

PREFACE

Prepared for the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO), this report is a countywide water services review—a state-required comprehensive study of services within a designated geographic area. This Service Review focuses on local agencies and other service providers in Santa Clara County that provide water services.

CONTEXT

LAFCO of Santa Clara County is required to prepare this Countywide Water Service Review by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code §56000, et seq.), which took effect on January 1, 2001. The water service review examines services provided by public agencies whose boundaries and governance are subject to LAFCO. Those agencies providing water services in Santa Clara County are the focus of this review. In order to provide comprehensive information on service provision, other service providers—private companies and mutual water companies—are included in this Service Review.

CREDITS

The authors extend their appreciation to those individuals at many agencies that provided planning and financial information and documents used in this report. The contributors are listed individually at the end of this report. The local agencies have provided a substantial portion of the information included in this report. Each local agency provided budgets, financial statements, various plans, and responded to questionnaires. The service providers provided interviews covering workload, staffing, facilities, regional collaboration, and service challenges.

Santa Clara LAFCO Executive Officer, Neelima Palacherla, who was assisted by Dunia Noel (LAFCO Analyst), provided project direction and review. Steve Borgstrom, at the Santa Clara County Planning Office, prepared maps. The Technical Advisory Committee, composed of LAFCO Commissioner Susan Vicklund-Wilson, appointed by LAFCO; Monte Sereno City Manager Brian Loventhal, appointed by the County/Cities Managers' Association; Morgan Hill Engineering Deputy Director Karl Bjarke, appointed by the County Municipal Public Works Officials' Association; and three representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) Water Retailers' Group including SCVWD Chief Operating Officer Jim Fielder, City of Santa Clara Director of Water & Sewer Utilities Chris de Groot, and California Water Service Company Water Resource Planning Engineer Michael Bolzowski, provided input and guidance during the review process.

This report was prepared by Baracco and Associates, Policy Consulting Associates, LLC and Shibatani Group, Inc., and was co-authored by Bruce Baracco, Jennifer Stephenson, Oxana Kolomitsyna, and Robert Shibatani. Bruce Baracco served as project manager. Jennifer Stephenson and Oxana Kolomitsyna provided research analysis. Water expertise was provided by Robert Shibatani.