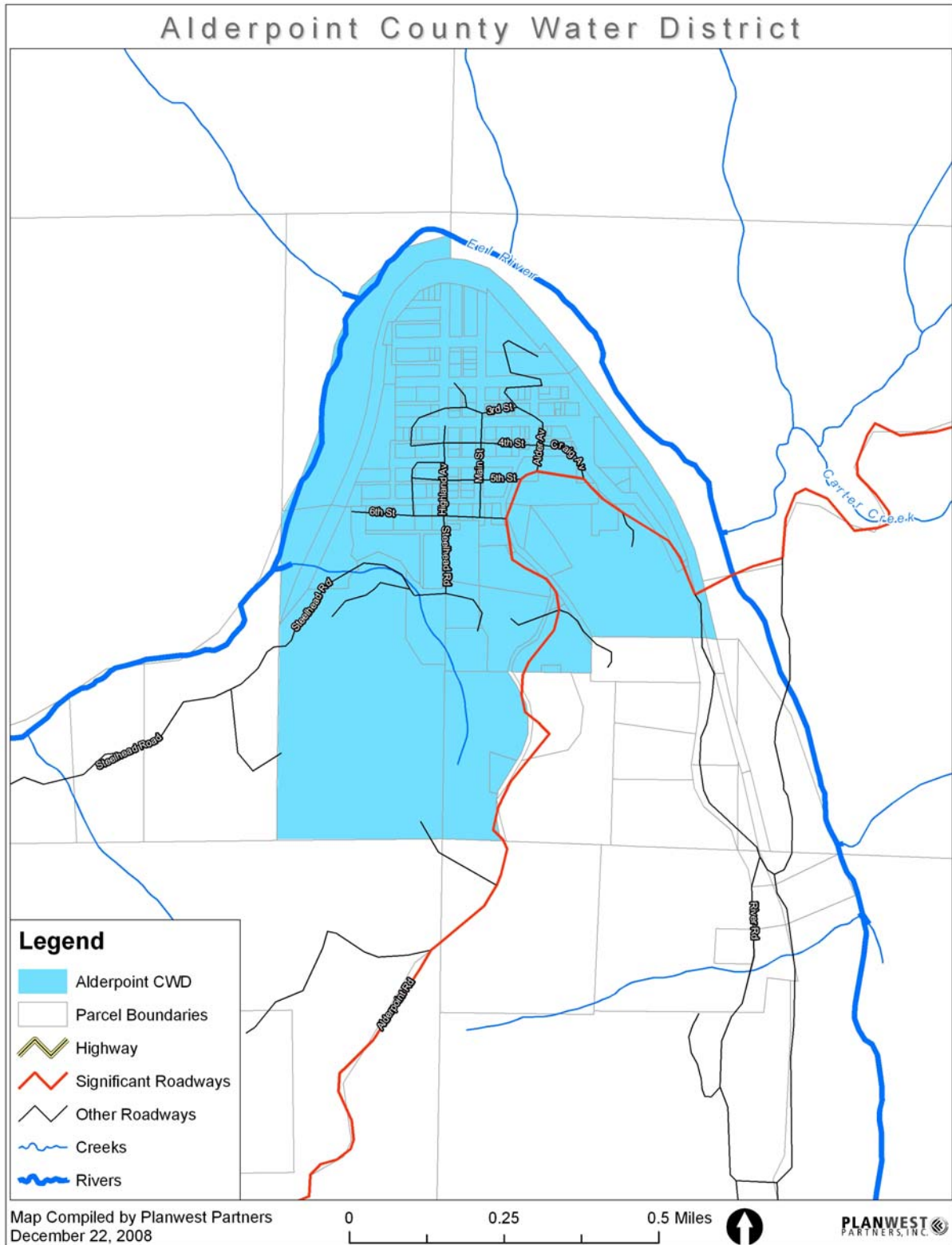
### County Population and Growth

According to the State of California Department of Finance, Humboldt County has an estimated 2008 population of 132,821. The County grew at an overall rate of 0.6% during 2007<sup>[1]</sup>. Assuming this growth continues, the population of Humboldt County will reach approximately 147,000 by the year 2025.

### District Population and Housing Projections

A Community Infrastructure and Services Report was prepared as part of the Humboldt County General Plan Update. The report identified Urban Study Areas (USA) and Water Study Areas (WSA) within special districts in order to develop land use planning scenarios and to focus the analysis for timing and location of new facilities. The report identifies an Alderpoint WSA, which has approximately the same boundary as the Alderpoint CWD. According to the County's estimates, the Alderpoint WSA had a total of 66 housing units in 2005. The district has approximately 130 developable acres. The high build out estimate for total development potential within the Alderpoint WSA by the year 2025 is 132 additional units.

Figure 1. Alderpoint County Water District Boundary and Sphere of Influence



**Table 2: Growth and Population Summary Table**

Total Land Area (Acres)	370
Current Population	Approximately 150
Annual Population Growth Rate	0.6%
<b>Housing Projections</b>	<b>Number of Residential Units</b>
Total Number Residential Units	66
High Build Out Estimate-Alderpoint WSA	132

## SERVICES

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The Alderpoint CWD is an independent single-purpose special district. The district provides potable water to 74 connections.

### Water Service

According to the Department of Health Services annual inspection report, the Alderpoint CWD used 14 million gallons of water in 2005. This equates to an average daily use of approximately 0.039 MGD. The peak daily use is estimated to be approximately 0.080 MGD. The Alderpoint CWD has a source capacity of 0.432 MGD, and a storage capacity of 0.105 MGD

The system is currently not in compliance with Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), and needs a treatment plant. Some residents may still be on boil water advisory due to lack of chlorine contact time. Approximately 1 mile of distribution system piping is undersized for adequate fire flows and/or in need of replacement. The water system needs a Grade 2 water treatment operator and a Grade 1 water distribution operator.

**Current Improvement Plans** – The District has not developed a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to date for its water system. However, the District is working with the Department of Health Services to develop plans and is exploring new water treatment plant funding options.

### Infrastructure

The Alderpoint CWD receives its water from an infiltration gallery in the Eel River bed. The collection pipe reaches nine feet below the river bed. The well water is pumped through a cast iron mainline approximately 600 feet to a 5,000 gallon staging tank. This tank and its accompanying pump house are located just off River Road. The water in the staging tank is treated with a disinfectant, calcium hypochlorite. There is currently no filtration process.

Alderpoint CWD’s preliminary distribution system begins at the 5,000 gallon staging tank. The water is pumped 300 feet upward through approximately 500 feet of six inch mainline to a 100,000 gallon storage tank. However, the houses along River Road to the north and south receive their water directly from the line leading to the 100 gallon storage tank. This 100 gallon redwood storage tank feeds water into the main distribution system, which consists of approximately 2.5 miles of mainline (AC and PVC), ranging from two inches to six inches in diameter. The system needs additional storage capacity.

## Infrastructure Deficiencies

The Alderpoint CWD is lacking a filtration system for the treatment of their water. The District has been out of compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Surface Water Treatment Rules since 1986. The State of California has approved funding of a new membrane filtration system. Furthermore, the homes on River Road that receive their water directly from the 5,000 gallon preliminary tank are under a Boil Water Advisory due to inadequate disinfectant contact time. The District is in need of a licensed operator that is at least a Grade T2/D1/WTO/WDO. The District's storage tanks are in need of repair for leakage.

## Service Summary Matrix

Service	Customers Currently Served (#)	Total Service Capacity (# Cust.)
Water	74	74

## Planned Improvements

No planned improvements were reported by the Alderpoint CWD.

## Other Service Providers

The Alderpoint CWD is involved in a county-wide mutual aid agreement for fire protection. The district is within the State Responsibility Area for fire protection service from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as well as having its own volunteer fire department. Humboldt County provides general governmental services and law enforcement throughout the territory of the district.

## BUDGET

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No budget information was provided by the Alderpoint CWD. Service rates for water service are established as follows:

### MINIMUM MONTHLY WATER SERVICE CHARGE

Meters serving one dwelling unit on a parcel.....\$30.00

Meters serving more than one dwelling unit on a parcel, including, but not limited to, multiple units, mobile homes or trailers in trailer parks, or elsewhere, and separate dwelling units in a single parcel..... \$30.00 per unit

In the event of bimonthly billing, the minimum charges shall be doubled and the quantity of water consumed shall be averaged. The minimum charges shall entitle the consumer to the amount of water, which can be purchased under the monthly quantity charges:

### MONTHLY QUANTITY CHARGES (METERS)

Meters serving one dwelling unit on a parcel:

First 750 cubic feet..... \$30.00 minimum charge

Excess over 750 cubic feet..... \$ 3.00 per 100 cu. ft.

Meters serving more than one dwelling unit on a parcel:

First 750 cubic feet..... \$30.00 minimum charge  
Excess over that quantity of cubic feet (= # of du's x 750)...\$ 3.00 per 100 cu. ft.  
The service rates are evaluated and adjusted as needed with Board approval.

**Facility/ Services Plans or Similar Documents**

Alderpoint CWD had a Draft Municipal Services Review prepared in 2004. In October 2007 a Draft Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report was prepared for the Humboldt County General Plan Update. The Technical Report analyzed the Alderpoint WSA.

**MSR DETERMINATIONS**

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**Growth and population projections for the affected area**

The Alderpoint CWD has an estimated 2008 population of approximately 150 persons with minimal projected growth for the area. The Alderpoint WSA is expected to receive approximately 162 additional housing units according to County General Plan growth estimates.

**Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies**

Existing facilities do not appear sufficient according to health department records. A system upgrade is needed for current conditions. Serving additional growth would require additional upgrades and extensions.

**Financing ability of agencies to provide services**

No budget information was provided, however the service deficiencies noted indicate limited financing ability of the Alderpoint CWD. They are encouraged to pursue other funding sources or seek rate increases.

**Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities**

Due to the remote location of the Alderpoint CWD, there are no shared facilities opportunities.

**Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies**

Development potential is addressed in the County 2004 Garberville, Redway, Benbow, and Alderpoint Community Plan, and the Community Infrastructure and Services Report prepared as part of the Humboldt County General Plan Update2025.

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

It is concluded that the current Alderpoint CWD SOI is sufficient for future growth, according to projections used for this report, which are anticipated for the next 16 years. Based on the results of this MSR, no amendments to the Alderpoint CWD SOI are necessary at this time