

2.2 RICHARDSON SPRINGS CSD

District Characteristics

The Richardson Springs Community Services District (Richardson Springs/District) was formed for the exclusive purpose of serving the Youth With A Mission (YWAM)/Springs of Living Water Christian Conference Center northeast of Chico (see [Figure 2.2-1](#)). Funding for the construction of the sewage treatment plant was provided by a grant from the State of California under the Clean Water and Water Reclamation Bond Law of 1988 and the Small Communities Grant Program. Sewer fees and subsidies from YWAM finance the operations of the plant.

District Size: 464 acres

2005 Estimated Population Served: Not applicable

Office Location: 15850 Richardson Springs Road, Richardson Springs, CA 95973

Services: Wastewater collection and treatment

Employees: 0

Review and Analysis of Service Provision

GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Growth and Population

A. Population: Existing and Projected (5, 10, 15 and 20 Year Time Frame)

The District provides wastewater collection and treatment services solely to the YWAM/Springs of Living Water Christian Conference Center. The District has no plans for expansion and does not anticipate any growth.

B. Land Use/Significant Growth Areas

There is no growth anticipated for this area.

Determination Richardson Springs-1 (Growth):

The District was created to perform a specific function (wastewater collection and treatment for a non-residential use) and does not anticipate any growth.

Infrastructure

A. Capacity Analysis

The District wastewater treatment plant is permitted to discharge 35,000 gpd (gallons per day) ADDW (Average Daily Dry Weather) as reported by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The 2004 pond monitoring results provided by the District show the highest flows in the summer months of June through August, with the highest flows coming in July (15,800 gpd). The discharge is treated and collected in a 5 MG (million gallons) treated effluent storage pond. The treated effluent is used to spray irrigate non-active fields. The storage pond typically fills to only 40% of maximum capacity. The plant capacity is much higher than current and anticipated demands.

The collection system has no known capacity issues.

Determination Richardson Springs-2 (Wastewater Capacity):

The District currently has the capacity to collect and treat the wastewater associated with the YWAM/Springs of Living Water Christian Conference Center.

B. Facilities

The treatment facility operated by the District is approximately 10 years old and is in excellent condition. The collection system, which consists mainly of cast iron pipe with some isolated areas patched with PVC, is in good condition.

Determination Richardson Springs-3 (Wastewater Facilities):

The District's collection and treatment systems are in good condition.

C. Plans for Expansion/Upgrades

There are currently no plans for expansions or upgrades within the District's collection and treatment systems.

Determination Richardson Springs-4(Wastewater Facilities Expansion/Upgrades):

The District has no plans for upgrades or expansions at this time.

FINANCING AND RATE RESTRUCTURING

Independent auditor's reports for FYs ending 2001-03 and District statements were reviewed for this analysis. The District accounts for the operation of its services in an Enterprise Fund. In FY 2003, a deficit of \$11,060 remained in the unreserved fund, which resulted from expenses exceeding the sewer fees charged for services provided. The sewer fee rate has been increased by \$250 per month as of January 1, 2003. Expenditures have exceeded revenues since 2001; therefore, rates have been increased each year.

YWAM has advanced money to the District in prior years. The District does not have any outstanding state or federal loans.

District officials noted that a portion of monies received from fees are set aside in a reserve fund for the future funding of necessary improvements.

The 2003 financial audit noted that budgets are formally adopted by the Board soon after the beginning of the fiscal year and take effect July 1. The current year budget was not available for review. In accordance with Government Code Section 53901, every local agency shall file a copy of its annual budget with the County Auditor of the County in which it conducts its principal operations unless exempted by the County Auditor 60 days after the beginning of its fiscal year. District officials noted that budget submission dates to the County Auditor were "not applicable."

Determination Richardson Springs-5 (Financing and Rate Restructuring):

Monthly fees should continue to be re-evaluated until revenues cover the cost of providing services. The District is in noncompliance with Government Code Section 53901.

COST AVOIDANCE AND FACILITIES SHARING

The District provides wastewater collection and treatment services exclusively to the YWAM/Springs of Living Water Christian Conference Center. As such, the president, several officers and Board members serve in the same capacities with both entities. Additionally, YWAM has advanced money to the District in prior years and collects sewer fee revenues for the District.

The District built the water treatment system with a grant 10 years ago. A staff of volunteers is responsible for ongoing maintenance and repairs. The District does not participate in any information sharing with other districts regarding practices, operations, or other aspects of service provision.

Determination Richardson Springs-6 (Cost Avoidance and Facilities Sharing):

The District's relationship with YWAM and volunteer system lends itself to an appropriate cost avoidance and facilities sharing system. Should District expenditures continue to exceed revenues, other cost avoidance opportunities such as grants should be pursued.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A five member Board of Directors exercises oversight over District operations including managing YWAM's and the District's financial interdependency, and overseeing operation and accounting for fiscal matters. The current Board of Directors is as follows:

Member	Term Expires
Collin Dobinson	Dec 2007
Jacob Finley	Dec 2007
Stephen Bell	Dec 2007
Stuart Herreid	Dec 2007
Kelly Jackson	Dec 2007

Board meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. on the second Friday of the months of January, April, July and October at the Richardson Springs Conference Center (15850 Richardson Springs Road). Meeting announcements are posted in the local post office. Usually no members of the public

attend Board meetings. One of the Board members (currently Kelly Jackson) is responsible for ensuring District compliance with the Brown Act.

As the District was created for the purpose of serving one user, no sphere of influence changes appear necessary. However, consideration should be given to dissolving the District. The District appears to be a government agency serving only one use (YWAM/Springs of Living Water Christian Conference Center) with a co-mingled Board and co-mingled operations. Other possible indications of inappropriate structure and accountability include financial advancements from YWAM to the District and District non-compliance with financial reporting requirements.

Determination Richardson Springs-7 (Government Structure and Local Accountability):

It appears that Board meetings are held in compliance with the Brown Act. Consideration should be given to dissolving the District.

MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES

All management and operations activities are performed by volunteers. Restructuring of the management structure would not result in more efficient operations.

The District has various policies and procedures in place, though the District did not respond to an inquiry as to what those policies and procedures pertain to. A District official indicated that they abide by these policies and procedures.

The District has had no actions filed against it from any regulatory agencies within the last 10 years.

Determination Richardson Springs-8 (Management Efficiencies):

The District is run by volunteers; no restructuring is warranted. The District has had no actions taken against it from regulatory agencies.

Summary of Determinations

Determination Richardson Springs-1 (Growth):

The District was created to perform a specific function (wastewater collection and treatment for a non-residential use) and does not anticipate any growth.

Determination Richardson Springs-2 (Wastewater Capacity):

The District currently has the capacity to collect and treat the wastewater associated with the YWAM/Springs of Living Water Christian Conference Center.

Determination Richardson Springs-3 (Wastewater Facilities):

The District's collection and treatment systems are in good condition.

Determination Richardson Springs-4(Wastewater Facilities Expansion/Upgrades):

The District has no plans for upgrades or expansions at this time.

Determination Richardson Springs-5 (Financing and Rate Restructuring):

Monthly fees should continue to be re-evaluated until revenues cover the cost of providing services. The District is in noncompliance with Government Code Section 53901.

Determination Richardson Springs-6 (Cost Avoidance and Facilities Sharing):

The District's relationship with YWAM and volunteer system lends itself to an appropriate cost avoidance and facilities sharing system. Should District expenditures continue to exceed revenues, other cost avoidance opportunities such as grants should be pursued.

Determination Richardson Springs-7 (Government Structure and Local Accountability):

It appears that Board meetings are held in compliance with the Brown Act. Consideration should be given to dissolving the District.

Determination Richardson Springs-8 (Management Efficiencies):

The District is run by volunteers; no restructuring is warranted. The District has had no actions taken against it from regulatory agencies.