

18. KIRKWOOD MEADOWS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (KMPUD) provides fire, water, wastewater, electric and propane, solid waste, mosquito abatement, cable television, snow removal, and parks and recreation services.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Background

KMPUD detached from El Dorado Irrigation District on July 1, 1985 and became an independent special district.³⁷⁶

The principal act that governs the District is the Public Utility District Act.³⁷⁷ The principal act empowers the District to acquire, construct, own, operate, control, or use works for supplying light, water, power, heat, transportation, telephone service, or other means of communication, or means for the disposal of garbage, sewage, or refuse matter.³⁷⁸ In addition, the District may acquire, construct, own, complete, use, and operate a fire department, street lighting system, public parks and other recreation facilities, and provide for the drainage of roads, streets, and public places.³⁷⁹ Districts must apply and obtain LAFCO approval to exercise services authorized by the principal act but not already provided (i.e., latent powers) by the district at the end of 2000.³⁸⁰

Boundary

KMPUD includes portions of three counties: Amador, Alpine and El Dorado. Alpine is the principal LAFCO and has jurisdiction over the District. KMPUD's bounds encompass approximately 1.875 square miles in the three counties.³⁸¹ KMPUD bounds within Amador County are located in the far northeast of the County, beginning just south of Silver Lake and stretching northward into the other counties.

Sphere of Influence

The sphere of influence for the District was originally adopted by Alpine County LAFCO in 1996 and appears to be coterminous with the District's boundaries in each of the three counties.³⁸²

³⁷⁶ Alpine LAFCO Resolution 84-1.

³⁷⁷ Public Utilities Code §15501-17501.

³⁷⁸ Public Utilities Code §16461.

³⁷⁹ Public Utilities Code §16463.

³⁸⁰ Government Code §56824.10.

³⁸¹ Tax and Enterprise Revenue Certificate of Participation, 2013, p. 22.

³⁸² Alpine County LAFCO Resolution 96-01.

Local Accountability and Governance

KMPUD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. The Directors are elected by district to staggered, four -year terms.

The most recent contested election took place in November 2011. See Figure 18-1 for information on individual supervisors, term expirations, and contact information.

Figure 18-1: KMPUD Governing Body

| Kirkwood Meadows PUD | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Governing Body | | | |
| | Name | Position | Term Ends |
| <i>Members</i> | Eric Richert | Director | December 2017 |
| | Bob Ende | Vice President | December 2015 |
| | Standish O'Grady | President | December 2015 |
| | Bob Epstein | Director | December 2017 |
| | Peter Dornbrook | Secretary | December 2017 |
| <i>Manner of Selection</i> | Election by division. | | |
| <i>Length of Term</i> | 4 years. | | |
| <i>Meetings</i> | Second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at 33540 Loop Road, Kirkwood, CA 95646. | | |
| <i>Agenda Distribution</i> | Online, posted. | | |
| <i>Minutes Distribution</i> | Online, posted. | | |
| Contact | | | |
| <i>Contact</i> | General Manager | | |
| <i>Mailing Address</i> | 33540 Loop Road, Kirkwood, CA 95646 | | |
| <i>Phone</i> | 209-258-4444 | | |
| <i>Email/Website</i> | kmpud@volcano.net / www.kmpud.com | | |

The District informs constituents through its website where public documents can be accessed, including agendas and minutes. KMPUD board meetings are televised on community channel 19. The District also publishes a monthly newsletter that is included in customer bills for utility services; the latest version posted on the website dates from 2013. Other district community outreach efforts include involvement in other community and agency meetings and hosting of fundraiser events for the fire department. The District reported that it has had no Brown Act violations in recent history. In 2013, KMPUD conducted a public survey, which showed a vast majority of responders being satisfied with the District's customer service and staff.

The District displays contact information on its website and the community channel 19 for customer complaints and questions. Most complaints are referred to the assistant manager to be resolved. Complaints are usually related to larger than usual bills, often attributable to water leaks. The District reported that there were very few water quality or wastewater complaints. Only water related complaints are tracked for the District's report to the State Department of Public Health.

The District demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCO. The agency cooperated with document requests and responded to LAFCO's written questionnaires.

Management

District operations, maintenance and customer billing services are performed by 27 district personnel. The District's total budgeted full-time equivalent positions (FTE) for FY 2012 equals 22, with the majority concentrated in the Operations Division.

Daily operations of the District are managed by a general manager, who is appointed by the Board. The general manager oversees the daily operations of the District and reports to the board at regular meetings. The general manager manages an executive assistant/district clerk and the heads of the Operations and Administration departments. In addition, the Administration Department employs an assistant office manager, an out valley coordinator, an accounts receivable employee, an administrative assistant, and two accounting staff. The head of the Operations Department oversees an assistant fire chief and volunteer firefighters, a field operations manager, a water/wastewater superintendent, two plant operators, a snow removal supervisor, a snow removal operator, an electric generation supervisor, four electric plant operators, and an electric/propane supervisor.

Employees are evaluated annually by the general manager. The District does not formally track staff productivity; although, employees must complete a salary sheet twice a month for billing purposes. The District does not perform evaluations of district-wide operations.

The District's planning efforts include a 2003 Kirkwood Specific Plan and an Electric Enterprise Five-Year Reserve Plan. The District's Board also adopts long-term goals to guide district efforts.

The District's financial planning documents include annually adopted budgets and annually audited financial statements. The FY 11-12 audit was provided to LAFCO. KMPUD does not maintain a capital improvement plan, but approves an annual capital budget for each department.

The District has made some efforts to improve its efficiency in recent years. KMPUD upgraded its two lift stations by constructing auxiliary wet wells to increase response times, adding backup generators for power redundancy, replacing worn pumps and valves, improving the stations' supervisory control and data acquisition ("SCADA") and alarm systems, and increasing critical stations' daily inspections from once per day to three times per day. The District improved its sewer maintenance by increasing the size of the maintenance crew to allow annual cleaning of sewers, doing closed-circuit camera inspections in sewers every five years, and cleaning high-risk sewers more frequently. The District is replacing or relining problem areas that are identified by the closed-circuit camera inspections.

The District's planned Out-Valley Interconnect Project will give KMPUD access to lower priced energy by connecting the District to the external electricity grid, and will mitigate the District's risks associated with the potential for a long-term rise in the price of oil from which the powerhouse's diesel fuel is refined. When the District's Out-Valley Interconnect

Project is completed (which is anticipated to occur in late 2014), the powerhouse will serve as a reliable backup should there be interruption of energy supply from power purchased by contract and delivered to the District via the Out-Valley Interconnect transmission line.

The District participates in a pooled insurance program through the Association of California Water Agencies, which is a Joint Powers Insurance Authority available to public entities.

Service Demand and Growth

The portion of KMPUD within Amador County includes vacant land and limited residential and commercial land use around Silver Lake. The area is zoned as open forest. There is some general forest (Timber Preserve Zone) as well. The Kirkwood community area within Amador County is zoned as a special planning area.

The unincorporated community of Kirkwood is in Alpine County, within the Eldorado National Forest. Kirkwood is a mountain resort community. Peak activity and population occur during snow season. The village core includes a combination of residential, lodging and commercial uses serving residents and guests.

The most significant employer within district bounds is Kirkwood Ski & Summer Resort, followed by Kirkwood Community Association (a property management company), Kirkwood Lodging (condo rentals) and Kirkwood Accommodations (condo rentals). Other businesses include tourist-oriented businesses such as inns and ski schools, as well as a general store and a few restaurants. The State Department of Transportation has an office in Kirkwood, as well.

The year-round population of the District has only varied slightly over the past ten years, fluctuating between approximately 110 and 150 residents, mostly employees of the Ski Resort and the District. During the summer, visitation during in-valley day events (concerts and other festivals) can increase the population dramatically.³⁸³

Currently there are 239 single-family units and 475 multi-family units completed (714 total), with a potential 699 units remaining to be developed. According to district data, 158 of all currently-built units are reported to be primary residences and the remaining currently-built units (approximately 77.9 percent of such units) are vacation homes, approximately 75 percent of which are owned by California residents, generally with a primary residence within the more heavily populated Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Area.

The District believes the service area is approximately 50 percent built-out. Growth in the District has never been rapid and rapid future growth is not expected, as such the District typically plans for approximately two to three percent growth per year, which is greater than the growth it has experienced in the last five years. Numerous factors, including, chiefly, economic factors relating to the ongoing slow economic recovery following the national recession beginning in 2008, could cause the District to fail to grow at the rate it has projected.

³⁸³ Tax and Enterprise Revenue Certificate of Participation, 2013, p. 37.

The District reported that growth was mostly concentrated in Village Core and Timber Creek. There is one projected development in Timber Creek, a request by Martin Point, LLC, for Tentative Subdivision Map No. 180 – Timber Creek Townhomes, proposing the division of 2.26 acres into 21 townhome lots approximately 1,200 square feet (0.027 acres) in size. Located at Kirkwood Meadows Drive, immediately south of the intersection with Sentinels Way (APN 026-270-033).

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies. Growth strategies within the Amador County portion of the District are defined by the County in the Kirkwood Specific Plan. For comprehensive planning throughout the community, the three counties (Amador, Alpine and El Dorado) meet monthly to review and act as needed on matters pertaining to land use in Kirkwood.

In 2008, the District reported that it hoped to expand its SOI to include the area at the top of Ski Lift 2, located to the southeast of the District’s boundaries in Alpine County. The resort was planning to construct a restaurant in the area and the District hoped to provide utilities there. The SOI expansion has not occurred to date.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCO is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. A disadvantaged unincorporated community is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters, or as determined by commission policy, where the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median.³⁸⁴

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a mapping tool to assist in determining which communities meet the disadvantaged communities median household income definition.³⁸⁵ DWR identified nine disadvantaged communities within Amador County—three of which are cities and are therefore not considered unincorporated.³⁸⁶ The entire Kirkwood Meadows PUD boundary area is considered a disadvantaged unincorporated community, which extends outside of the District’s bounds to the east.

However, DWR is not bound by the same law as LAFCO to define communities with a minimum threshold of 12 or more registered voters. Because income information is not available for this level of analysis, disadvantaged unincorporated communities that meet LAFCO’s definition cannot be identified at this time.

Financing

The District reported that current financing levels were adequate to deliver services. The District tracks its finances separately for the three governmental services—fire, parks and mosquito abatement. Financing for business activities are tracked separately as well,

³⁸⁴ Government Code §56033.5.

³⁸⁵ Based on census data, the median household income in the State of California in 2010 was \$57,708, 80 percent of which is \$46,166.

³⁸⁶ DWR maps and GIS files are derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and are compiled for the five-year period 2006-2010.

through funds for cable, electric, employee housing, propane, snow removal, solid waste, water, and wastewater.

The District's total revenues were \$5.9 million in FY 11-12—\$92,794 for governmental activities, \$5,815,196 for business activities and \$39,417 for property taxes. Primary revenue sources include electric rates (50 percent), propane rates (21 percent), and water and wastewater rates (16 percent).

Electric and propane rates are not regulated and are set by the Board. The current electric and propane rates were adopted in 2012 in amounts sufficient to pay District operation and maintenance expenses, including fuel costs. Current water and wastewater rates were adopted in 2009.

Approximately 13.6 percent of the District's FY 12 general fund revenue was derived from property tax revenues and approximately 75.9 percent from the water, wastewater, propane and electric enterprises.

District expenditures were \$6.9 million in FY 12. Of this amount, 97 percent was spent on business activities and three percent on governmental activities.

Long-term debt is represented by a USDA Rural Utilities Services bond and a capital lease obligation. In March 2013, the District took its initial advance under an RUS loan facility, issued by the RUS in a maximum amount of \$50,000,000. The RUS loan takes the form of the RUS bond held by the Federal Financing Bank under the RUS financing program. The initial RUS bond draw was used to refinance a portion of the prior notes and additional draws up to the maximum amount are expected to finance additional capital improvements to the electric enterprise. The RUS bond matures in 2048. The District entered in a capital lease with Caterpillar Financial Services, dated January 12, 2012, for the purchase of one new HS300 RPM Tech Rotary Fan Type Detachable Snow Blower. The term of the capital lease is five years with annual payments of \$44,371.

In addition to long-term debt held by the District, the District also established a community facilities district (CFD), which issued bonds in 1999 and 2000 to finance sewer treatment plant improvements. Each property within the CFD is assessed to repay the bonds.

The District does not have a formal policy on maintaining financial reserves. KMPUD had \$3.5 million in unrestricted net assets at the close of FY 11-12—\$3.55 million in the enterprise funds and negative \$50 thousand in the governmental fund. This amount is equivalent to 51 percent of expenditures in FY 11-12. In other words, the District maintained almost six months of working reserves.

The District participates in a joint financing mechanism as a member of the Association of California Water Agencies—a risk sharing insurance pool.

WATER SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The District provides domestic and irrigation water services to 886 active water connections, of which 663 are residential, 45 are commercial, and 178 are irrigation (residential and agricultural).³⁸⁷ KMPUD receives its water supply entirely from groundwater wells.

Location

The District provides water services only within district boundaries, which includes portions of Alpine, El Dorado and Amador counties. KMPUD does not provide water services outside of its boundaries.

Infrastructure

The District's domestic water is supplied by four groundwater wells owned and operated by the District and located throughout the Kirkwood Valley, with a combined peak production of 225 gallons per minute or 324,000 gallons per day. The water system also includes two storage tanks with a capacity of 950,000 gallons. Both storage tanks are located on the lower slopes of the ski mountain, thereby providing sufficient water pressure to all district dwellings. The Lodge and Dangberg storage tanks were installed in 1997 and 1991, respectively. The District's water distribution system consists of approximately five miles of pipelines ranging from six to ten inches in diameter. The majority of the District's pipelines were installed using polyvinyl chloride plastic materials, which is more effective than traditional pipeline materials such as copper, iron or wood in pipe and profile applications. The distribution system has seven pressure zones with pressures that range from 50 to 130 psi.

Both, the amount of water produced and the amount sold by the District varies from year to year in part due to snowfall levels. In years in which lower amounts of snow falls, groundwater levels fall and the District experiences decreased demand for water as a result of fewer visits to the Ski Resort and district area from tourists and part-time residents, leading to corresponding lower levels of water usage.

Water provided by the District's wells meets or exceeds the requirements of both, the State of California Department of Health Services and the Federal Safe Drinking Water Standards. The District has never been cited by the California Water Quality Board. Customers reported three complaints to the District in 2012, two of which were related to water taste and odor and one regarding water color.

³⁸⁷ Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District, *Annual Report to the Drinking Water Program for Year Ending December 31, 2012*, p. 4-5.

WASTEWATER SERVICES

Nature and Extent

KMPUD collects, treats and disposes of wastes generated from residential and commercial units, including the Kirkwood Ski Resort.³⁸⁸ There are 700 wastewater accounts.³⁸⁹

Location

KMPUD's wastewater treatment plant serves only the area within its boundaries in Alpine and Amador Counties. The District does not provide wastewater services outside of its boundaries.

Infrastructure

The District's wastewater collection system consists of approximately 8.3 miles of six-inch gravity-flow wastewater collection lines and approximately 3,600 feet of eight-inch force main sewer lines. Two lift stations transfer the wastewater to the Treatment Facility (WWTP). All have been placed in operational use over the past 10-30 years and presently serve the residential, Ski Resort and commercial areas within the District.

The WWTP provides tertiary treatment and disinfection.³⁹⁰ Treated effluent is disposed of in subsurface leachfields and sludge is dewatered and disposed of off-site in a landfill. KMPUD upgraded its WWTP in the fall of 2005 to a membrane bioreactor treatment process. The treatment plant has a monthly average design capacity of 0.19 mgd, with a peak flow design capacity of 0.27 gpd. On an average maximum flow day, the treatment plant is using approximately 52 percent of its capacity. According to the Treatment Plant Monitoring Reports, monthly average effluent ranged from 16,687 GPD (average dry weather flow) to 98,994 GPD in 2011, with the highest flows occurring in the late winter/early spring during the period of seasonal snowmelt. Total wastewater flow in 2012 was nearly 21 million gallons per year. The WWTP has a high degree of reliability. All key facility components have redundant standby units so that treatment can proceed at full capacity even when a piece of equipment is out of service. In addition, KMPUD generates its own electrical power with onsite diesel generators.

The current membranes in use at the WWTP are nearing the end of their service life and will require replacement in advance of the 2013-14 winter (peak flow) season in order to maintain reliable wastewater service to wastewater customers. The District has entered into an agreement with Matt Wheeler Engineering, Inc. to provide project management, technical review, construction management, inspections, and start-up supervision for replacement of the treatment facility membranes.

³⁸⁸ WDR Order R5-2007-0125.

³⁸⁹ Tax and Enterprise Revenue Certificate of Participation, 2013, p. 38.

³⁹⁰ WDR Order R5-2007-0125 Information Sheet.

Treated effluent is pumped into eight subsurface leachfields.³⁹¹ The leachfields can dispose of a monthly average flow of .19 gpd and a peak daily flow of .43 gpd. According to the RWQCB, the system has sufficient disposal capacity to provide services given the current flows.³⁹²

FIRE AND EMS SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department provides year-round structural fire protection services under the direction of KMPUD. The Department is also responsible for snow removal around fire hydrants.³⁹³ KMPUD pays outside consultants to review fire protection systems and services.

Several agencies provide backup support for the volunteer department. Amador Fire Protection District provides assistance by request per a mutual aid agreement. The Department has automatic aid agreements with the Markleeville and Woodfords volunteer fire departments. Lake Valley Fire Department in the South Lake Tahoe area is also notified for response to Kirkwood.³⁹⁴

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) provides wildland fire response in the Kirkwood vicinity from Lumberyard Station, 16 miles west of Kirkwood. The second responding station for wildland fires is the joint CAL FIRE - USFS station located at Dewdrop, 27 miles west of Kirkwood.³⁹⁵

The Department has one paid employee, the fire chief, who works eight hours per week. Twelve call firefighters work under the chief. The average age of call firefighters is 26 years. The number of firefighters has reportedly decreased in the last three years. The Department recruits new call firefighters through word-of-mouth and flyers.

Call firefighters are required to attend 12 hours of training per month. Firefighters meet on Wednesday nights from 4pm to 6pm for regular training events and occasionally on Saturdays. Volunteers are trained per the State's Fire Training Certification for Volunteer Firefighters curriculum as well as with the International Fire Service Training Association's training manual. Attendance for specialty training is difficult due to work conflicts.

Call firefighters are given \$10 per training attended and \$20 per emergency call. In addition, call firefighters may sign up for on-call shifts and earn \$30 per a 12-hour shift Monday through Friday, and \$50 on Saturdays and Sundays. Generally, two volunteers are on duty per shift.

³⁹¹ WDR Order R5-2007-0125 Information Sheet.

³⁹² CVRWQCB, Order No. R5-2007-0125.

³⁹³ KMPUD Board of Directors, *Meeting Minutes*, April 13, 2006, p. 5.

³⁹⁴ Alpine County, *Kirkwood Specific Plan*, 2003, p.46.

³⁹⁵ Alpine County, *Kirkwood Specific Plan*, 2003.

Peak incident hours are on weekends. Response times are slowest during the resort area's slow season (late spring through October) because of the lack of employment available in the area.

In addition to the tax allocation received from each County, the Department receives fire funding from annual assessments and development impact fees for projects within Amador and Alpine Counties. The fire assessment fee is four cents per square foot of improvement on each lot, residential and commercial. Assessment revenues are used for equipment and facility construction. Impact fees are 47 cents per square foot of new construction. This revenue is put into a trust fund for the purchase of new equipment or construction.³⁹⁶

The Department reports that it has sufficient capacity to serve current service area. To service future growth, however, the Department would need additional equipment and personnel.

Dispatch and Communications

All 911 calls made from land lines in Amador County are automatically routed to the Amador County Sheriff's communication center in Jackson (the Public Safety Answering Point, PSAP). Cell phone 911 calls are answered by the California Highway Patrol in Stockton, and then are routed to the Sheriff. Fire and EMS calls are routed from the Sheriff's Office to CALFIRE's Camino Interagency Command Center, which in turn dispatches a CAL FIRE unit as well as the appropriate local jurisdiction responder. KMPUD is dispatched to all calls within its primary response area.

All fire providers in Amador County, including KMPUD, communicate through the same radio systems. Due to shared radio frequencies, KMPUD is able to communicate with other providers. When multiple service providers respond to an incident, the first unit to arrive on scene is responsible for incident command. The first responder notifies other providers whether and when sufficient personnel have arrived on scene. For incidents such as vehicle accidents, law enforcement becomes responsible for incident coordination once it arrives on scene through universal command protocols; prior to law enforcement arriving on scene, the first responding fire provider remains responsible for incident command.

Location

KVFD serves areas throughout KMPUD's bounds. Within Amador County, KVFD has a primary response area of approximately six square miles in the northwest tip of the County. The area encompasses Silver Lake and southward to Plasse.

Infrastructure

The current fire station is in the KMPUD administration building. The facility was reported to be in excellent condition. A public conference room is available for use in the building. The District reports a need for affordable employee housing, additional wildland firefighting equipment, and a ladder truck.

³⁹⁶ Alpine County, *Kirkwood Specific Plan*, 2003, p.91.

Figure 18-2: KMPUD Fire Profile

| Fire Service | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|--|--|---|
| Service Configuration | | | Service Demand | | |
| Fire Suppression | Direct | | Statistical Base Year | 2013 | |
| EMS | Direct | | Total Service Calls | 102 | |
| Ambulance Transport | American Legion | | % EMS | 42% | |
| Hazardous Materials | Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties ¹ | | % Fire | 6% | |
| Air Resque and Ambulance helicopter | CHP, Private | | % Vehicle Accidents | 11% | |
| Fire Suppression Helicopter | Calfire | | % Other | 41% | |
| Public Safety Answering Point | Sheriff | | % Mutual Aid Calls | NP | |
| Fire/EMS Dispatch | Calfire | | Calls per 1,000 residents | 64 | |
| Service Adequacy | | | Resources | | |
| ISO Rating | 4 | | Fire Stations in District | 1 | |
| Average Response Time (min) | 12 min | | Fire Stations serving District | 1 | |
| Response Time Base Year | 2013 | | Sq. miles served per station ² | 4.0 | |
| Training | | | Total Staff ³ | 13 | |
| Call firefighters are required to attend 12 hours of training per month. Firefighters meet on Wednesday nights from 4pm to 6pm for regular training events and occasionally on Saturdays. | | | Total paid firefighters ⁴ | 1 | |
| | | | Total Call Firefighters | 12 | |
| | | | Total sworn staff per station ⁵ | 13 | |
| Service Challenges | | | Total sworn staff per 1,000 ⁶ | 69 | |
| Some of the challenges include occasionally severe weather conditions and volunteer firefighter force which contributes to the volatility of staffing. | | | Staffing Base year | 2013 | |
| | | | Fire Flow Water Reserves | 0.95 MG | |
| Facilities | | | | | |
| Station | Location | Condition | Staff per Shift | Apparatus | |
| Kirkwood Meadows | 33540 Loop Road, Kirkwood, | Good | Volunteer | 2 Type 1 Engines, 1 Type 3 Rescue, 1 BLS Ambulance, 2 Command Vehicles, 1 Small boat | |
| Infrastructure Needs/Deficiencies | | | | | |
| The District reports a need for affordable employee housing and additional wildland firefighting equipment and a ladder truck. | | | | | |
| Current Facility-Sharing and Regional Collaboration | | | Mutual/Automatic Aid Providers | | |
| Current Practices: There is a public conference room available in the administration building for use by other organizations. KMPUD collaborates with AFD by providing automatic aid to the area outside of its bounds. | | | Markleeville and Woodfords VFDs, AFD, and Lake Valley FD | | |
| | | | | | Future opportunities: None were identified |
| Notes: | | | | | |
| (1) Calfire has an MOU with Calaveras County and a secondary MOU with San Joaquin County for hazmat services. | | | | | |
| (2) Primary service area (square miles) in Amador County per station. | | | | | |
| (3) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel. | | | | | |
| (4) One paid firefighter works 8 hours per week. | | | | | |
| (5) Based on ratio of sworn paid and call staff to the number of stations. | | | | | |
| (6) Total staff per year-round residents. Total staff per peak population during winter season declines to about 2 staff per 1,000. | | | | | |

PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The District operates and maintains the Kirkwood Playground when weather permits on leased land.

Location

KMPUD provides parks and recreation services within District bounds. The park maintained by the District is located within the District's boundaries in Alpine County. Residents and non-residents may use the park for free.

Infrastructure

The District owns and maintains playground equipment on a leased 0.25-acre lot. The equipment is taken down and stored in winter months. The District did not identify any park infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

PROPANE SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The District began providing Propane Enterprise services on July 22, 2011, as a result of acquiring the existing propane gas and electric systems of Mountain Utilities, which was owned and operated as a subsidiary of Mountain Springs Kirkwood, LLC.

The District is under contract for propane purchase and delivery with its supplier, Kiva Energy located in Manteca, California. Propane is delivered to the District via truck from the Propane Supplier, and the two storage tanks are filled two to three times weekly during the winter, and two to three times monthly during the summer. The liquid propane is then vaporized and distributed to Propane Enterprise customers via the five miles of underground distribution lines.

The Propane Enterprise project entails the financing of 417 propane meter registers, which are remotely read. Readings are transmitted to the base station at the District's Community Services Building. This system eliminated the need to manually read propane meters, which is a process that takes three days currently. This system will also assist with leak detection and eliminate the need to estimate reads when propane meters are inaccessible due to heavy snow depths.

At the end of FY 12, the District had 425 propane accounts.³⁹⁷

Location

KMPUD provides propane services within District bounds. The District does not provide propane services outside of its boundaries.

³⁹⁷ Tax and Enterprise Revenue Certificate of Participation, 2013, p. 38.

Infrastructure

The District's propane infrastructure includes approximately five miles of underground distribution lines ranging in diameter from 2-6 inches, which are located throughout the Kirkwood Valley, together with two storage tanks (one 20,000 gallon and one 30,000 capacity), a vacuum trailer, propane meters and numerous other miscellaneous tools and equipment required to operate the Propane Enterprise and to transport propane to customers.

ELECTRICITY SERVICES

Nature and Extent

The District began providing electricity services on July 22, 2011, as a result of acquiring the existing propane gas and electric systems of Mountain Utilities, which was owned and operated as a subsidiary of Mountain Springs Kirkwood, LLC. In March 2012 the District completed construction of its new Powerhouse to house eight new diesel fuel generators, which provide the District's customers their electricity. The District had 768 electric accounts at the end of FY 12.³⁹⁸

Location

KMPUD provides electricity services within District bounds. The District does not provide electricity services outside of its boundaries.

Infrastructure

Acquired from Mountain Utilities, the District's electric infrastructure includes 170 transformers, six circuit routing switches, 37 underground electric vaults, approximately 11.47 miles of underground circuits at 12.47 kilovolts, and 13 above-ground line junction enclosures, together with all tools, equipment and miscellaneous property necessary for the operation of the Electric Enterprise.

The District is undertaking its Out-Valley interconnect project with commencement of construction in the second quarter of 2013. The project consists of construction of two new overhead transmission lines (a 1.3-mile long 115 kV and a 1.8-mile long 34.5 kV line), in addition to a 24.8 mile long 34.5 kV underground transmission line, and two new substations. This will connect the District's electric utility to the grid and give it access to purchased energy at prices lower than the cost to generate using diesel at its Powerhouse. The \$30 million cost of the Out-Valley project is being funded through the RUS Bond.

³⁹⁸ Tax and Enterprise Revenue Certificate of Participation, 2013, p. 38.