

Sewer Services Provision in the Ukiah Valley

A LOOK AT THE HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO AGENCIES AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

A Joint Presentation to Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission
September 12, 2022



Introductions

Presenters

- [Sage Sangiacomo](#), City Manager, City of Ukiah
- [Wing-See Fox](#), Interim General Manager, Ukiah Valley Sanitation District

Available for Questions

- [Ernie Wipf](#), Board Chair and Ad Hoc Committee Member, Ukiah Valley Sanitation District
- [Candace Horsley](#), Board Member and Ad Hoc Committee Member, Ukiah Valley Sanitation District
- [Craig Schlatter](#), Community Development Director, City of Ukiah



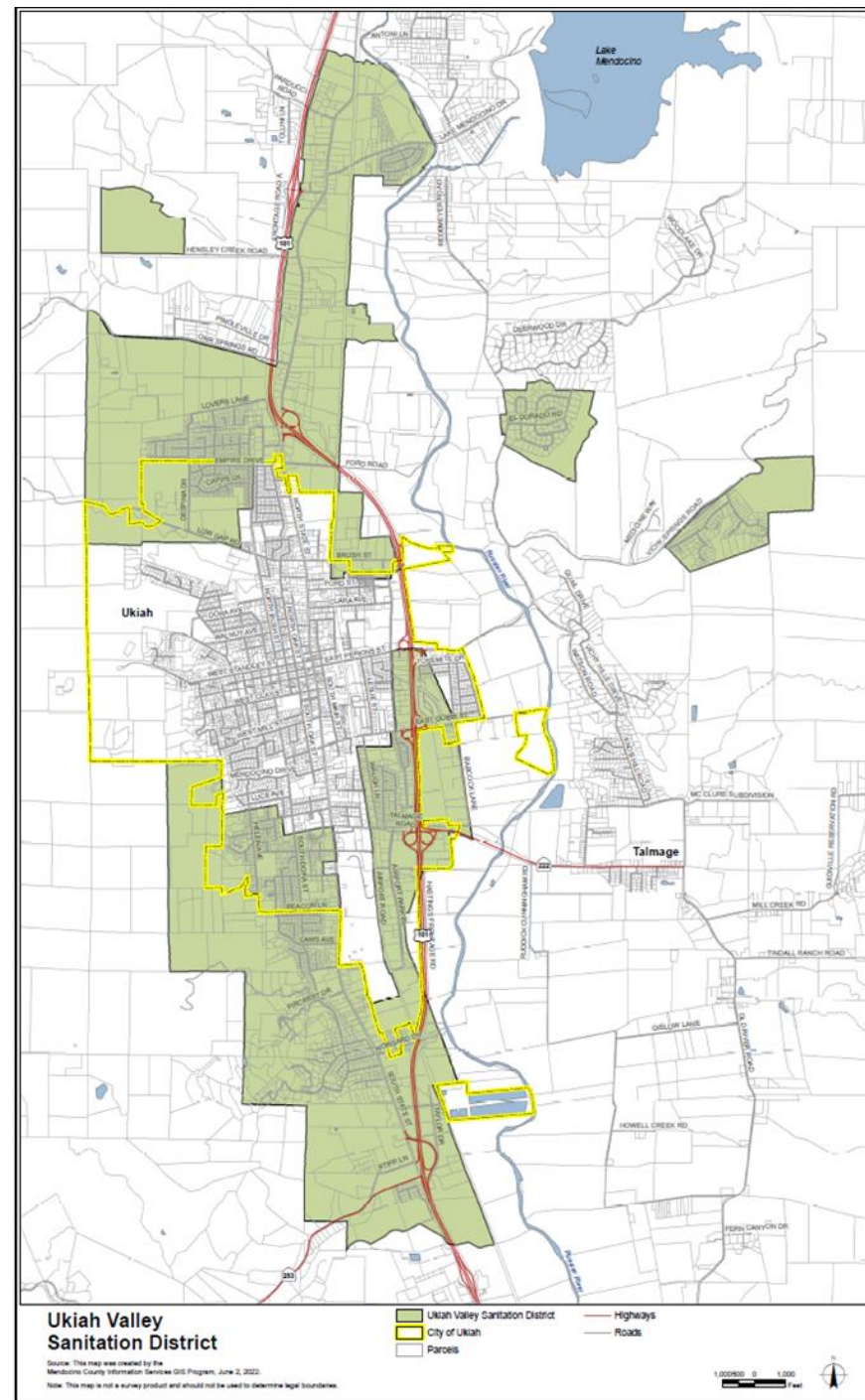
Why are we here?

1. To provide an overview of Ukiah Valley Sanitation District (“UVSD”) and City of Ukiah (“City”) joint sewer system; and
2. To convey the progress that has been made between UVSD and City, moving from conflict to cooperation for the benefit of all ratepayers; and
3. To request LAFCo’s continued support of our joint efforts.



Joint Sewer Services Provided Through Participation Agreement

- City - operation and maintenance services, personnel; owns WWTP
 - City and UVSD each own their collection systems
 - UVSD- shared costs and billing based on ESSUs
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- See right for Map of UVSD and City service territory
 - “Overlap” – area of District territory in City limits



History between the two agencies

- Joint operation since 1955
- Recent history of conflict - series of legal claims settled in 2018
- Constant jockeying for territory and assets
- Friction caused by City application to LAFCo to detach Overlap Area
- Friction caused by UVSD blocking City's efforts

Better days are here- and ahead

Moving from Conflict to Cooperation

- 2020 Refinancing
- Joint Sewer Rate Study
- Regular meetings between Finance and Operating staff
- Collaborative and transparent budget preparation and adoption
- Unified capital improvement development



Ad Hoc Committee Accomplishments

- ✓ Establishment and Active Participation by Ad Hoc Committee
 - Members: UVSD Board Chair and Board Member; City Mayor and Council Member
 - Purpose: Open communication among elected bodies to discuss outstanding issues, opportunities for consolidation, and drafting agreements/safeguards to ensure continued cooperation
- ✓ Agreement Regarding Provision of Interim Sewer Services and Out of Area Service Agreements
- ✓ Considering/discussing various structures for consolidation of sewer services
 - Currently exploring long-term plan of City absorbing District service area without threatening District's financial viability in the interim
 - City not pursuing piecemeal detachment and working cooperatively with UVSD on City annexation(s)



Closing Comments

- MSR/SOI process fostering continued cooperation and collaboration.
 - Developing a unified plan for the benefit of the community rather than the benefit of the two agencies.
- Trust building is a work in process.
- Both agencies appreciate and value LAFCo staff's role in facilitating this cooperation.
- Ultimately, Ukiah Valley's residents will be served with more reliable and cost-effective sewer services in the long-term.

